

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church

Present.

- Community Council Members:
William Sell (WS), Robert Frost (RF), Cameron Campbell (CC), Margaret Meikle (MM), Keith Watson (KW), Craig Melville (CM), Ranald Cameron (RC), Duncan Laidlaw (DL), Pam Fraser (PF), Karen Reilly (KR) and Caroline Walker (CW)
- Councillors:
Martin Greig (MG) and Councillor Ken McLeod (KM)
- Local Residents:
Jill Inggall (JI) and Michael Hache (MH)

Apologies.

- Councillor John Cooke (JC)

Police Report.

No police report had been received prior to the meeting. Sergeant Burr was not present, and no apologies had been received.

There followed a general discussion about police attendance, reporting and action follow-up and it was noted that feedback on attendance and report content had been requested and provided to the police after the November '24 meeting (see Minute). No response to this feedback had been received to-date and there were still actions dating back to February '24.

However, an email had been received from Sergeant Burr on the 3rd January this year stating; *'I see from the minutes that speeding on Springfield Road is perceived to be an issue again, it was around this time last year that there was a speed trap installed by the council safety unit after a meeting with Councillor Greig, and the statistics didn't discover any issues. The new Community action team are fully staffed as of Monday so I will try and get them to give it some attention and report back in future Police reports.'*

See matters for discussion with Ward Councillors.

Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd December 2024

- The minutes of the meeting of 3rd December were adopted on a proposal by MG seconded by KF.

Treasurer's Report

CC advised the meeting that £550 had been spent since the last meeting leaving an account balance of **£997.04** and below the ACC £1000 carryover limit. Cheques for the Brownies and Boys Brigade (£150 each) have still to be deducted.

CC confirmed that digital banking had been set-up for himself and WS. It was also noted that the Bank of Scotland are believed to be implementing an annual £100 charge for accounts such as ours, but no formal confirmation of this has been received.

CC advised that the annual audit of our accounts is required to be completed by 30th March.

Malcom Allan (MA) have not yet paid their £300 donation for the Xmas Tree lights in Springfield Road.

Action: CW to obtain a copy of the invoice from CC and chase up the payment with MA.

The Jubilee Tree replacement was discussed, and it was confirmed that this would now be scheduled for March/April and CSCC volunteers will be required to assist with the planting.

Action: CC to liaise with Raimoir and coordinate input/activities within the CSCC

Correspondence.

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

Matters arising from the Meeting of 3rd December 2024

- **Footpath Bordering Hazlewood Development**
During the December meeting a resident 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. MG confirmed that the land was owned by Dandara, and they considered that the path was suitable and fit for purpose. It was confirmed that they had previously trimmed/cut back the undergrowth and repeating this action would help.
Action: MG to approach Dandara and request this.
- **Somebody Cares**
A resident had expressed concern that the buildings on Hazledene Road, formerly occupied by Somebody Cares, are in a derelict condition and vulnerable to attacks of vandalism. MG confirmed that the land belongs to ACC and had been checked and deemed to be in acceptable condition. He also confirmed that there was currently no plan to reoccupy the site.

Planning Officer's Report.

RF advised the meeting that there was nothing significant in January that warranted further discussion within the CSCC but highlighted a planning application lodged in September '24 for a non-illuminated sign at the former tree tops site.

RF stated that a Teams Meeting was scheduled for Thursday 6th February at 18:00 and this was an opportunity to gather views on what the community want by way of improvements.

- **2406/DPP Planning Application to install a BESS at Newton of Pitfodels**
WS thanked those CSCC members who helped to distribute leaflets that encouraged objections to the DPEA appeal. 900 leaflets had been distributed, and 750 objections (with comments) had been lodged against the appeal. A decision is expected early March and there will be no right of appeal thereafter.

- Thornhill BESS

It was noted that another planning application had been made in Thornhill (Cults & Bieldside) and public consultations will take place in easily accessible locations. Affected CCs (including CSCC) will receive copies of the documents pertaining to the proposed development and given that this proposed development borders our area, and CSCC will be very much involved with countering the proposal.

Public events are planned for;

- Palm Court – 13:30 to 19:00 on 24th February 2025
- Airyhall Community Centre on 3rd April 2025

- Hazlehead Academy

MG stated that the public consultation for the replacement 15-1600 pupil Hazlehead academy had been extended and there were three designs being considered.

Local resident, Jill Ingall (JI) asked if any road/access improvements were planned and she highlighted the current congestion in the area West of the Hazlehead roundabout on Queens Road. She highlighted that there had been many new housing developments in and around the city, and questioned whether road capacity was reviewed as part of the planning process and whether road improvements/new link roads considered?

Action: MG was unaware of any proposed road improvements associated with the new academy but undertook to obtain more information

Matters for Discussion with Ward Councillors

- Tree Felling on Former Treetops Site

CC highlighted that another tree had been felled by Malcolm Allan (MA) on the site of the former Treetops Hotel. It was noted that there had previously been two breaches of Tree Preservation Orders by MA and that ACC David Dunne had confirmed the following on 13th May, 2024;

- *‘On this occasion, there would be very limited benefit in pursuing formal enforcement action against the applicant, however they have been reminded that it is an offence to remove trees in contravention of a tree preservation order. Going forward the development will be closely monitored as it progresses and reviewed on completion for compliance with the approved plans.’*
- *‘The Council are in the process of considering the detailed landscaping scheme for the site and will be requiring 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.’*

It was further noted that Scottish Forestry had also declined to act against MA.

Action: WS to write David Dunne and request that ACC check the latest tree felling against the developer’s planning application and ask for an update on the landscaping scheme to compensate for the loss of the trees.

- Tree Planting in the Culter Bypass/Springfield Meadows

Ji raised concerns that the new trees planted in this area could impact adjacent properties due to root spread and blocking daylight. She was concerned that there had been no consultation with households bordering this area and had written to both ACC and CSCC requesting specific details of the trees but had not received a response.

It was confirmed that new trees are all native species; Cherry, White Beam, Hazel, Crab

Apple, Rowan, Downy Birch, Bird Cherry, Alder, Holly, Guelder Rose, Scots Pine and Aspen which are all suitable for residential areas. The locations and spacings were carefully planned and selected and took account of existing paths, houses, garden fences etc. to ensure that they do not encroach or adversely impact residents and path users. They will also help with water logging in the area which is a known issue.

Regarding consultation, it was noted that a Core Path Survey was completed in 2023 which included this area. Local residents were canvassed on ideas and suggestions on improvement initiatives such as these.

It was also confirmed that the feedback in response to the new tree planting had been overwhelmingly positive.

Action: MG has requested more specific information on the trees e.g. root and canopy spread and will forward on receipt.

- Couper Pond – Treetops Development Link Path

It was confirmed that there are plans for a path between the MA development and the Couper Pond

- Speeding Cyclists on Core Paths

Jl highlighted that speeding cyclists on the core path network were posing a hazard to pedestrians. She had checked and confirmed that these were pedestrian paths as they do not meet the 2m width requirement for a cycle path. She enquired if signs could be erected along the lines of 'Please Respect Path Users'. There were mixed views on the effectiveness of signs when considering that inconsiderate cyclists are likely to ignore them, but MG agreed to follow-up.

Action: MG to look at what might be possible to improve the situation.

- Springbank Cemetery Gates

KM confirmed that the repairs to the cemetery gates would be completed, and the gates reinstated in March after delays due to insurance matters and the gate material (cast iron).

- Speeding Traffic and Inconsiderate Driving in the Area

DL expressed concern over speeding traffic and inconsiderate driving in the area and specifically on Anderson Drive. It was recognised that this was an ongoing issue across the city which can only be remedied by a visible police presence and enforcement action.

The potential reduction in speed limits (from 30 to 20 mph) on some Aberdeen roads was highlighted as a potential improvement although this is unlikely to make any material difference without a visible police presence and enforcement action. In addition, KW advised the meeting that there are new AI 4D radar cameras being trialled in the UK that can detect; vehicle speed, driver mobile phone use and seatbelts (all occupants) as well as identifying the vehicle make, model and number plate linked to UK police and DVLA databases. It's unknown if this technology is being considered by Police Scotland.

Action: Request an update from the police on speeding and inconsiderate driving interventions and initiatives in the city.

A.O.C.B.

- **Bulb Planting Project.**

WS advised that he still had crocus bulbs and volunteers would be needed to complete the planting

Action: WS to coordinate volunteers to plant them at Walker Dam.

Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield.