

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minute of the Virtual Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 7th February 2023

Present.

William Sell (WS), Margaret Meikle (MM), Cameron Campbell (CC), Robert Frost (RF), Karen Reilly (KR), Craig Melville (CM), Sergeant Ricky Burr of the Local Police Team (RB), Councillor Martin Greig (MG), Councillor Ken McLeod (KM).

Apologies.

Steven Shaw (Aberdeen City Council), Jane Ormerod, Keith Watson, Cllr Jennifer Stewart, Cllr John Cooke, Dana Blyth.

Police Report.

RB – Incidents of anti-social behaviour continue to be low. 2 reports were received concerning youths driving mini moto motorcycles.

Acquisitive Crime: a resident of Craigiebuckler Avenue had the keys removed from her front door. The house was not broken into. The locks have been changed.

A report was received from a resident of Queens Road concerning two people trying to open a shed door. When spotted they fled and left the scene in a black 4x4 pickup truck. This is linked to other crimes and is being investigated by the Police Proactive Group. The thieves are targeting high value items.

Road safety: A stolen motorcycle has been recovered in a car park. An abandoned bicycle was found in the crematorium woods by a member of the public walking their dog.

Severe ice caused several accidents on the 21st of January.

The roads policing unit discovered two uninsured cars in this area.

Community Engagement: The local policing team continue to work most other agencies in assisting the public.

Minutes of the Virtual Meetings of 10th January.

Proposed by MM

Seconded by RF

There being no amendments, the minutes were adopted.

Treasurer's Report.

CC reported that the current bank balance is £752.16.

£72.00 was paid for the premium for the website's domain name. The accounts will be audited within the two weeks following this meeting. Karen Finch, Aberdeen City Council has written to all treasurers asking them to submit their accounts by the end of March. After the accounts have been submitted, we will receive our grant.

Commemorative tree for the King's coronation:

The estimated cost of planting the tree is £300.

MG advised the meeting to think about a specimen tree.

CC will ask Elliot Mair of Raemoir Garden Centre for an estimate of the total cost of purchasing and planting the tree.

It was decided to approach the church for a site for the tree.

A budget of up to £300 is available to cover the cost of the project.

Website Subgroup:

CC raised the issue of how many members were needed in a subgroup. He felt that 3 was enough. He also said that it would be difficult to get everyone available to meet if there were more than 3 attendees. And that we would effectively have the whole Community Council in the subgroup.

MM said that all members should at least be invited (apologies, members would not have known about the subgroup but may be interested) and that all should have a say in such a project. Jane Ormerod has specific knowledge about the challenges faced by NHSG in communicating effectively and digitally to patients and advice about the pitfalls in accessibility, already discovered in such an exercise, would be useful.

MM clarified that the main Community Council meeting discussed many topics and the point of a subgroup was to focus on one topic!

MM also said that, as a relatively new member to the group, she found the experience and historical knowledge of WS & RF particularly helpful regarding the Community Council in terms of what had gone before. Councillor KM agreed that such knowledge was indeed invaluable to a subgroup.

Councillor KM also said that the 3 main members in the group should be MM, RF & CM as he had not understood the previous discussion about Domain names, but we obviously did, and it was clear that we collectively had specific IT knowledge.

Five had already agreed to join the subgroup: WS, RF, MM, CC & CM.

KR said she did not have the IT knowledge to bring to the group and so did not want to be a part of it,

MM confirmed that WS' suggestion that he email all members about the formation of an IT subgroup would be done and we would see what interest that produced from those not present tonight.

Matters Arising from the Meeting of 10th January.

MM asked Councillor MG for an update regarding what ACC were proposing to do about the ice found in Winter across the pavement at the end of her drive and running along the gutter from there to the gulley at the end of the road.

MG responded: that ACC had been very busy dealing with the recent snow and ice city wide, but that the Roads Team had been expected to grit her pavement and the gutter down to the gulley – but not in the early hours!

MM confirmed that this had never taken place.

She also wanted to know what permanent solution to the icy pavement would be put in place (e.g., her location being scheduled for gritting automatically in icy weather) as she did not want to have to bring this matter to ACCs attention every winter. While the garden flooding issue was unresolved, clearly the ice problem would continue to exist.

MG said that the ice can also happen throughout the year, not just in Winter. He said he would investigate this matter again and report back.

He also said that residents unsteady on their feet had remained indoors during the recent bad icy weather spell.

MM said she had recently seen an elderly woman using a walking frame along Burnieboozle Crescent. There was no ice that day, but on a bad weather day, MM's pavement could be a serious problem for such a vulnerable resident.

MG said that it was important to keep the grit bins full, especially during bad weather, and that residents can request to have them re-filled. CM said he made a request recently and the bin was filled up the next day.

During the January meeting, WS reported that there is a row of potholes on Craigiebuckler Avenue which pose a risk of severe damage to motor vehicles

and are a danger to cyclists. He suggested that they should be hived off by cones.

MG had replied that he would draw the attention of the Roads Team to them.

MG reported that the potholes had been patched, but this was only a temporary solution.

MM commented that the Council will have to do resurfacing of Craigiebuckler Avenue. Fixes could be more costly.

MG replied that patching is a cheaper solution when the Council has such limited funds.

Correspondence.

Email from Steven Shaw, Environmental Manager, Aberdeen City Council regarding the core path through the Culter Bypass:

“December’s bad weather has delayed and pushed back a number of our contracts. The Culter Bypass path works is now scheduled for completion by the end of February.

We are currently working up an application for grant funding that would allow for further paths works to be completed.

Paths for All currently has funding available for community groups - [Ian Findlay Path Fund - Paths for All | Paths for All](#) As a Local Authority we are now permitted to bid for the funding but we can work in partnerships with Community Councils etc to make an application. We were recently successful in our bid with the local Friends group / Community Council for £140K path improvements at Carnie Woods. Do you think this might be something your group may want to explore and work with us on?

The plants for Pets Corner are just about ready to go. Do you want to do some PR / press on this?

The Azaleas at Johnston Gardens have been planted and the bed barked and is looking good. There was some money left over so this was used for additional plants in one of the other beds at the back entrance.”

WS informed the meeting that he had completed the summary report a few months ago and CM was to edit it for the website.

If the summary took the form of a script, it would be much more easily read.

He saw that as the way forward for providing an information document for residents and recommended that it should include before and after photos of the path.

Planning Officer's Report.

RF screenshared his report which commenced with a description of Planning Application 221419/DPP, submitted by the James Hutton Institute. He displayed this Community Council's letter of representation which listed several objections to the proposed formation of an access road to connect the Institute with Countesswells Road.

MM and WS recently visited the site where they were accompanied by the Applicant, and other supporting professionals, such as Julie Robertson of Halliday, Fraser and Munro and an Arboriculturist.

MM reported that it was a helpful meeting and that the Applicant had given considerable thought about the various objections. They intend to build the road for specific reasons, considering the community and the environment. Critics of the project included the staff of the institute. The present road cannot be expanded, and the applicant has chosen the present strategy because they have no alternative. There will be no planning application for residential accommodation. Tree felling will be mitigated by planting more trees.

Despite the points raised in Julie Robertson's follow-up letter, which was forwarded to members for any decisions they may have about redacting objections from our letter of representation, it was decided not to redact any of the objections.

A considerable amount of money will be spent improving Coupers Pond.

A planning application, by the Hutton Institute and the Macaulay Development Trust, to carry out work on protected trees and remove a poplar tree which fallen into the pond has been approved by the Council.

Matters for Discussion with Ward Councillors.

MM enquired if there is anywhere on the Council's website where there is information about how other community councils spend their money by way of donations.

MG replied that it wouldn't be practical to compile such a list. Many community councils donate to charities.

A.O.C.B.

There being no further business, WS thanked all attendees and declared the meeting closed.

Date of Next Virtual Meeting. Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7.00 pm.