

CRAIGIEBUCKLER AND SEAFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of the Meeting of Tuesday 6th August 2019

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

Present: William Sell, Aileen Brown, Robert Frost, Ainsley Mitchell, Jim Flett, Sergeant Simon Lewis-Dalby

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Jeniffer Stewart, Cllr John Cooke, CC Treasurer Cameron Campbell

Police Report: Sergeant Lewis-Dalby reported for the period from 1st July to 31st July 2019 as follows:-

Community Policing Priorities.

Antisocial behaviour, Violence and Disorder:

Schools and public spaces are being patrolled during this month, in the evenings . These patrols are directed at known criminality and antisocial behaviour.

There have been a number of reports of off road motorcycles being driven in the Hazlehead woods area. There is a Police operation specifically to combat these issues. Call at the time you see them with descriptions of the bike and the rider's clothing.

Acquisitive Crime: Two vehicles have been stolen from an insecure house during the good weather. If windows are to be left open, vehicle keys must be secured somewhere.

If you see people moving about after dark in a way that arouses your suspicion, share that suspicion with the Police.

Home security is getting better year on year. 1 in 5 doors are found to be unlocked. It used to be 1 in 3.

Road Safety and Road Crime: Officers are taking a robust approach balancing education and enforcement to ensure that the minority who commit offences and antisocial behaviour with vehicles are held accountable for their actions.

Ainsley mentioned that drivers are habitually exceeding the speed limit on the A944 to Westhill.

Community Engagement and Reassurance: Throughout August and September there will be a number of directed local patrols This month will concentrate on antisocial behaviour around school premises and play parks.

In relation to getting the right people to the right emergency incident at the right time, please consider the following:- if there is a fire of any kind, call Scottish Fire and Rescue. If you come across a person who is unconscious or

unresponsive, call the Scottish Ambulance Service. Please don't call the Police because they are not the appropriate emergency service and will only call the appropriate emergency service on your behalf and await their instruction. This can delay the correct service from attending.

Adoption of the Minute of the Meeting of 2nd July 2019:

Proposed by: Ainsley Mitchell

Seconded by: Robert Frost

Matters Arising from the Meeting of 2nd July 2019: Aberdeen City Council's Sale of Publicly Owned Land Assets.

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

The purchaser was the tenant of the car park.

Now that we know who purchased the land from the Council – all that remains is for us to be informed of the price paid and see how comparable that price is with the value of the land in such a prime west end location.

William addressed the members as follows:-

“At our last meeting you were given copies of a proposed letter of complaint to the Council concerning their lack of consultation with us in matters concerning the sale of publicly owned assets. Do I now send that letter to the Council?”

It was agreed that the letter should not be sent.

Treasurer's Report: Cameron will attend the September meeting and reminds us to be mindful of his request for initiatives on which to expend our fund.

Correspondence: All items of correspondence since our last meeting have been emailed to members.

There is one item of particular interest: BT are proposing to remove 13 phone boxes in Aberdeen. The number of calls made from each one over the last year range from 3 to 781 for one at Byron Square. The planning authority can object to the removal of individual boxes on the basis of reasons set out in Annex 1 of the relevant document. To view the document which sets out the criteria for the decision to remove a phone box, copy the link below into your internet browser.

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removals.pdf>

Essentially, the type and tenure of housing in the area, revenue, the need for emergency calls and mobile coverage are regarded as valid issues to consider.

All 13 boxes should have a notice in them telling people about the removal and which asks people to contact their local planning department if they have any comments.

The planning authority also needs to canvas the views of local communities and this should include community councils.

Of the 13 listed call boxes, two of the most used are in low income areas, ie, Byron Square, from which there were 781 calls in the 12 month period and Provost Rust Drive where there were 253.

William acknowledged that neither of these locations are in our area, but in view of the hardship that the removal of these phone boxes could cause, he proposed that we write to the Local Authority objecting to their closure. This was agreed.

Discussion with City Councillors: Many of our most vulnerable and frail citizens are housed in very sheltered types of accommodation.

Because of their frailties they wear community alarms for their use in the event of incidents such as falls or feeling unwell. The alarms are sounded in a control centre where staff dispatch carers to the location of the emergency. This system works well, but comes at a slight cost to the resident.

This cost is about to double. William thought that if this increase is part of the Council savings, it is a very mean and unkind cut on the most vulnerable of our citizens.

He proposed that this community council objects to the increase on the grounds that it could be unaffordable to those vulnerable residents resulting them being at risk of harm because they have had to hand back their community alarm devices.

Planning Report: Robert Frost – Hazlehead Hotel and Country Club

Hayfield Riding Centre and fields to the east of Hazledene Road Hazlehead Park Hotel and country club with circa 250 bedrooms, spa, swimming pool, function and conference facilities and restaurants including holiday chalets, equestrian centre and country club house with associated car parking/alterations to access road
There was a four year delay because of a legal disagreement with the Council.

We will have to wait until a detailed planning application is submitted.

Robert summarised the recent planning applications, including the Council's decisions pertaining to them.

He also summarised the planning applications awaiting decision.

Traffic Report: Traffic continues to be of high volume on Springfield Road, particularly during the rush hours. At those times it is very difficult to access Springfield Road at its junction with Craigiebuckler Avenue, especially for drivers who are trying to turn right. This problem is not going to go away and no solution

seems to be sought by Council Officers.

Civic Forum Report: No attendance.

Community Council Forum Report: No attendance

AOCB : There being no further business, William thanked everyone for their attendance.

Next Meeting: 7.30 pm on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church Hall.