

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting on Tuesday 7th October at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church.

Present.

William Sell (WS), Craig Melville (CM), Dr Susan Reader (SR), Keith Watson (KW), Duncan Laidlaw (DL), Pam Fraser (PF) and Cameron Campbell (CC)

Ward Councillors: Councillor Ken McLeod (KM) and Councillor Martin Greig (MG)

2 Residents.

Apologies

Margaret Meikle, Robert Frost Karen Reilly and Councillor John Cooke.

Police Report

No report was received.

CM advised the meeting that police attendance at CC meetings and the receipt and quality of police reports had been raised at the last CC Forum on 6th October as it affects other CCs and is a common complaint. This will be followed up through the CC Forum going forward.

[Action: CM to follow via the CC Forum.](#)

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd September 2025 were adopted on a proposal by KW and seconded by DL.

Treasurer's Report CC reported that £1838.64 is available for expenditure on projects. £838.64 must be expended before the end of December.

MG reported that he had approached Malcolm Allan (house builder) for a donation towards the cost of the display of decorative Christmas streetlights. In the meantime, it was agreed that CSCC would cover the £300 cost which could be reimbursed later if Malcolm Allan agree.

Following a discussion on other potential projects, it was agreed that the CSCC would support a donation of £250 towards Xmas events in Springfield Church e.g. Festival of Light.

Correspondence

In his absence, Cllr Cooke provided the following update.

'There were a couple of issues that I was keen to share with the CC and where I'd be interested in getting some opinions.

First, I've had a number of complaints about parking/issues on Hazlehead Avenue at pick-up time from the nursery and Hazlehead Primary. I've asked officers in the relevant departments to look into this. There have been various suggestions on this , including time-limited restrictions, putting in double yellows, or making the road one-

way. I'm not taking a view at this point, as I'm waiting for officers' professional advice, but I would be interested to hear more local views.

We also have an initiative called the 'I'm Fine Festival' starting next week, which encourages people with mental health issues (it's actually about one in four of us) to talk about it. I think this is really important:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/news/mental-health-im-fine-festival-returns-next-month>

The free to attend 'I'm Fine' Festival returns next month as part of Aberdeen City Council's commitment to help people access opportunities to aid their mental, physical and social well-being.

Aiming to build on the success of last year, the festival will run from Monday 6 October to Saturday 11 October, with talks and events focused on wellbeing and mental health being held across the city.

And finally, as winter is coming, as House Stark might say, the council as opened bids for the big salt bags: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/news/applications-now-open-residents-get-free-one-tonne-community-salt-bag-0>.

Matters arising from the Meeting of 2nd September 2025

Charity Status – There is no update/progress. CM raised this with Karen Finch (CCLO) on 01/09/25 who will investigate and report back.

Action: CM to follow up via the CC Forum.

Tree pit for a specimen tree at James Hutton Institute or Hazlehead Park is a possible project. MG had an informal conversation with the ACC tree team who support this initiative but currently have no plans. They have requested further details from CSCC on our thinking, i.e. cost and specific locations(s).

Action: Discuss at November meeting.

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

MG provided the following update from an ACC perspective.

The team says that in the first instance they suggest replacing some of the older, non-dedicated, existing benches with new ones of more modern design. There are a number of such benches that could be replaced.

They should email benches@aberdeencity.gov.uk to discuss specific options.

I also asked about the likely costs.

The response is that this will depend on the location and specification. A bench would cost around £2000, and a picnic table would cost around £3000. There are additional costs for grassy locations where concrete pads would need to be poured.

The team would not be in favour of the construction of bespoke or one-off items of furniture for location in Council open spaces. There are established suppliers and

products which meet the stringent safety conditions.

The Council also manages a sponsored bench scheme details of which were circulated to the CSCC by email.

Residents' Survey 2025

A first draft of the survey was circulated, and a subgroup comprising KW, CM, WS, MM, and RF held three online meetings to discuss and formulate the survey. An electronic form has been created by CM, and WS emailed a copy to all Community Council members for review and comment on 6th September along with the following proposed covering note.

Dear Resident,

As your Community Council, we are committed to building a stronger, more connected, and better-informed neighbourhood. To help us achieve this, we are conducting a short survey to better understand the needs, interests, and priorities of our residents.

*As part of the survey, we are asking for your **name, address and email address.***

This information will help us to:

- Ensure we are reaching all areas of the community*
- Identify location-specific needs or concerns*
- Contact residents directly when planning issues may affect them*
- Keep you informed about relevant updates, local events, and future initiatives (only if you opt in)*

*We are moving to a **purely digital format** for this survey. This change has not been made lightly, but it has become necessary. Producing, delivering, and processing thousands of paper surveys places a significant burden on our small team of volunteers. In our most recent round, over 2,000 paper copies were distributed, yet fewer than 100 were returned. The low response rate, combined with the high cost and time involved, makes the paper method unsustainable.*

*Please rest assured that **your personal information will be kept strictly confidential**, stored securely, and **used only for community engagement purposes**. It will never be shared with third parties or used for any commercial purpose.*

Please Note:

This survey is intended for residents of [Craigiebuckler & Seafield only \(click for map\)](#).

*It should take approximately 5-10 **minutes** to complete.*

*The survey will be open from **00:00 on [insert date]** and will close at **00:00 on [insert date]**.*

Your voice matters, and we appreciate your time in helping shape the future of our community.

Warm regards,

William Sell (Chair),

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

The subgroup consider that the survey is ready to be distributed, and the next steps were discussed and agreed as follows.

- All CSCC members to review the survey and provide comments on/by Sunday 12th October. Action: All CSCC Members.
- Survey to start/go-live on 01/11/25 and close on 30/11/25.

- Sub Committee to meet by Zoom on 23rd October to review any comments and finalise the survey and the arrangements to issue the survey.

This will include;

- Posters with QR codes and website/FB links in places like the Airyhall Library, Walker Dam Notice Board, Community Centre, Co-Op etc.
- Support from the Airyhall Library for IT access

Action: WS, RF, MM, CM and KW

Walker Dam Noticeboard - Carried forward from September meeting: 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

Digital booklet of local services such as lights, trees, benches. This was suggested by MM at the last meeting on 02/09 and in her absence, it was agreed to carry this forward to the November meeting.

Action: MM

Parking at James Hutton Institute (JHI)

At the September CSCC meeting, it was agreed that WS would contact Colin Smith at JHI to arrange a meeting with the Community Council to discuss parking issues on Macaulay Drive (MD). This had been arranged but was subsequently postponed.

WS advised the meeting that he had measured the width of Macaulay Drive at 6m and concluded that there is space for cars to pass parked cars, but questioned whether there was room for a fire engine/tender?

During the discussion that followed, the following points were highlighted.

- Parking has improved since the September meeting.
 - The nursery has come up with alternatives to minimise parking on the street
 - ACC bin lorries manage to get passed – is this indicative of a fire engine/tender?
 - Persistent offenders parking on MD are JHI staff despite having a new access road, car park and overspill car park to use.
 - Part of the planning justification for the creation of the new access road was to reduce parking on MD.
 - It is believed that JHI have issued an internal note to staff to reduce parking on MD, but more needs to be done.
 - The JHI community hub and café could increase the parking on MD.
 - MD residents have details of the car make, model, colour and registration numbers plus photographs of those JHI staff that park on MD.
- They have also confirmed that there are spaces available in the JHI car parks when these cars have been parked on MD.

It was agreed that:

The meeting with Colin Smith (JHI) and CSCC members needs to be re-arranged.

Action; WS

Grampian Fire and Rescue Service to be approached for comment on access on MD with parked cars and feedback provided to CSCC. Local resident (Martin Roberts) has contacts and will follow-up and feedback to the CSCC.

Action: Martin Roberts

There was a follow-on discussion regarding cars parking on MD for the Airyhall primary school drop off and the possibility of introducing double yellow lines at the MD junction with Countesswells Road. MG had confirmed that this had been looked at before and had been discounted as vehicles would likely just move into the cul-de-sacs, but he agreed to ask the question again

Action: MG

Parking on Cobbled Area in Front of Seafield Shops - MG confirmed that this area has been re-designated as a permitted parking area. He also confirmed that he had raised the possibility of disabled parking bay(s) and confirmed that this is a possibility and plans would be generated when resources are available.

Action: MG

Planning Officer's Report

In

In RF's absence, WS went through current planning applications in the Ward.

In the discussions that followed, the following points were discussed/raised.

- Temporary JHI car park – JHI have not appealed the planning committee's rejection to make this permanent, but they are still within the period for doing this. Assuming the planning rejection stands, the question was raised on whether JHI had to remove the hard stand which is looking 'shabby'.

Action: MG to follow-up bearing in mind that JHI did not have planning permission to create this car park in the first place.

- New Pedestrian Crossing on Countesswells Road – MG explained that the location of the new crossing was constrained by the road layout/architecture and construction is imminent.

- Area Local Development Plan (ALDP) 2028 to 2038 – The grazing and hayfield area OP42.

This area was originally designated as greenbelt but was granted planning permission some years ago for a hotel/conference facility which was never developed. The CSCC members agreed that this should be redesignated as greenbelt.

NB Further ideas/suggestions for input to the ALDP may be forthcoming from the residents' survey

Action: WS/RF to follow-up.

- JHI Signs on New Access Road – it was noted that there had been no planning application for the two large JHI signs that had been erected at the Countesswells Road entrance to the new access road. It was confirmed that this was an enforcement issue and would be followed up by ACC.
- Hazlewood School – MG advised the meeting that the old Hazlewood School would be demolished to give way to 18 residential homes built on the site with a play park and walking route through the development. This is for information as this is out with the CSCC Ward.

Matters for Discussion with Ward Councillors

- Road Marking on Queens Road near Hazledene Road Junction – road markings are indistinct and require to be repainted.

[Action: MG to follow-up](#)

MG updated the meeting on the following work/initiatives in the area.

- The old tram shed in Hazlehead Park has been refurbished and old photographs of trams in and around Aberdeen have been placed inside. It was agreed that this was a very positive initiative.
- Springbank Cemetery Gates - work is now scheduled for November 2025.
- Hazlehead Public Toilets have been re-painted with support from the Park Café.
- South Anderson Drive Pedestrian Crossing adjacent to Seafield Road – a dropped kerb is to be installed.
- The last phase of the Dandara development is ongoing, and the creation of a children's playpark is a planning condition.

A.O.C.B.

- Festive Fairs (raised by RF and narrated by WS in his absence); Braeside and Mannofield Community Council members will be attending some of the Festive Fairs.

This year they will be at:

- Airyhall Community Centre between 10am and noon on 18 October.
- Mannofield Church Fair between 10am and 4pm on 1 November.
- Airyhall PTA Fair between 10am and 12 noon on 29 November at the Primary School.

RF suggested that, like BMCC, we should take the opportunity to have a stall at these events. It was agreed that this would be a good initiative and would be a good forum for creating awareness of our Residents' survey as well as promoting the CSCC in general and the work that we do.

[Action: RF](#)

- Absentee CSCC Members – CC highlighted that there are members that do not regularly attend meetings or send apologies. WS agreed to follow-up with those concerned.

[Action: WS to follow-up.](#)

- DL asked if it was possible to have a statement/summary of the CSCC finances circulated before the meetings which CC agreed to.

[Action: CC to issue a summary ahead of future meetings.](#)

- Support for Seniors & vulnerable people – WS highlighted that there is a lot of support and help available for these groups, but it's not necessarily known what is available and how it can be accessed e.g. Bon Accord Care, Health & Social Care Partnership.

He suggested that it would be good to collate this information into a poster which could be made available on our website, library and noticeboards in the area.

[Action; WS to coordinate with help from CSCC members.](#)

- SR made the meeting aware of a Charity Xmas Fair from 10:00 to 13:00 on 15th

November to raise money for Befriend-a-Child and Jeevanpur School in Nepal.
This could be used to raise awareness of the CSCC and the Residents' Survey.
[Action: SF – for discussion at next meeting.](#)

Date of the Next Meeting

At 7.00 pm on Tuesday 4th November 2025 in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church.