

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church

Present.

- Community Council Members:
William Sell (WS), Robert Frost (RF), Cameron Campbell (CC), Keith Watson (KW), Craig Melville (CM), Ranald Cameron (RC), Duncan Laidlaw (DL), Pam Fraser (PF)
- Councillors:
Martin Greig (MG) and Councillor Ken McLeod (KM)

Apologies.

- Councillor John Cooke (JC), Caroline Walker (CW), Margaret Meikle (MM)

Police Report.

The Police report has been emailed to all members.

Minutes of the Meeting of 1st April 2025

- The minutes of the meeting of 1st April were adopted on a proposal by RF seconded by WS.

Treasurer's Report

CC advised the meeting that a bank statement of 15th April showed an account balance of **£1,076.55**

Cheques for the Brownies and Boys Brigade (£100 each) have still to be deducted.

The Jubilee Tree replacement amounted to £111.99. It has been planted and now that it is in full bloom it's looking wonderful. Springfield Church sent a letter thanking the community council for replacing the Jubilee Tree. The original plaque has been reinstated under the tree by the church gardener. The tree will need to be watered regularly for several months especially in periods of dry weather.

The Craigiebuckler Scouts (53rd Aberdeen Scout Group) have received our donation of £100, which they acknowledged by thanking the community council and expressing their appreciation.

We received our new annual grant of £960 from the City Council which brings our account balance to £1,800. CC asked for Ideas for projects that our community council can fund in the coming year.

Correspondence.

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

Matters arising from the Meeting of 1st April 2025

- During the April meeting, it had been agreed to meet with Alistair Cox, Site Manager, James Hutton Institute. Cameron Campbell and Craig Melville were asked to arrange the meeting.
- Nothing has been organised yet. Coupers pond is in a poor state with water draining away from it. The cost of lining the pond would be £100,000. It may be turned into a wetland rather than a pond.
Action; CC and CM to arrange meeting with site manager at James Hutton Institute.
- Councillor Martin Greig reported that there are ongoing discussions with the Council's Enforcement Team pertaining to certain irregularities which are alleged to have occurred while developing the former Treetops Hotel site. It had been agreed to postpone any action concerning the felling of protected trees until the conclusion of this discussion is known. Malcolm Allan, house builder, has co-operated with the City Council and has come up with a plan to replace the felled trees.
- An initiative was suggested by Keith Watson during the March meeting whereby a general survey of residents in our area could be completed to establish their concerns and priorities so that we can focus on these as a community council. During the discussion, it was decided that the survey would be general to include local residents' views and concerns such as speeding and the bus service etc. This will allow us to determine people's priorities so that we can focus on four or five of them. The benefits of the survey include increasing the awareness of the community council in our local area thus showing that we are engaging with local residents to hear their views. We can use Google forms to create the survey which involves no expense to the community council. The survey can be advertised in the West End and church magazines. KW volunteered to come up with a list of questions as a first draft.
Action; KW to circulate first draft of the residents' survey.
- The Number 15 bus service was discussed during the April meeting regarding the frequency of changes to the timetable and why the bus no longer stops at one side of Countesswells Avenue. Councillor Greig explained that the No.15 route changed to a circular route going up past the Aldi store on Countesswells Road and turning at the roundabout through the Dandara estate before travelling along Countesswells Avenue.

Planning Officer's Report.

(See separate planning officer's report). RF advised the meeting that there was nothing significant in April that warranted further discussion within the community council, but mentioned the Ben Reid garden centre planning application for a coffee shop extension which the community council supports.

- 2406/DPP Planning Application to install a BESS at Newton of Pitfodels
The Applicant's Appeal against Aberdeen City Council's Planning Committee's decision to reject the proposed construction of a battery energy store on land at Newton of Pitfodels was upheld. WS met with other community councils in the area to discuss whether any further action can be taken to overturn the decision by legal challenge. WS contacted Planning Aid Scotland and enquired about the possibility of applying for legal aid. With the deadline fast approaching on 9th May it is unlikely further action will be possible.

- James Hutton Institute extension has started, once completed there are plans for a community cafe.

Matters for Discussion with Ward Councillors

- Woodland Care Home has opened a community café. Opening hours are 9am-5pm; it operates by donation. Press the buzzer for entry to the cafe.
- Noticeboard at Walker Dam: - RF to ask Allan Davidson from Friends of Walker Dam whether the community council could put up a poster to advertise our survey.

A.O.C.B.

- We had a minute's silence in remembrance of Aileen Brown, our previous Chair of the community council. Aileen passed away in March. She was a driving force in the local community for many years and it was thanks to her that the community council was re-established.
- Old plastic tree protector tubes have been reported in Hazlehead Park. Also tree branches near Hazlehead Academy could pose a fire hazard during dry weather. MG stated that cut tree branches are left to increase biodiversity.
- The old tram stop at Hazlehead Park (besides the car park) has been completed, renovated and painted and has enhanced the area.
- Discussion took place on the proposed 20 mph speed limits. It is proposed to make most roads in the local area 20 mph, with Springfield Road and Countesswells Road remaining at 30 mph.
- KM mentioned the parking problems at Robert Gordon's College playing fields at a recent rugby event, there were lots of cars parked and it was quite chaotic.
- KM is following up regarding the replacement gates at Springbank cemetery. A specialist contractor is doing the work and it is hoped the gates will be replaced soon.
- A road traffic collision at the junction of Hazledene Road and Queens Road caused damage to streetlight and also the dry-stone wall and granite milestone. The milestone is of historical importance, and is listed on a map from 1902. MG to follow up with regards to necessary repair work.

Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church.