

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church

Present.

- Community Council Members:
William Sell (WS), Robert Frost (RF), Keith Watson (KW), Craig Melville (CM),
Ranald Cameron (RC)
- Councillors:
Martin Greig (MG)
- Local Residents: Martin Roberts (MR), Martin Morrison (MM), Matthew
Newman(MN)

Apologies.

- Cameron Campbell (CC), Margaret Meikle (MM), Councillor Ken McLeod (KM),
Susan Reader, Karen Reilly, Caroline Walker, Pamela Fraser.

Welcome and Introductions

- WS Chair, welcomed all attendees.

Police Report.

It was noted that no Police report was issued to the community council this month. MG agreed to raise the lack of feedback and ask for the monthly reports to resume and invite them to our next meeting. Action MG.

Discussed the problem with youths using modified electric bikes which increases their speed, making them unsafe. These bikes are a hazard to other road users and pedestrians, in addition if driven on playing fields or golf courses they cause a lot of damage due to antisocial behaviour. Advice is to report these incidents by phoning police on 101 or using the online form on Police Scotland's website.

Minutes of the Meeting of 5th August 2025

The minutes of the meeting of 5th August were adopted on a proposal by KW seconded by RF.

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is **£1,838.44** on 4th August; we have not expended any sum since the banking charge of £4.25 taken by Bank of Scotland on that date.

A cheque for £150 was issued to help cover the fun-bin at Johnston Gardens. Therefore, our funds available for projects are £1,688.44

Only July expense was for Zurich insurance premium £47 (increase from £35 in July 2024)

Suggest not pursuing idea of a commissioned bench unless sponsored as the cost is around £1,200 and planning permission may be required.

MG offered to contact Malcolm Allan builder to ask if they are willing to fund Christmas lights again this year, which cost £300.

If we purchase solar lights to display on trees on Countesswells Avenue then permission from the council is required. CM has contacted Steven Shaw asking for permission.

Any further suggestions for expenditure let CC know.

Large new signs have been installed at the entrance of the James Hutton Institute. CSCC is not aware of any planning application submitted to the council.

Correspondence.

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

Matters arising from the Meeting of 5th August 2025

Charity Status- CM to raise with Karen Finch (CCLO) at the Community Council Forum on 01/09/25 – CM raised this at the meeting and Karen Finch will investigate and report back.

Tree pit for a specimen tree at James Hutton Institute or Hazlehead Park is a possible project. MG to follow up with costs. Action:MG

Bench locations will be determined based on results from the residents' survey. CM proposed a potential site opposite the Scout hut in Springfield Meadows.

MM previously suggested a digital booklet of local services such as lights, trees, benches.

Concern raised about poor City Council response and unclear contacts.

MG stated this would involve a considerable time resource, RF suggested the Community Council Forum could help to compile a digital booklet for use by all Community Councils.

Residents' Survey 2025

A first draft was circulated, and a subgroup of KW, CM, WS, MM, and RF held three online meetings to discuss the survey. An electronic form has been created by CM and it was agreed that WS will email to all Community Council members for comment. Action:WS

Walker Dam Noticeboard: MG contacted Alan Davidson (custodian) and he has agreed that Community Council posters, one or two A4 posters, could be put up to advertise meeting dates etc. Posters to be delivered to Alan.

Den Wood: Issues include contractor mess, path damage, and fallen trees blocking main paths. Also issues such as hogweed, ticks, stagnant burn, poor signage and inadequate grass cutting frequency.

MG confirmed that the Council are aware of the hogweed. If any is spotted officers need a precise location so that they can take follow up action. Forestry Scotland has a detailed plan of the tree work being carried out to fell trees in Denwood. The contractor takes away felled timber as payment for work carried out. There have been reports indicating that a marker post has been knocked over and debris is present beside or encroaching onto the edge of the path.

Grass cutting is a concern for some residents. MG stated that grass between newly planted

trees will remain uncut, while areas such as the space opposite the Scout hut will be maintained regularly.

Planning Officer's Report.

(See separate planning officer's report). RF advised the meeting that the James Hutton institute planning application for a car park was refused by planning officers and James Hutton Institute appealed the decision. The Local Review Body decided on the appeal on 18/08/25.

They built the car park without planning permission and then sought retrospective approval. When the Council refused to grant retrospective consent, the Hutton appealed against this decision.

Their appeal was heard on 18/08/25 by the Council's "Local Review Body", who refused the appeal. This confirms that the car park does not have planning consent.

There was a planning application at Grove Nursery Recycling Centre Hazlehead Avenue Hazlehead Aberdeen for Erection of warehouse building with adjoining shipping containers and external fenced area.

A discussion about the James Hutton car park noted that when the main lot is full, visitors, contractors, and staff are directed to park on Macaulay Drive. Local residents are monitoring this issue and have spoken with Colin Smith, the Campus Operations Director. The nursery on Macaulay Drive has expanded, and increased drop-offs at Airyhall School are worsening the parking problem.

Local resident, MR has noticed that when cars are parked on Macaulay Drive, there are a lot of spaces available in James Hutton main car park. Macaulay Drive is a narrow road, and concern was raised whether access to emergency vehicles is being restricted.

It was agreed that WS will contact Colin Smith at James Hutton Institute to arrange a meeting with the Community Council to discuss parking issues on Macaulay Drive.

Work on the Ben Reid garden centre coffee shop will begin early next year.

Matters for Discussion with Ward Councillors

- There was a discussion about converting the cobbled area in front of Seafield shops into parking, including disabled spaces.
- MG confirmed this area has been re-designated as a permitted parking area and he will explore the possibility of a disabled parking space. Action:MG
- MG stated that the speed limit on Countesswells Road from the Aldi roundabout to the Countesswells development is being reviewed to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph. All attendees at the meeting concurred with the decision to reduce the speed limit.
- A signalised crossing has been agreed to be installed on Countesswells Road beside the traffic island near Airyhall School, the traffic island will likely be removed when the new crossing is installed.
- RC noted varying speed limits on the road past Hazlehead golf course; MG confirmed it will all become 20mph.

- The avenue of trees lining Anderson Drive down towards Broomhill Road will either be cut down or pruned. Work will be completed by the end of the year, therefore the area will look different.

A.O.C.B.

- A Community Safety Survey was discussed at the Community Council Forum meeting on 1st September. WS replied to Karen Finch informing her that CSCC are in the process of embarking on a residents' survey which includes a question about safety and crime prevention.
- WS mentioned that drivers are being fined for parking on the cobbled area in front of Seafield shops. MG stated during the meeting that an exemption has been approved in principle. As a result, City wardens will discontinue issuing fines to motorists parking on the cobbled area.
- The problem of horse fouling around Hazlehead and Den Wood was discussed. It was mentioned that horse manure isn't harmful to health unlike dog waste.

Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church.