

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church Hall.

Present

William Sell (WS), Margaret Meikle (MM), Craig Melville (CM), Robert Frost (RF), Cameron Campbell (CC), Pamela Fraser (PF), Caroline Walker (CW), Karen Reilly (KR), Keith Watson (KW), Councillor Ken McLeod (KM), Councillor Martin Greig (MG), Ainsley Mitchell, Resident.

Apologies

Councillor John Cooke, Dana Blyth.

Police Report

There were no Police Officers present.

Minutes of the Meeting of 5th November 2024.

The adoption of the minutes was deferred until the meeting of 7th January 2025

Treasurer's Report

CC reported that £300 had been paid by cheque to Aberdeen City Council for the installation and storage of decorative Festive Season streetlights for Springfield Road.

He also reported that he had not received the reimbursement donation from Malcolm Allan for the £300 cost of the lighting.

CW said that she would remind Malcolm Allan about the donation.

CC advised the meeting that the accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2024 would be submitted to the auditor in January 2025.

CC informed the meeting that, as previously agreed, a donation of £250 would be paid by bank transfer to Aberdeen Springfield Church as a contribution towards funding the forthcoming Festival of Light. He will be accompanied at the bank by WS, as second signatory to the transaction.

He reported that the replacement Jubilee tree will be planted in early Spring.

Correspondence

WS reported that all emailed items of correspondence had been forwarded to the membership.

Matters arising from the Meeting of 5th November 2024

Issue of Speeding on Springfield Road and Surrounding Areas.

This will continue to be an item on our meeting agendas. If vehicles are seen to be travelling at high speed on Springfield Road and other roads in our area, they will be reported to the Police Liaison Officer at the earliest opportunity.

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 by the Council.

Residents' Bus Survey

At the previous meeting, MM explained 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 'First Bus' force service changes on us that we do not want.

She has spoken to travellers who have been on the receiving end of the erratic bus transport service for this area.

WS reported that he has received a complaint from an elderly neighbour. She intended to travel to the town centre, but the bus never turned up.

MM proposed that we survey the residents to obtain the data that she has detailed.

Seconded by WS.

The motion did not receive support from the members.

MM accepted the decision not to support her proposed survey.

Planning Officer's Report

RF reported details of current domestic planning applications.

Planning Reference No: 241146/DPP – Applicant: The James Hutton Institute

Application: To form a car park between the Craigiebuckler Scout Hut building (to the north) and the JHI glass house and storage buildings (to the south).

It was agreed, at the November meeting, that WS should submit a letter of objection to this planning application.

WS reported that he has submitted a letter of objection to this planning application.

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.

As explained at the November meeting, this application was rejected by Aberdeen City Council's planning committee on 19th September and that it is anticipated that the Applicant will appeal this decision.

WS and MM have been attending a series of meetings between neighbouring residents and representatives of neighbouring community councils.

WS reported that the group have been collecting information which can be used to counter the anticipated appeal.

The group have agreed that this information can be disseminated via the participating community councils' websites. It is unclear whether this action should be reserved until the Applicant lodges an appeal with the Scottish Government.

WS reported that he is to accompany the group at a meeting with the MSP for this constituency in January. He will obtain clear instructions concerning the publicity pertaining to publicising the nature of the group's objections to the proposed application.

He asked CM if, when he has this confirmation, can the information and any illustrations be posted on our CC website?

CM's reply was affirmative.

Matters for Discussion with Ward Councillors

Resident Mr Ainsley Mitchell reported that the footpath bordering the Hazlewood Development, between Countesswells Avenue and Hazledene Road, remains unpaved and in a muddy condition. Paving works were supposed to be carried out by the housing developer, Dandara.

Councillor Greig intimated that he would follow up this issue.

Mr Mitchell expressed concern that the buildings on Hazledene Road, formerly occupied by "Somebody Cares", are in a derelict condition and vulnerable to attacks of vandalism.

His comments were noted by Councillor Greig.

A.O.C.B.

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

Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th January 2025, 7.00 pm, Douglas lounge, Springfield Church Hall.