

# Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 7pm-9.15m in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church

### Present.

- Robert Frost (RF), Cameron Campbell (CC), , Margaret Meikle (MM), Keith Watson (KW), Craig Melville (CM) and Caroline Walker (CW)
- Duncan Laidlaw (DL), Ranaid Cameron (RC) and Dan Fjellroh (DF)
- Councillor Martin Greig (MG) and Councillor Ken McLeod (KM)

### Apologies.

- William Sell (WS), Jane Ormerod (JO) Danna Blyth (DB) and Karen Reilly (KR)
- Councillor John Cooke (JC)
- Sergeant Ricky Burr (RB)

In the absence of WS, MM as Vice Chair chaired the meeting.

### 3. Police Report.

The latest police report was circulated on 26<sup>th</sup> September by WS and RB was not present at the meeting.

The following actions are outstanding from the February Meeting.

- KW requested an update on the police follow-up on the circumstances relating to the pedestrian fatality on Seafield Road on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. RB advised that this was with the Procurator Fiscal and consequently the details cannot be shared or discussed at this stage.  
*Action: RB to share details once it is appropriate to do so along with any action proposed by ACC or the police as a result.*
- CM referred to the part of the police report which stated ‘There are the usual low level collision reports across the Community Council area on various roads, most meeting the non-attendance criteria for officers not to attend’. He asked if it was possible to identify the locations in future reports so that any ‘hot spots’ could be identified e.g. the pedestrian refuge adjacent to the BP garage on Springfield Road.  
*Action: RB to include additional details in his report where possible.*

The following action is outstanding from the 7<sup>th</sup> May;

- KW asked if there was any feedback from the Police Scotland survey that was issued to the public a couple of months ago and posted on the CSCC website and link below;  
<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2023-2024/>
- **What feedback should we give to the police regarding their involvement in the CSCC?**

This was discussed and there were several suggestions.

In our response to the police, it is essential, to confirm that we **do** find the current reports provided by the police as useful and these should continue.

However,

- The reports received are *sometimes* too general and don't contain sufficient detail e.g.
  - the fatality in Seafield Road in March last year was omitted from the subsequent month's report.
  - Action from the February meeting with request for additional detail on low level vehicle collisions
  - E-bike issue – advised that police are relying on intelligence to identify where bikes are kept and seize them. Given the concern across the city regarding this vexing issue, it would be good to know how many bikes have been seized and how many offenders dealt with by the police? Has the invisible DNA served as a deterrent?
- The police have not been present at a meeting for some time (estimated to be December 2023). Whilst it's acknowledged that there are time and resource constraints, it would be good to have the police present to provide additional context and respond to any questions. This would not necessarily be every meeting but a commitment to attend some of the hearings would be beneficial.
  - Actions are not followed-up (see above).
  - This would best be discussed with RB present.

*Action: WS to respond to police about their communication with the CC.*

#### **4. Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**

The minutes of the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> September were adopted on a proposal by RF, seconded by CW.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

- CC advised the meeting that the account balance currently stands at £1547.04.
- CW provided an update on the action from the last meeting and advised that she had approached Malcom Allan (MA) regarding a donation for the Xmas Tree lights in Springfield Road and they had agreed to cover the £300 cost. It is likely that this is a one-off donation, to be confirmed.

*Action: WS to email MA to thank them for the donation*

- CC stated that the CSCC should aim to spend £600 before December and it was agreed that the CSCC would make donations as follows;
  - £300 to Springfield Church for Xmas festival events
  - £100 each to the Guides, Scouts and Boys Brigade

*Actions:*

*Regarding the Church donation, it was agreed WS should write to them to;*

- confirm the award and to include a suitable note to the effect that CSCC are grateful for the ongoing use of the Douglas Lounge for our regular meetings*
- request that they feedback on how the money has been spent*

- CC requested details of any other potential donation recipients to be made in the November meeting for discussion and agreement e.g. Friends of Johnston Gardens, Community Centre, Airyhall School, Tree Planting etc.

*Action: All to come prepared with suggestions for the November meeting.*

- The Jubilee Tree replacement was discussed after the old tree was successfully removed by members of the CSCC in September. It was agreed that we should proceed with the £100 discounted purchase of the tree from Raemoir Garden Centre. A discussion ensued on the planting of the new tree, and it was confirmed that;
  - Raemoir will deliver the tree when they are in Aberdeen for other scheduled deliveries to avoid any transport costs.
  - Raemoir will advise the size of the root bowl so that the plot can be prepared in advance
  - Members of the CSCC and the Raemoir team will jointly plant the tree and replace the plaque and hyacinth bulbs.

*Action: CC to liaise with Raemoir and coordinate input/activities within the CSCC.*

- The delayed and late cashing of cheques that has been a concern in the past can now be addressed using BACS electronic banking going forward as this has now been set-up for CC and WS.

## **6. Correspondence.**

MM reported that all emailed items of correspondence had been forwarded to the CSCC members.

## **7. Matters arising from the Virtual Meeting of Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

- Path Upgrades  
CSCC Members to propose a prioritised list of path upgrades in the area (see Minutes of May meeting) by using data from the 2022 survey which can be applied when funds become available.  
*Action: WS has been modelling a report on this project based on the 2022 survey's and will provide an update on his return at the November meeting.*
- Issue of Speeding on Springfield Road and Surrounding Areas  
There was a long discussion on this subject and all agreed that this was an ongoing issue across the City and was not going to improve without intervention by the authorities and more robust speed reinforcement measures.

- The subject of illegal motor bikes and e-bikes in the CSCC area and across the city was raised as a particular concern and the feeling was that this will eventually result in a serious accident.
- There was a great deal of frustration on this vexing issue, and it was agreed that there is little more that we can do as a CSCC other than to continue to record our concerns and to raise this with the Police at the next meeting that they attend.

*Actions:*

- *Continue to monitor this and other roads in the area and record specific concerns in the minutes.*
  - *Raise with the Police Liaison Officer at the earliest opportunity*
- TPO Breaches by Malcolm Allan on the former Treetops Hotel Site  
Protected trees felled by MA on the site of the former Treetops Hotel during the demolition of the former hotel and during the site preparation of the site for planned homes. ACC confirmed that ‘On this occasion, there would be very limited benefit in pursuing formal enforcement action’.
- Actions:*
- *Are we as a CC accepting this response? Discuss at the November meeting*
  - *ACC are in the process of considering the detailed landscaping scheme for the site and will require that the area is replanted with trees as part of the scheme to compensate for the loss of the trees. Once a scheme is agreed it will be published on the planning portal. Status update required for the November meeting.*
- Tree Planting and Using Empty Tree Pits  
Two areas have been identified (see Minutes of May Meeting); Coulter Bypass/Springfield Meadows and the area opposite Craigiebuckler Church where mature Cypress Trees were felled a couple of years ago. Two separate onsite meetings have been held with Richard Nicholson who agreed to provide plans and budget costs for each area. In the meantime, potential funding options are being reviewed.
- Action: MG to liaise with Richard Nicholson with respect to the plans and approximate costs.*
- Residents’ Bus Survey  
The proposed joint bus survey with Braeside/Mannofield was discussed. The survey was first conceived due to the changes made in timetables on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 (both only valid until 13<sup>th</sup> Sept) when the number 15 service was reduced from every 30 minutes to every 40 minutes and the ensuing diversions to the 11A service when Craigiebuckler Avenue was closed from 23<sup>rd</sup> July to mid September for resurfacing.

The 11A diversions left passengers stranded on several occasions when 3 drivers continued down Queens Rd instead of going back down Springfield Rd after turning at Hazlehead roundabout.

- MM confirmed that the survey is intended to obtain information about how often people use the bus service, why they use it and what they would like to see changed. Armed with this collated information and the power of one collective

voice, we should have demonstrative proof to present to ACC when Firstbus force service changes on us that we do not want.

MM has canvassed several residents about the idea of a survey when travelling on the bus. They were very encouraging and thought it was a good idea to give them a chance to express their views - good and bad - about the bus services. The recent upheaval makes this an opportune time to send out a survey to residents.

Our elderly residents do rely on the bus services due to the costs of running a car, not meeting the blue zone emission targets and perhaps giving up driving due to medical issues. Furthermore, not everyone is fortunate enough to have a family living nearby. Since COVID there are fewer taxis available to use.

- Inaccurate information was provided from one of the 11A bus drivers suggesting that the 11A service was being cancelled on the 25<sup>th</sup> September and the no 15 re-routed to cover the route but this has now been confirmed to be false by Cllr Ian Yuill. However, there are further planned changes to the no 15 and 11A timetables.
- MM stated she had a quote for 1000 printed double side leaflets of £95 and the cost of Survey Monkey would be between £100 and £200 (to be confirmed). So an approximate cost of £300 for the survey in total. We get 200 free pages monthly from Airyhall library.
- There were different opinions at the meeting on whether there was still a need for the survey given the time and cost.
- As WS was not present at the meeting, MM suggested that a vote should be conducted by email as the survey had already been discussed at the meetings in August and September and timing was important to get the best response from residents impacted by the recent travel upheaval. A decision whether to conduct the survey could not wait until the next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

*Action: WS to email out CC members requesting them to vote.*

## **8. Planning Officer's Report.**

- RF gave an overview of planning requests with nothing significant that warranted further discussion within the CSCC.
- MM gave an update on the 2406/DPP Planning Application to install a Grid Battery Energy Storage Facility (BESS) with associated development at land at Newton of Pitfodels, Aberdeen AB15 7AL. WS and MM attended the Planning Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September and WS spoke on behalf of a Pinewood resident who had registered their objection. The risks and the reasons why the site was unsuitable were highlighted and the Planning Officer and Planning Committee rejected the proposal.

## 9. Matters for Discussion with Ward Councillors

- **Felled Trees in the Hazeldene/Queens Road Triangle**  
A question was raised concerning the status of the replanting in the Hazledene/Queens Road Triangle and it was confirmed that the area had been completely replanted with a variety of different indigenous species that would reach screening height in 3-5 years. There was a concern that the site should have been cleared before the replanting as is done in other countries e.g. Sweden, but this is not the policy in ACC.  
  
*NB: When this was raised last year, it was confirmed that ACC are committed to planting a million trees in 10 years.*
- **Aberdeen E-Bike Hire**  
The whereabouts of the electric bikes was queried and it was confirmed that this was a partnership and Big Issue and that Big Issue had pulled out of the contract.
- **Craigiebuckler Avenue – Road and Pavement Resurfacing and Lamppost Replacement**  
KW commended the ACC Roads Department for doing a great job on Craigiebuckler Avenue. The resurfacing and upgrades will make a big difference to the community and specifically the residents on this street
- **Broken fence Along Kepplestone Buildings**  
CM confirmed that this had been rectified.
- **Hazlehead Play Park**  
CM advised the meeting that there still appeared to be ongoing work in the new playpark  
*Action: MG to check status and revert.*
- **Parking on Kemnay Place**  
It was highlighted that residents on this street had no option but to park on the pavement as the street width was insufficient for large vehicles (in particular refuse lorries) - to pass with vehicles parked on the street. The question was raised whether a dispensation could be granted as has been done for other streets in Aberdeen.  
*Action: MG to check whether a pavement parking dispensation can be granted for Kemnay Place.*

## 10. A.O.C.B.

- **Bulb Planting Project.**  
It was noted that WS had requested 1500 crocuses and 500 Muscari bulbs and volunteers would be needed to complete the planting.  
*Action: MG to confirm how many bulbs we were being awarded and when. WS to confirm when the bulbs arrive and coordinate volunteers to plant them.*
- **Application to ACC for a 1-ton allocation of salt.**  
It was noted that a one tonne community salt bag would be requested by RF to help the community help themselves this winter.  
*Action: RF to request a 1Te Salt Bag*

- RC asked for confirmation of the ward Boundaries for Craigiebuckler and Seafield CC.  
*Action: MG to provide a map confirming the boundaries.*
- Future CSCC Meetings  
The location for future meetings was briefly discussed and the question was raised on whether they would revert to virtual Zoom meetings for the Winter. The general consensus was to continue with face-to-face but to unitise to move to a virtual meeting if weather conditions are particularly inclement.

MM suggested Airyhall Library as possible alternative meeting location. They are making a room available for the public to book at a small charge but there would be no charge for the room for CCs. The library are to confirm security arrangements and wifi availability. KW also highlighted that the Hutton Institute had previously offered a room with IT for CSCC meetings.

*Action: No action required at present, but alternative venues could be considered if there is an appetite to make the change.*

- Craigiebuckler & Seafield Community Council (CSCC)  
At midnight on 02 October, our membership of the Community Council ended. The previous term of office expired. A newly elected Community Council was elected on 03 October comprising 12 members and does not have Office Bearers until the next meeting on 05 November. It was noted that the next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November is the constituting meeting when office bearers will be elected. MG was therefore asked if he would chair the meeting which he agreed to do.

There being no further business, MM thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

**Date of Next Meeting.**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church chaired by MG until office bearers are elected.