

CRAIGIEBUCKLER AND SEAFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of Tuesday 2nd July 2019

Commencing at 7.30 pm in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church Hall.

Present: William Sell, Robert Frost, Ainsley Mitchel, Aileen Brown, Cameron Campbell, Jim Flett, Karen Reilly, Councillor Martin Greig, Councillor John Cooke and 12 Residents.

Apologies for Absence: Dana Blyth.

Police Report: The Police report was given by Sergeant Simon Lewis-Dalby. There were no assault complaints during the reporting period.

There was one complaint of antisocial behaviour.

A complaint about being filmed by neighbours was received. This is not against the law.

There was a theft of tools from a construction site.

Antisocial motor cycling continues to be a problem in Hazlehead. This illegal activity is being carried out by individuals from the north of the city. They tend to avoid populated areas. Phone 101 to report any sightings.

Adoption of the Minute of the Meeting of 7th May 2019:

Proposed by Robert Frost.

Seconded by Cameron Campbell

Matters Arising from the Meeting: None

Treasurer's Report Cameron Campbell reported that there was no change in our bank balance since the May meeting. No suggestions about how the capital sum should be spent have been received. This matter is now deferred until the August meeting.

Correspondence: All items of correspondence have been forwarded, as email attachments, to all members.

Discussion with City Councillors: Aberdeen City Council's Sale of Publicly Owned Land Assets.

William referred to the draft letter of complaint, printed on the reverse side of the agenda document, concerning the lack of consultation with our Community Council in Aberdeen City Council's decision processes, particularly sales of publicly owned land.

The area of land referred to is the publicly owned car park adjacent to the Springfield Road Co-op.

Cllr Martin Greig said that he was only given one day's notice to provide comments to the Council about the intended transaction. This was sudden and didn't give him an opportunity for consultation.

The sale has not yet been completed. Jim Flett said that the letter of complaint pre-empted the completion of the transaction. Therefore it was agreed not to send the letter until the sale was completed.

Today residents in this area were prevented from making phone calls because of a fault in BT's lines. William received one resident's complaint concerning this inconvenience. He was of the opinion that there is room for improvement in the phone service provided by BT.

It was felt that the problem was also made worse because there are various service providers sharing the telephone communications infrastructure

Planning Report: In his report, Robert referred to a letter from Aberdeen City Council which informed us that planning consent had been granted, in principle, for a major hotel development on Council owned fields near the old Dobbies premises (Application Number: P141026. Site Location: Hazledene Road (on land West of former Dobbies Garden Centre).

Although this outline planning consent had received very recent publicity in the "Evening Express", the application dated back to 2014.

Robert explained that it has taken 4 years for the Council to grant outline planning consent because the legal agreement, which was a long drawn out process involving a number of financial contributions from the Applicant, could only be signed recently.

Those various contributions, to be made in accordance with Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning Act, were read out by Robert.

Martin explained that the outline plan showed access to the proposed 200 bedroom hotel development being taken from Countesswells Road. This access is for the hotel only. The cost of upgrading the roads was very high.

It was felt that the 67 houses being built, plus the planned 80 bedroom carehome on the Hazlewood site would add to the traffic woes of the local roads infrastructure, especially the already congested Hazlehead Roundabout.

Jim Flett asked, “can we act now or do we have to wait for the detailed planning application?”

It was agreed that we should wait for the detailed planning application.

Jim Flett said that we should write and ask if the land will not be sold if planning permission is not granted.

Cameron said that we need to wait until we know what we are objecting to. This is the city's park.

The increase in the volume of traffic caused by development which post dates the planning application, as well as planning consents that have subsequently been granted, e.g., the 80 bedroom carehome on the Hazlewood site.

Hazledene Road will have to be further upgraded along its length to its junction with Countesswells Road – where it is presently closed off to motor vehicle traffic.

The feeling of the meeting was that there should be no big roads through what is a public park.

Traffic Report: Nothing further to report.

Civic Forum Report No attendance at Civic Forum

Community Council Forum Report: Robert Frost attended the Community Council Forum on Monday 1st July.

Robert reported on the planned Community Council Development Day explained at the Forum meeting. We have to respond with suggested subjects to be included in the Development Day timetable no later than 18th July.

AOCB: William was contacted by Professor David Miller, John Hutton Research Institute. Professor Miller has been invited to give a presentation to this CC in which he will also ask about the frequency that the members/public access the McAulay Estate policies. Also he will inform us about such matters as air quality in the city and water quality.

Recent Gas Mains Works on publicly owned land between Craigiebuckler Drive and Countesswells Avenue:- Ainsley commented on the shocking condition that the contractor has left this amenity land in. He asked why work had stopped on the site and a trench had been left only partially covered. Councillor Martin Greig will look into this matter.

Next Meeting: 7.30 pm on Tuesday 6th August 2019 in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church Hall.