

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on **Tuesday 17th April 2012** at The Old Aberdeen Town House, Old Aberdeen. Revision 1

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Dewi Morgan (Web Admin & Newsletter Ed), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Gordon Mutch,, Katja Brittain

Also Present

PC Reid (Grampian Police), Mike King, George Wood, Ramsay Milne, Mark Patterson (Curator of Cruickshank Botanical Gardens).

Apologies

Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Clive Kempe, Hilda Meers, David Hutchison, Abdul Latif, Cllr Jim Noble.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

CB welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved by Gordon Mutch and seconded by Christine Burgess.

Matters Arising from Minutes

CB asked MK if there were any further developments regarding his Tartan Design. He informed the delegates that matters were progressing.

CB questioned GM about progress made in relation to the meeting regarding the Third Don Crossing. He explained the Compulsory Purchase Orders' Objections period was underway and he had met with Sandy Gordon who confirmed he would not raise objections due to the high legal costs involved and his age.

CB reported from CK that he had not yet written to Frank Doran regarding the mobile phone masts. CB also reported the letter re the cassies in the High Street had not yet been finalised.

ACTION: CB and DM to review the draft letter regarding the state of the High Street cassies.

3. Police Update

PC Reid introduced himself and distributed copies of the latest statistics from the Storm and Crime file from 1-31st March, 2012. He stated he agreed with his previous colleague that during this period there had been very limited crime in the Old Aberdeen district compared to other parts of the city. There had been a few motorbike issues however, though police could not intervene due to Health and Safety Issues. IA stressed bikers did illegal actions at considerable speed and PC Reid agreed, though stressed police could not take action if there was nothing to identify a rider. The Crimefiles report showed there had been one fire, one theft and five cases of vandalism, the latter being difficult to follow up due to these incidents happening at night without witnesses or rain destroying forensics.

He added Grampian Police proposed to build a 60 cell block unit opposite the Northern Hotel and a meeting which is open to the public, would be held in the Northern Hotel on Tuesday 24th April 3-7p.m. GM asked if offenders would be released the following day after charges and PC Reid confirmed yes or taken elsewhere if they had to appear in court. TB queried if there were any other areas of the city which had similar cells and procedures and was told no. DM questioned if this would have an impact on Tillydrone Police Station but PC Reid assured him it would not, as staff would be drafted in to man the cell block. RM asked if this cell block had to accommodate all of Aberdeen City and PC Reid confirmed yes.

GW raised the matter of the one way system in Harrow Road which was being flouted as cars were exiting on to King Street in increasing numbers. He pointed out the present road signs were not suitable for purpose and added he wanted to see ACC painting a "No Entry" sign at the west (Don Street) end and "One Way" at the east (King Street) end. DM added Elphinstone Road had increasing numbers of motorists making illegal U turns.

ACTION: PC Reid will advise his team to police this area more to avoid motorists cutting through.

ACTION: GW will send a letter from OACC to Doug Ritchie regarding these issues.

KB raised the matter of the public requiring a telephone number to use in matters of public nuisance. She suggested complaints be grouped, published and available for access.

DM stressed the need to keep buses operating on the Spittal route in order to dissuade use of cars. MK suggested Meston Walk be opened but DM stated this was not a good idea.

MP asked PC Reid how to contact the Community Officer and was advised to contact the Tillydrone Police Station.

CB thanked PC Reid for his time and report.

4. Mark Patterson, Curator of Cruickshank Botanical Gardens (CBG)

MP was introduced by CB who explained IA had provided the invitation. He distributed pamphlets providing the layout of the Gardens and explained this was a new communications post for the University and he had been in post now for 13 weeks. The Gardens were established in 1868 by Anne Cruickshank but most of the ground had now been purchased by the University.

MP outlined his aims for the gardens:

- As an opportunity for *Formal Academic Research* (he highlighted the crop research that was being undertaken in the greenhouses)
- *Use of Gardens for Academic Learning* re tutors using the gardens to engage students' learning especially medical, with records kept, as none existed to date.

-*Improved Public Use* as the gardens were not well publicised. He advocated this could be achieved through better signage and interpretation boards, Facebook publicity and revision of current hours to 9.00a.m -7.00p.m BST and 9.00-4.30 in the winter to include week-ends but excluding University Christmas holidays.

GM queried if there were any initiatives being planned with the CBG and schools and was told unfortunately not due to staff shortage. MK notified MP the gate to the gardens was closed during the recent public holiday and MP confirmed it should have been open. MP concluded his talk by providing his email as follows: mark.patterson@abdn.ac.uk

CB expressed thanks for the talk on behalf of the OACC.

5) Planning Matters

Planning Applications –

- a) **111238** 34- 40 Orchard Place extension to build two more flats OACC OBJECTED but this was not acknowledged and the application was **APPROVED**.
- b) **ACTION:** it was agreed a formal confirmation of receipt of OACC's correspondence was required in future.
- c) **111800** The McRobert's Building re three antennae poles. OACC OBJECTED but this was **APPROVED**, despite compliance with guidance rules being ignored. KB stated there were new staff hired.
- d) **111876** 8, Cheyne Road extension. Application had been withdrawn then resubmitted. OACC and 8 residents had objected but the application was **APPROVED**.
- e) **120079** Refurbishment of Hillhead Halls. OACC NO OBJECTIONS and this was **APPROVED**.
- f) **120164** 19, University Road replacement windows OACC NO OBJECTIONS and this was **APPROVED**.
- g) **120165** 29, St. Machar Drive large extension application. OACC OBJECTED. **PENDING**.
- h) **120477** & **120516** Chaplain's Court, 20 The Chanory, application for private dwelling house to have covered walkway extension, garden room and garage. Registered 3rd April in wrong ward. DM to investigate and circulate.

CPZ: CB pointed out she thought the review period for comments and suggestions for revision was ending at the end of May. CB to request an update from D Ritchie. IA noted there were more people parking on the High Street making it difficult to find parking.

Scottish Government Planning Reform. It was agreed to leave this issue until the next meeting due to the substantial size of the report (deadline 22 June)

6. Treasurer's Report

IA notified delegates that OACC was still in the black with a balance of £191.39. IA explained the accounts had been submitted along with a copy of the Festive Fund expenditure. There were no bills outstanding apart from the Newsletter and Auditor's Gift Token.

7. Seaton Park

A meeting will be held this Saturday 21st April at 2.00p.m in the Dunbar Street Hall . DM advised ads would be placed on the radio, plus leaflets and flyers distributed. He reminded everyone of the reasons for the Park urgently needing a community support group MP stated he was very impressed with the park and noted it was in a conservation area. CB explained a project could help secure funding and RM pointed out it was the nearest park to two socially disadvantaged areas. MK added his Bridge of Don Church was willing to provide 10 volunteers to work in the park. IA also agreed to take part in the SHMU radio interview. MP advised all green areas would be in the shadow of the Union Street Gardens' project but added that Seaton Park was one of the city's jewels, the only one with such great diversity including a water zone.

8. Reports of Other Meetings

Community Council Forum: DM stated the Forum were piecing together the planning structure that applications went through.

ACTION: DM to send this document to councillors.

Civic Forum: No report - KB had left the meeting by this point

9. Scheme For The Establishment of Community Councils

CB and DM noted some of the main changes such as the single transferrable voting system and the six-month cut-off point for non-attendance.

DM was unhappy that the new south and west boundaries were not clearly enough delineated and described. The boundary with Tillydrone at the Wallace Tower was raised. RM informed the meeting that Tillydrone has appointed a Planning Officer.

ACTION: OACC must respond by the end of May. It was agreed to place this issue on the May agenda.

10. Correspondence

- a) Aberdeen City Heritage Trust
- b) Notification of Aberdeen Airport Draft Master Plan for the next 30 years.
- c) Strategic Development Plan 2012/13 what councils can legally do and the timeframe.

11. AOCB

Affordable Housing

ACTION: Response required by 30th April

11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Old Aberdeen Community Council will take place at the Old Aberdeen Town House on Tuesday 15th May 2012 at 7.30p.m.

ACTION: CB advised Prof Albert Rodger will attend so requested OACC members to be thinking about what they might want to raise at the meeting.