

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on **Tuesday 21st February 2012** at The Old Town House, Old Aberdeen.

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Simon Barker (Vice –Chair), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Mike King, George Wood, Clive Kempe, Dewi Morgan (Web Admin & Newsletter Ed).

Also Present

P.C. Iain McCallum (Grampian Police), Cllr Jim Noble, residents of Old Aberdeen to include Stephanie Broch and Stuart Murphy.

Apologies

Gordon Mutch, Katja Brittain, Hilda Meers, Abdul Latif, Trevor Stack and Prof Albert Rodger.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising

CB explained there were no minutes for January due to the cancellation of the meeting. The minutes for December were reviewed, approved by DM and seconded by SB

Matters Arising from the minutes: MK notified the meeting that the tartan he had designed and exhibited at OACC December's meeting had been officially registered with the Scottish Government as the 'Old Aberdeen Diamond Jubilee Tartan'. He expressed his wish to present the Queen with a book covered in this tartan and is currently awaiting confirmation. MK queried if the OACC had any objections to the title used and the meeting agreed they did not. CB to give MK a letter of confirmation.

3. Police Update

P.C. McCallum informed the group that the Grampian Police were no longer responsible for enforcing Bus Lanes. He issued his monthly reports and explained STORM is the Police System for recording incidents whereas CRIMEFILE lists the number of offences. He noted the low number of incidents in Old Aberdeen. SB queried the number of motorbikes racing up the High Street and PC McCallum explained the police were reluctant to chase after them as this can exacerbate the situation. SM described how he reported a motorbike incident but no action resulted. PC. McCallum replied it was important to report such incidents as the greater the number reported, the more police would be sent to that area. He further stated that Sergeant Jason Bruce was now officially the University liaison officer.

4. Planning

DM outlined progress in planning applications as follows:

- a) **110985** University – disabled parking spaces off Elphinstone Road **WITHDRAWN**
- b) **110991** University – bus turning circle on Bedford Road **OACC objected**
Application approved
- c) **111238** Extension building to two flats 34-40 Orchard Road **OACC objected**
Currently waiting **PENDING sub-committee review**
- d) **111534** Replacement windows – 11 University Rd **OACC objected**
Application approved
- e) **111651** 8, Cheyne Road large extension **WITHDRAWN**
- f) **111800** Mc Robert Building, 3 antennae poles position **OACC objected.**
DM to monitor. Cllr Noble stated objections had been received regarding radio emissions.
- g) **111876** 8, Cheyne Road revised plans for extension and ground cover. CB suggested such applications could result in the permanent loss of family accommodation. She noted the recent Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2011 which states *(Class 1A (2) (f) that with regard to any enlargement of a dwellinghouse development is not permitted if the area of ground covered by development within the front or rear curtilage ... would exceed 50% of the area of the front or rear curtilage respectively.*
PENDING
- h) **120079** Refurbish HillHead flats **NO OBJECTION**
- i) **120164** Replacement windows 19, University Road consultation period ongoing
DM recommended **NO OBJECTION – agreed.**
- j) **120165** Extension 29, St Machar Drive consultation period ongoing

DM noted this was the second such application that had been submitted over the past three months. CB was concerned the application could set a precedent for this type of large extension to family houses with the area being so close to the University and therefore attractive for investors looking for student lets. CK noted the erosion of front gardens and the loss of family accommodation in the area. SM attended the meeting in order to observe opinions on this matter and wondered if the owners had applied for an HMO licence. Cllr Noble informed the group that the issue of HMO licences in residential areas was out for consultation by the Scottish Government and would ask Ally Thain to get in touch on the issue. CB added that OACC had no objections to reasonable residential extensions but were concerned by the expansion into what looked likely to become multiple occupancy housing. She advised an objection be submitted on the grounds of overdevelopment and loss of residential amenities.
- k) **120194** Tree work in Cruickshank Gardens: - No objection

Tree felling in University Road: CB noted that four trees had been felled in the University tennis courts in University Road, two had proper planning consent, two had been given approval by the ACC Tree Officer by email and had not

gone through the proper planning process. Though the University contractors had been under the impression all five trees were to come down, a local resident had made representations and one tree was saved. It was agreed that CB should write to Dr Bochel expressing our concern and requesting replacement of the Sorbus trees that had been taken down.

5. Reports of Other Meetings

DM informed delegates that he had attended the City Community Council Forum meeting where the subject of funding the City Garden Project was discussed in relation to establishing retail business parks and using the TIF system for raising revenue. Cllr Noble advised the Finance Committee had to approve the TIF system and confirmed the Council would go with the result of the public referendum on this issue.

DM informed the meeting that Peter Reiss of the Community Council Forum had produced a Planning Process flow chart outlining a step by step guide to what happens when a planning application is processed and he will circulate to OACC members for comment.

No report on Civic Forum due to absence of Katya Brittain.

6. Treasurer's Report

IA confirmed there was £206: 39 in the account to date.

7. Newsletter

It was confirmed by CB and DM that the next Newsletter will be circulated in April

8. Correspondence

The following are out for individual comment or input:

Affordable Housing: - Creating flexibility for Landlords & better outcomes for communities. End date 30th April

River Don: A new Draft Supplementary Guide March 19th

Young Scot Ward 2012 Nominations close 26th February

What Matters Community Planning In Aberdeen

ACC Your City Questionnaire CK (or DM) to attend 3rd March.

Further List of Correspondence:

21/2 Can We Cope With Zero Waste Planning Aid Edinburgh 1st March

16/2 Scarf Booklet and Calendar

15/2 Application for licence to sell alcohol - for H1S store 66, Sunnybank Road
30/1 Aberdeen Local Development Plan approved by the Council, 25th January 2012
27/1 Scottish Water Meeting Aberdeen 20th March Thistle Hotel
24/1 Ross McDonald Employing Skills Questionnaire
16/1 Changes to the Royal Mail delivery times
20/1 Children's Panel Members being recruited
19/12 /11 Arthur Gill Outreach Training Officer Winter Gardens offering a talk on Duthie Park.

9. AOCB

None

10. 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 March 20th 2012 at 7.30p.m.