

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Tuesday 4th March 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) and Caroline Walker (CW)
- Councillors:
Martin Greig (MG)
- Local Residents:
Paul Graham (PG) Lynda McPherson (LM) and Ian McPherson (IM)

WS opened the AGM and welcomed all attendees and provided the following Chairperson's report/update summarising the activities of the Community Council during the previous twelve months

At the beginning of the reporting period, speeding traffic on Springfield Rd was becoming a concern. Despite the installation of an electronic speed sign, 75% of drivers heading South were seen to be exceeding the speed limit. Measures had been taken to improve the standards of driving on Springfield Rd.

Concerns had been raised about the volume of trees that had been removed by the developer of the Treetops site and it was found that the developer was in breach of the planning permission under Tree Preservation Order. This had been allowed to happen, much to the disappointment of the members of this Community Council. During the subsequent meeting, the consensus was that enforcement action should be taken. It was subsequently agreed that I would follow up this matter directly with the Chief Officer for Strategic Planning at Aberdeen City Council. In that email, I detailed our complaint about the breach of the tree preservation order. Eventually, I received a reply in which the recipient apologised for the delay in replying. The author of the email concluded his reply by stating that there would be very limited benefit in pursuing formal enforcement action against the applicant.

During the June meeting, the planning officer drew attention to a planning application for a battery storage unit on land at Newton of Pitfodels. It was decided that, because the site of this proposed development is close to our area, it would be worth monitoring it.

Our first face to face meeting was on Tuesday the 6th of August. During that Meeting it was decided to replace the Jubilee Tree in the grounds of Springfield Church, which had died. The Treasurer reported that he had received a good deal from a garden centre for its removal and replacement. It was agreed that the old tree could be removed and a new tree planted.

The August meeting was attended by a retired engineer who gave us detailed information

about the proposed battery energy storage unit to be constructed on land at Newton of Pitfodells, situated on the side of Countesswells Road, opposite the southern boundary of our area.

Between 6th August and 16th of September, Margaret and I attended a series of fortnightly meetings with the affected residents and representatives of Braeside and Mannofield Community Council and Cults, Bielside and Milltimber Community Council. Present were three retired engineers. It was decided to form a coalition of the three community councils because, between them, they represented approximately 23,000 residents.

On 16 September. The planning application was heard by Aberdeen City Council planning committee. Representatives of the three community councils, including myself, spoke at the meeting and addressed the members. The committee rejected the planning application. Along with the vice chair I attended more fortnightly meetings to prepare a document to encounter the Applicant's inevitable appeal against the refusal of the planning application.

On 13th December 2024, the applicant lodged his appeal to the Scottish Government. Over 900 leaflets, which encouraged residents to object to the developer's appeal, were distributed in the streets deemed the most likely to be evacuated if the installation combusted. The result of the Developer's appeal will not be known until 7th March. I take this opportunity to thank everyone who braved the inclement weather to share the job of distributing the leaflets.

Nomination forms for the Community Council election were circulated to the members for completion and submission to the Election Unit by 5th September. This was the beginning of the process of forming the next community council.

During the October meeting, Vice Chair Margaret Meikle, supported by me, gave a detailed account of the difficulty faced by passengers of the bus service for this part of Aberdeen. The Vice Chair had compiled a questionnaire, which she proposed to distribute throughout the area to learn what residents experienced as bus users and their recommendations to improve the service.

During the November meeting, a further discussion about the inadequacies of the bus service took place. It was decided to put the proposed residents survey to the vote at the next meeting. During the December meeting, the Vice Chair proposed that the bus user survey would be undertaken. Her proposal was seconded by me. However, it did not receive support from members. She accepted the decision not to support her proposed survey.

On 6th February, Robert Frost and I attended an online meeting with two Council Officers concerning the creation of a local place plan. Part of the methodology would be to survey or hold a public consultation with residents to see what they wanted by way of improvements in the area.

2406/DPP Planning Application to install a BESS at Newton of Pitfodells. As the appeal process is underway, I attended a site meeting with Douglas Lumsden MSP along with the representatives of the other two CCs. I have also attended a meeting, along with the chair of CBM CC in the constituency office of Audrey Nicol MSP. Both meetings were productive.

On 24th February, along with the Vice-chair, I attended a public exhibition and consultation pertaining to the latest proposed development of a BESS at Thornhill Farm, Cults. This event was held in the Treetops Hotel.

CSCC complained to the council about the inaccessibility of sections of the core path system because of their muddy conditions due to a lack of drainage. During the reporting year, sections of the core path system have been paved by Aberdeen City Council, thus encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors.

During the reporting year myself and other members of the CSCC attended a site visit by ACC's Arboriculture Officer to the Culter Bypass during which the tree planting project was discussed and planned. The Council had received complaints about poor drainage in the Culter Bypass area and tree planting was seen as a partial solution. Recently, the area has been densely planted with broad leafed tree saplings. It is anticipated that, over time, some of the 19800+ saplings will die off due to nature's natural selection process. The saplings are a very welcome sight.

The 80 + trees planted opposite Springfield Church is also a welcome initiative by ACC supported by one of our CSCC members.

Finally, I am pleased to report that all 2,000 spring flower bulbs have been planted, and I thank all those who gave up their time to help me. The chosen sites were the Culter Bypass and Walker Dam.

In future, I recommend that we all take turns at minuting the meetings. The practice of the Chair minuting the meetings is inefficient because the progress of the meetings is delayed by the Chair while he/she takes notes for the minutes.

Annual Accounts

A copy of the CSCC Statement of Accounts for 2024 which has been independently audited is attached overleaf.

The AGM was closed by WS at 19:30.

Craigiebuckler & Seafield Community Council Statement of Accounts January 01 to December 31 2024

Closing Balance at 23/12/2023 £963.88 end of the Financial Year 01/01 – 31/12/2023

Opening Balance £963.88 01/01/2024

	Paid In	Paid Out
Date: 26/02/2024 Chq.No.010159 ACC Payment for Christmas lights		£300.00
Balance at 15/03/24 was £663.88		
Date: 02/05/24 BGC CCA276216 Received from: AAC Grant	£1077.54	
Balance at 02/05/2024 £1741.22		
Date: 09/05/2024 Chq.No.01061 Recipient: William Sell – Reimbursement for Zoom annual fee		£097.20
Date: 30/05/2024 Chq.No.010162 Recipient: Catherine Mackay – Honorarium		£030.00
Date: 11/06.2024 Chq.No.010163 Recipient: Cameron Campbell – reimbursement for Dog Bags		£032.18
Date: 31/07/2024 DD ICO ZA430010 Recipient: Zurich ICO GDPR Data Protection		£035.00
Date: 23/12/2024 FPO 82601110 Recipient: Aberdeen City Council Christmas Lighting		£300.00
Date: 23/12/2023 FPO 82701510 Recipient: Aberdeen Springfield Church Festival of Light event		£250.00
Closing Balance 23/12/2024 £997.04 end of the Financial Year 01/01/24 – 31/12/24		

PAID IN

For noting (1):

Donation by Malcolm Allan Housebuilders Ltd:

Date: 11/02/25 Electronic payment FPI £300.00

To reimburse C&S CC for Christmas Lights on Springfield Road paid through an FPI
COM73349733554116F7SW40516210

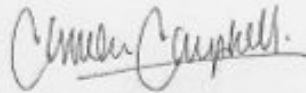
Current balance on 04/03/2024: £1297.04

For noting (2):

Agreed sums approved for payment in March 2025

- i) Girl Guides Springfield Church group £100.00
- ii) Boys Brigade Springfield Church group £100.00
- iii) Boy Scouts Craigiebuckler group £100.00

Signed as a true record Cameron Campbell - Treasurer 03/03/2025.



On behalf of Craigiebuckler & Seafield Community Council Independently

Audited: Ms Catherine Mackay



Finance Administrator, Gray's School of Art, The Robert Gordon University, Garthdee,
Aberdeen AB10 7QD Signed:

Date: 04/03/25