

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

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

Present.

- Community Council Members:
William Sell (WS), Robert Frost (RF), Cameron Campbell (CC), Craig Melville (CM), Ranaid Cameron (RC), Duncan Laidlaw (DL), Pam Fraser (PF), Susan Reader (SR) (associate member)
- Councillors:
Martin Greig (MG)
- Local Residents: Matthew Newman (MN), Carol Quinlan (CQ)

Apologies.

- Councillor Ken McLeod (KM), Councillor John Cooke (JC), Duncan Laidlaw (DL), Caroline Walker (CW), Margaret Meikle (MM), Keith Watson (KW)

Police Report.

There was no Police report issued this month, MG to follow up with the Police for an explanation.

An email was received from Duncan Laidlaw (DL) in which he intimated that youngsters have been “running round the neighbourhood throwing eggs at houses, etc.” His wife’s friend videoed them hitting the bus. He asks for some guidance from the Police as to what we can do to them if we get hold of them.

MG advised that it is best to report these unacceptable antisocial behaviours to the Police, they will record these incidents, and they can contact local schools and speak to parents. RC stated that previously shops were contacted to request they don’t sell eggs to groups of teenagers or youngsters.

Minutes of the Meeting of 7th October 2025

Proposed by RC

Seconded by WS

Amendments add RC to those present.

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 the account balance is **£1,830.14**

Two Cheques for several youth groups have still to be cashed. CC to contact them to arrange payment by bank transfer.

Malcolm Allan house builder has paid for three sets of Christmas lights, a total of £300 (paid directly to the City Council)

Agreed to fund the following:

- Festival of light £300 (£150 for Christmas tree and £150 for soft play)
- Digital noticeboard £200 - agreed to trial one of these digital devices that sends a Bluetooth signal to mobile phones of passersby to send a link to our website.
- Boys Brigade and Girl Guides/Brownies receive £100 each.
- Park bench - £250 to refurbish existing bench, possible sites are Springfield Meadows, Woodburn gardens or the Craigiebuckler play park.
- Pull up banner- £50 to advertise our community council to be used at community events with our logo. Suggestion for a logo red squirrel(s) and trees.

Correspondence.

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

Matters arising from the Meeting of 7th October 2025

CM advised the meeting of 7th October 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.

There was no Police report issued this month, MG to follow up with the Police for an explanation. Update from MG: On 04/11/25 Police Scotland reviewed the way they provide accurate and relevant information to community councils. There will now be quarterly reports rather than monthly. Reports will cover each of the force priorities: Anti-Social behaviour, Violence and Disorder, - Road Safety and Road Crime, Protecting Vulnerable People, Acquisitive Crime, Serious and Organised Crime.

Charity Status – There is no update/progress. During the meeting of 7th October, CM reported that he raised this with Karen Finch (CCLO) on 01/09/25 who will investigate and report back.

CM reported the issue was discussed at the CC forum meeting on 3rd November. No other CC in Aberdeen has set up charity status and there was no interest in pursuing this further.

A tree pit for a specimen tree at James Hutton Institute or Hazlehead Park is a possible project.

During the October meeting, MG reported that he had an informal conversation with the ACC tree team who support this initiative but currently, they have no plans. They have requested further details from us about our thinking, i.e. cost and specific locations(s).

This was discussed and possible locations for planting a tree were the Craigiebuckler Avenue bus terminus turning circle grassed area, and across from Figment in the triangular grassed area on Seafield Road.

Residents' Survey 2025.

The sub-committee met online on 23rd October to review any comments and finalise the

survey and the arrangements to issue the survey.

The discussion included:

- 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.

The sub-committee met by Zoom on 23rd October and decided to implement the distribution of the survey. The survey went live on 01/11/25 – If anyone completes a handwritten survey, this can be photographed and sent to our email address: secretary@craigiebucklerseafield.org.uk

Posters will be displayed on noticeboards James Hutton, Springfield & Mannofield churches' noticeboards, Rubislaw Park and Walker Dam noticeboard and Mannofield's Seafield shops.

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 December 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?

At 1.00 pm on Wednesday 29th October, along with Keith Watson, WS met Colin Smith, Campus Operations Director of the James Hutton Research Institute. Mr. Smith gave a guided tour of the Institute where £9000,000 has been spent on a fabulous and extensive refurbishment.

The canteen has been extended and is open to the public from 8.30 am until 3.30 pm, 5 days a week. There is accommodation for groups such as us to meet and connect to Wi-Fi. Hybrid meetings could be conducted at this facility. That would be a considerable advantage. If we wish to meet there, we can let Colin Smith know.

The MD residents' complaint about car parking on MD was intimated to Colin. He was also presented with the list of the offending vehicles' details, which he will pass to HR so that the staff members associated with the alleged inconsiderate parking can be identified and told to use the Institute's car parks. The parking should be better now that the contractors are gone.

He informed us that a retrospective planning application is being drawn up for the advertisement hoardings at the Institute's junction with Countesswells Road.

We reported that the lights on the walkways were out or not on around the building. Colin said that he would investigate this matter but also informed us that the MacAulay Development Trust has ownership of the grounds of the campus.

Other works are pending, e.g., a nature trail.

We reported that the lighting on the new road has never been switched on.

The lighting is a work in progress which has connection issues. A meter is to be installed by EDF. This is awaited.

Local resident MN stated that there can be up to 12 cars parking on Macaulay Drive and they are parked during the working day.

There are plans to set up a social enterprise to run the cafe. The countryside rangers are to move into the JHI. It was noted that the overflow car park is being used, this car park is accessible from the new access road.

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. MG confirmed that council staff are investigating a disabled parking bay and we await the outcome. The cobbled area is now exempt from enforcement action by city wardens.

There was a follow-on discussion regarding cars parking on Macaulay Drive for the Airyhall primary school drop off, and the possibility of introducing double yellow lines at the Macaulay Drive 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.

MG has asked for existing double yellow lines to be extended slightly.

- 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'.
- MG confirmed we are waiting to hear back from city planners on when JHI will reinstate the temporary car park to remove hard standing and matting and return to a natural green Space. MG mentioned that there are plans for a fenced off area close to the temporary car park to be turned into allotments.

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. WS requested the reclassification of the site to greenbelt a few months ago.

MG to follow up to check if our CC comments have been received by the ALDP team.

Aberdeen City Council is inviting local residents, businesses, landowners, developers, and community organisations to contribute their ideas and identify potential development sites as we begin preparing our next Local Development Plan. This new plan will cover the 10-year

period from 2028 to 2038, and will be the first LDP prepared by the Council under the changes to the planning system introduced by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2019.

Areas to consider to protect the green and natural character of

- the Hayfield site, the nearby grazing fields and Somebody Cares site.

Comments can be made to say that these sites should not become development sites and should be classed as Green Belt or similar protected natural category.

Action: Submit comments ASAP

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

MG has asked the council to get this done.

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.

SR will be attending a Christmas event on 15th November and will bring survey posters and forms. Hazlehead Primary school Parent Council are holding a Christmas Fair on 27th November, RF to enquire about a stall for CSCC to attend. 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.

WS confirmed that unfortunately Dana Blyth has resigned from the community council.

We would like to thank Dana for her dedication, passion and hard work in supporting our local community for over 10 years.

Planning Officer's Report.

(See separate planning officer's report).

Aberdeen Local Development Plan

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Matters for Discussion with Ward Councillors

CQ raised the issue of overgrown trees on Woodburn Gardens with cars parked on one side of the road meaning local residents must walk on the road, and that is an accident waiting to happen. MG will follow up regarding getting overhanging branches cut back.

CQ raised the problem concerning the poor state of the road on Woodburn Gardens with pot holes requiring to be patched up on a frequent basis.

CM read out emails from residents who are concerned about antisocial behaviour from teenagers throwing eggs at houses and vehicles. Concerns were raised about the trees on Springfield Meadow and lack of grass cutting with reports of vermin in this area. A tree pit with no tree was reported.

CM stated that ACC is due £4 million in developer contributions. MG said that this could be due to Stewart Milne construction going into administration.

MG stated that work on the Gatehouse at the entrance to Hazlehead park has started for the purpose of converting it into a kiosk for the same business who runs the park cafe.

SR raised the issue of coffee-coloured water entering the pond at Johnston Gardens. It was thought this was caused by run off from the ongoing building work at the Malcolm Allan Treetops housing development. MG stated the pond is cleared every few years but it isn't best practice to dredge it.

Springfield Road Traffic Island - There was a discussion on whether a zebra crossing could be installed to replace the traffic island. MG questioned if there is enough pedestrian traffic to meet the criteria that is used to assess need for these types of crossings.

MG confirmed the public toilets in Hazlehead Park have finally been refurbished and are now in use.

KR asked about the future of Rosewell House at Kingsgate, which is operated by Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership. MG confirmed that this facility will be closed resulting in a £1.5 million saving.

A.O.C.B. It was agreed to co-opt Dr Susan Reader as a member of this Community Council.

Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 7pm in the Douglas Lounge, Springfield Church.