

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd April 2023

Present

William Sell (WS), Keith Watson (KW), Margaret Meikle (MM), Jane Ormerod (JO), Craig Melville (CM), Cameron Campbell (CC), Karen Reilly (KR), Councillor Martin Greig (MG), LPT Sergeant Ricky Burr (RB).

Apologies.

Cllr John Cooke, Cllr Jennifer Stewart, Cllr Ken McLeod.

Police Report.

RB – Antisocial behaviour. No incidents in our area during the reporting month.

Acquisitive crime. No incidents in our area during the reporting month.

Community engagement. All officers in the local policing team have hand-held devices instead of notebooks.

Road safety and road crime. At the start of the month there were reports of abandoned bikes in Hazlehead Golf Course. Officers attended but they were destroyed. Therefore, relevant forms were submitted for Aberdeen City Council to collect them.

Questions from attendees.

CM - Regarding dog fouling. All signs pertaining to dog fouling are faded. Is that something that the council can remedy? Dog waste bags are being thrown among the trees.

MG – “Dog fouling is a Council and warden issue. I will follow up the lack of signage. It helps if you can name someone in confidence and I will alert the wardens”.

CC reported that he had visited the garden of remembrance when he saw that five dogs off their leads and running about in the memorial garden.

MG – “I will follow up dog visiting at crematorium area. I will ask for larger sign”.

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of 7th March.

Proposed by CC.

Seconded by CM.

There being no amendments, the minutes were adopted.

Treasurer's Report.

CC reported that there was no change to the bank balance since the previous meeting. The garden centre owner visited the church to choose the location of the site where the coronation commemorative tree will be planted.

The site identified is near where the Christmas tree is usually placed. A small flowering Cherry Tree has been chosen. The tree will be planted a week before the coronation. There will be a dedication service for the tree on the day after the coronation.

KR proposed in favour of this arrangement and was seconded by RF.

There being no counter proposals or amendments it was agreed to proceed with the arrangements for the planting and dedication of the tree.

CC will contact same sign maker as we had for the sign at the foot of the platinum jubilee commemorative tree. The price for that plaque is £75.80.

CC reported that we are well within budget.

CC will circulate the wording of the plaque for the approval of the members.

- Honorarium for Catherine Mackay. The sum of £30 was agreed.

Correspondence.

All items of emailed correspondence were circulated to the membership.

Matters arising from the Virtual Meeting of 7th March.

Community Council Website. (Chair to Report).

WS reported that he can now edit the website. He commented that it is not a very up-to-date or user-friendly means of communicating with the public. He preferred the website which MM suggested because its format is customised for use by Community Councils. However, it is not free.

He advised that if we consider acquiring such a website, we must also consider the annual costs, and remember that the existences of community councils are tenuous.

He invited comments from the members.

RF informed the meeting that the website had already been improved by CM.

KW advised that we need to do a facelift and move with the times. We should go with CM's proposal (which is to engage the services of Hostinger as website provider).

CM will share a presentation of his proposal and give a cost breakdown.

The decision was deferred until the May meeting.

Matters Arising continued.

Securing Funding for Core Paths Improvements in Partnership with the City Council. (Chair to Report).

WS – reported that he had forwarded the following email from Andrew McIntyre, Greenspace Officer, Aberdeen City Council, to all members.

“Steven Shaw has asked me to get in touch regarding a grant application to ‘Paths for All’ through the Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council to upgrade the condition of the Core Paths within the area.

The council have already surveyed and measured the main path from Hazeldene Road - Craigiebuckler Avenue, Craigiebuckler Avenue – Springfield Road, (via Walker Dam) and Springfield Road to Rubislaw Park Crescent. There is also the potential to continue the upgrade to connect with Johnston Gardens and adjoining paths. As you are aware the core path connection from Craigiebuckler Drive to Springfield Road has been established with the proposal to upgrade and join with the Countesswells Avenue to Craigiebuckler Drive core path.

I have recently worked on a ‘Paths for All’ application with Westhill & Elrick Community Council for the upgrading and construction of new footpaths in Carnie Woods. Part of the work involved a survey to find out why the open space (core path network) is important to the local community. This will also allow the community to rank the footpaths in importance to identify the priorities. The maximum grant available is £100k which unfortunately the council are unable to access.

Look forward to hearing from you to discuss the project further”.

WS reported that he had attached a copy of a sample of his proposed residents’ survey leaflet to his emailed reply.

Andrew McIntyre replied as follows:

“The questions are good and cover the information required. Although we have identified the main core paths it is an ideal opportunity for the local community not only to prioritise the main core path sections. But also, to identify smaller paths that would link and encourage use of the local network.

When you have the results from the survey, we can catch-up to analyse the information and discuss an expression of interest to Paths for All.”

WS asked for the members’ agreement to have the questionnaire printed and distributed in target streets, which he would list.

He also suggested that the Community Council engage the services of Survey Monkey.

CM suggested that the magazine "West End" could print the leaflet and distribute it through their own distribution mechanism. The only cost may be for deliveries.

It was agreed that CM and RF would write articles about the paths for the magazine.

CM will ask the West End publishers about the costs associated with printing off the survey questionnaires.

CM recommended that we use Google Forms instead of SurveyMonkey.

MM recommended that we should extend SurveyMonkey to those residents as well as to the residents who were the subject of the last survey. We should keep it the same.

RF explained that SurveyMonkey will not release data until we pay the fee of £90.

CC commented that if there is a survey that can be done for free, we are still serving the community by undertaking that survey.

The proposed survey methods, i.e., SurveyMonkey versus Google Forms, were put to the vote by WS.

The members voted 6 – 1 to use Google Forms.

MG reported that he had been speaking to Steven Shaw about path improvements. He had asked for work to develop and upgrade the paths network from East to West in our area.

Not all paths to get upgraded are classed as "Core Paths". Other paths are also being considered for upgrade.

- Renaming the "Culter Bypass". MG: asked the members for their preferences so that he can go forward with a name for "Culter bypass".

The members decided to call it Springfield Meadows. MG will follow that up.

- Erection of Notice Boards at the Entrances of the Core Paths giving information to walkers.

MG will follow that up to progress it.

- Contacting Friends of Walker Dam.

JO suggested that we contact Mr Allan Davidson.

KR will contact Mr Davidson and invite him to attend our online Meeting in May.

CM reported that he will attend the next meeting of Friends of Johnston

Gardens.

MG reported that friends of Johnston gardens are organising friends' days. MG will e-mail the information to CM.

- Securing a Laminated Notice, with a QR Coded Link to the History of Walker Dam, at the site of the Dam.

MG advised that this can be done. QR codes are definitely possible for Walker Dam, Johnston Gardens and the Gordon Highlanders' Museum.

Planning Officer's Report.

RF screenshared the planning report. There is one outstanding major planning application, namely No 211528: Malcolm Allan, housing developer. To build 54 houses and 35 flats on the site of the former Treetops Hotel, Springfield Road Aberdeen.

The Hutton Institute, Macaulay Drive, Aberdeen is planning to construct a new road to link their site with Countesswells Road. No formal planning application has been made to the Council.

The Institute has applied to carry out works to 16 protected trees.

Matters for Discussion with Ward Councillors.

There were no matters for discussion.

A.O.C.B.

The business of the evening being ended, WS thanked all members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Date of Next Virtual Meeting.

Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7.00 pm. Streets