

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 5th May 2020
Commenced at 7.30 pm by Video Conferencing

Present: Jim Flett, Ainsley Mitchell, Karen Reilly, Robert Frost, William Sell, Dana Blyth, Caroline Walker.

Councillor John Cooke, Councillor Martin Greig, Karen Finch (Community Council Liaison Officer), James Wylie (Reporter, “Press and Journal”).

Apologies for Absence: None.

Police Report: The police report was received by William and forwarded to all members.

Adoption of the Minute of the Meeting of 3rd March 2020:

Proposed by Cameron Campbell

Seconded by Ainsley Mitchell

There being no amendments, the minutes were adopted.

Treasurer's Report: Cameron Campbell – The bank balance is £1,140.66. The balance sheet has been signed by the Auditor and sent electronically to Karen Finch on 5th March.

On 31^s December 2019, there was a slight rise in the balance from £774.70 to £934.16 because the Festive Season grant was received from Aberdeen City Council.

Matters Arising from the Meeting of 3rd March 2020:

Purchase of a defibrillator – William said that it is probable that during the present emergency, Cheryl Jones, representing Abras Ltd, Health and Safety Training Provider, has probably not been able to get back to us on this project.

He had hoped that the defibrillator could be donated to Airyhall Library. Craigiebuckler Church should also be considered as a possible recipient.

Cameron said that we should not let this matter drift on much longer. We could move on with other projects.

Ainsley said that it may be difficult to find out the host property owners.

William will write to Cheryl Jones to ask if she can sponsor the defibrillator project at a later date.

Local place plan by Community Councils and Communities - It was agreed that, as this is not the best time for public engagement, we will leave this item on all meeting agendas until members of the community can contribute to the decision making processes involved in compiling the local place plan.

Follow up a resident's complaint about issues pertaining to flooding and the presence of rats in the gardens of homes in Burnieboozle Crescent. The reasons for these problems being attributed to development activities in the adjacent Pinewood/Hazledene Estate.

Councillor Greig had a further meeting with the Burnieboozle resident who complained at a previous Community Council meeting about incidents of flooding in the gardens and homes on Burnieboozle Crescent. It is the obligation of the developer to comply with planning policies in respect of drainage. He followed up this issue with the Council but has had no information back.

Councillor Cooke is in the same position.

Crumbling road surface of the newly resurfaced Burnieboozle Place/Crescent - William stated this road surface was laid at the expense of the Council taxpayers of Aberdeen and it is far from robust, potholes having formed on parts of it. It was only completed in the Autumn of 2019.

William commented that the Council's policy of repairing potholes on the newly resurfaced road 'as and when they form' is not good enough. He wants to know what the Council intends to do to remedy this unacceptable situation when enough restrictions are lifted to allow certain of their employees to return to work.

Councillor Greig reported that he has had a series of complaints about the new potholes. The integrity of the new road is unsatisfactory. He has asked what can be done by the Council to be recompensed by the contractor but has had no response.

Councillor Cooke said that normal potholes are – according to guidance – not counted as essential maintenance. The problem may have been caused by budgetary policy, i.e., cheap road materials.

Ainsley pointed out that seams on existing roads are sealed by bitumen, but no bitumen has been applied to the joints on the new surface.

New co-opted member – Margaret Meikle is now a co-opted member of this

Community Council.

Correspondence: All items of correspondence have already been forwarded to all members.

Discussion with City Councillors: Leaking stop valves at the Hazledene Road / Queens Road junction – Following up this issue in response to a complaint by Ainsley, Councillor Greig reported it to the Roads Department. He will get back to Ainsley concerning this matter.

Planning Report: Robert Frost – The planning application for the Hill of Rubislaw flats will come before the Planning Committee on 1st July.

Other planning applications included proposed home extensions and work on protected trees.

The Treetops Hotel site remains vacant. Cameron mentioned that the entrance and exit have been blocked.

Councillor Greig had asked the Council to contact the owners amid concerns about the vulnerability of the site. He also asked the Fire Service if the site met with safety requirements. The site was inspected by the Fire Service who found that it met safety requirements.

James Flett asked the Councillors for their views on the way planning committees will be run during this time of emergency measures. Councillor Cooke replied that meetings were online using Microsoft Teams and this system worked ok.

Councillor Greig said that meetings took longer than usual, but everyone got a chance to speak.

AOCB: Fly tipping in Countesswells Woods: William - Since we last met, I received a complaint from a Resident concerning this distressing issue. The complaint was also backed up by photographs. The eyesore sight of rubbish being dumped in the countryside is very distressing and bad for the environment. I speculate, that with the closure of recycling centres, there could be an increase in incidents of fly tipping. How may this be combatted.?

Councillor Cook replied: Members were given a briefing paper which outlined some of the challenges involved in reopening recycling centres. He will forward a copy of the paper to William.

Councillor Greig said that the complaint was about fly tipping in Countesswells Woods. Some of the items dumped were from a double-glazing project. We were advised to report any incidents of fly tipping as quickly as possible.

Jim Flett asked if our online meetings could start at 7 pm. It was agreed that meetings would start at 7 pm, but the joining time would be earlier, i.e., 6.30 pm.

Next Online Meeting: 7 pm on Tuesday 2nd June.