

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on **Tuesday 19th April 2011** at the Old Aberdeen Town House.

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Dewi Morgan, Katja Brittain, Trevor Stack, Gordon Mutch.

Also Present

Rachel Sandison (Northern Lights Music Festival), Amanda Campbell (Grampian Police), Kevin Guyan (Secretary).

Apologies

Hilda Meers, Clive Kempe, Cllr Jim Noble, Cllr Richard Robertson, Cllr Norman Collie, Abdul Latif.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

It was explained that the March minute had not yet been circulated. **ACTION:** Kevin Guyan to circulate. **ACTION:** March minute to be discussed at May meeting. Dewi Morgan added that the updated February minute should also be forwarded to himself for inclusion on the website.

Christine Burgess noted that she hopes to speak with Mrs Jo Martin, Headteacher at St. Peter's Primary, soon.

DM explained that the application for Kilau Coffee Shop is still going through the planning process.

3. Police Update

Amanda Campbell distributed copies of the most recent Police Report and a street-by-street breakdown of crimes during the last period. AC noted that – as usual – the figures for this area remain very low.

AC highlighted a recent operation by Grampian Police and ACC councillors to check the activity of licensed premises in the Old Aberdeen area. This included checks on appropriate signage, the absence of criminal activity etc.

Simon Barker highlighted motorbike noise in the local area. AC suggested that this could be scrambler motorbikes that may or may not be stolen and encouraged those concerned to report this to Grampian Police.

AC concluded by explaining that she has been based in the Tillydrone / Old Aberdeen patch for around two years but is relatively new to community policing.

4. Northern Lights

Rachel Sandison introduced herself and explained that she is part of the team organising the Northern Lights music festival that is set to take place in Seaton Park on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 July 2011, between noon and 10.30pm. The event plans to use three stages in the southside of the park and will feature more than 50 acts. This is the first event of this nature to take place in the park so the Northern Lights team are working with a range of other bodies to guarantee a safe and enjoyable environment. The event will be for those over the age of 14 and will be licensed. They are also working with First and Stagecoach to establish how best people can travel to the park. More information can be found on the website, www.northernlightsfestival.co.uk.

Gordon Mutch asked if people would be able to camp. RS explained that no camping will be permitted, those looking to stay the night will be able to book accommodation at Hector Boece Hall, Hillhead. GM asked if this is the same weekend as the International Youth Festival. RS explained that she was unsure. *Note: The AIYF will take place on Wednesday 27 July until Sunday 7 August.*

SB asked what RS's role was within the project. RS explained that the festival is a venture of her father's and involves the teams behind The Tunnels and Café Drummonds in Aberdeen. SB asked what sort of numbers they are hoping to attract. RS noted that the maximum capacity is 25,000 but – realistically – they are hoping for an attendance of around 15,000. SB questioned the toilet facilities that will be available and how rubbish will be tidied following the event. RS explained that porta-cabins will be provided and that volunteers will clear the site following the weekend, further discussion must be made with ACC regarding the rubbish in outlying areas.

CB asked what would happen if any parts of the park are damaged. RS noted that they are leasing a section of the park from ACC for a nominal fee and was unsure of the contract in regards to questions of this nature. CB questioned who they are working with from ACC and whether Seaton Park was the group's first choice for venue. RS explained that their main contact is Bill Farquhar and the Events Team and that Seaton Park was their ideal choice due to its city centre location and dipped setting, benefiting the live music. Katja Brittain added that she is aware that Opera in the Park, currently held in Duthie Park, has no plans to move location.

DM asked if a map was available on the website showing the location of the three stages. RS explained that this map is not currently on the website.

CB asked if St Machar Cathedral were aware of the event. RS noted that they should have been informed as the group have spoken to all parties neighbouring the park.

RS concluded by stating that it is hoped this event will grow into something the city can be proud of, with intentions to host this event in Seaton Park for the next five years. **ACTION:** RS to respond to OACC in regards to issues discussed.

SB noted that he supports this endeavour as it will be excellent for the park, ACC must – however – be aware that if they expect Seaton Park to host events of this nature they must be willing to provide the required support. CB added that she was under the impression that monies raise by ACC events went back to ACC Events Department rather than directly benefiting the locations where these events were held, in this case Seaton Park.

ACTION: CB to write to Bill Farquhar, ACC, highlighting the issues discussed, notably rubbish in outlying areas, where responsibility lies should something go wrong and the need for future investment in the park should further events be planned.

5. Planning

Third Don Crossing – GM noted that there is very little further to discuss as outstanding issues are linked to finances and nothing will be decided upon until after the May elections. GM added that in response to letter to the Scottish Government asking why they “could not intervene”, the Scottish Government have stated that they are not willing to act as the decision has already been made.

King Street Pharmacy – DM circulated a response from Margaret Bochel, ACC, to OACC’s stated concerns regarding some aspects of the proposed pharmacy. DM stressed the need to keep future objections concise with less often being more, as this disables ACC from diverting attention towards points raised of lesser importance. SB added that the model developed by DM would serve OACC well for future planning objections.

Bus Gate – DM shared an email from Doug Ritchie, ACC, which highlights the new technology ACC intend to install at the site. This device should be able to detect buses, turning the lights green when vehicles of this size approach. It is hoped that drivers will be less willing to run a red light as this brings the risk of heavier penalties than the current signage. **ACTION:** CB to respond stating that OACC are content for this proposal to go ahead but will request further efforts to remedy this problem should this device fail to discourage rogue drivers.

Brig House – CB explained that no action has yet been taken in regards to the wall at this location. **ACTION:** CB to contact Paul Pillath, Conservation Officer, Planning Department, ACC.

New Applications – DM noted that the Keystore sign has been approved as it fits the criteria but is by no means aesthetically pleasing. A new sign for the High Street Museum at 17 High Street is pending, OACC has responded to the application positively. The idea of inviting Paul Pillath to a future OACC was discussed.

KB highlighted a large amount of applications in Tillydrone for the proposed Donside village, these applications seem to be for small units, most likely affordable housing.

Trevor Stack asked if any developments have been made in regards to the proposed hotel on King Street adjacent to the Brig o’ Don restaurant. CB noted that nothing seems to have progressed.

6. Reports

Community Council Forum – CB and Isobel Aitken attended the recent CC Forum, which focussed on planning issues in the city. The CC Forum intend to use two examples – the proposed stadium for Aberdeen Football Club and Dobbies Garden Centre on the Lang Stracht – as case studies to highlight issues with the planning process at the next meeting on 15 June of the Modernisation of the Planning System Forum, sponsored by ASCEF (Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Futures).

CB noted that she recently spoke to Karen Riddoch, ACC Community Council Liaison Officer, who explained that she is keen to establish standing orders for the city’s community councils and plans to begin this project over the summer, as well as looking at changes to community council boundaries.

SB asked what has become of neighbourhood planning. CB replied that she had heard informally that neighbourhood community action plans has been dropped.

7. Treasurer's Report

IA explained that there is currently £492.00 in the OACC account, with cheques written for a further £248.73 bringing OACC's total to £243.27. CB added that OACC would receive £841.46 for our annual grant.

CB added that, when meeting Karen Riddoch, she raised questions over the figure of 11 pence per resident. Karen Riddoch suggested that this figure might be reduced further in time.

CB noted that £97.00 has been deducted from OACC's budget to cover insurance, this is, according to Karen Riddoch, the best value option.

8. Newsletter

DM shared a draft edition of the next newsletter. DM asked whether other Members felt the next edition should consist of 6 or 8 pages. It was agreed that DM should make this decision after he determines how much content is available. DM suggested asking whether ACC could assist with the future printing of newsletters as this is one of the biggest annual costs for OACC and is a service he believes is offered by some councils in Scotland.

The delivery areas for the next newsletter distribution were assigned.

9. Correspondence

- Insurance documents from ACC.
- Invitation to visit the High Street museum. **ACTION:** CB to respond accepting the invitation and set a date, which will then be circulated with OACC.

10. AOCB

- CB has contacted Chris Gane, University of Aberdeen, about a visit to the library prior to its opening, she will hopefully hear back when he returns from holiday. **ACTION:** CB to contact Chris Gane to set a date for a future update. KB asked if the library is set to open on schedule. Nobody was sure whether work was progressing as planned.

11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

OACC will next meet on Tuesday 17th May at 7.30pm at Old Aberdeen Town House.