

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on **Tuesday 18th January 2011** at the Old Aberdeen Town House.

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Katja Brittain, Hilda Meers, Clive Kempe, Dewi Morgan.

Also Present

Cllr Jim Noble, PC Christopher Reid (Grampian Police), Declan Harte (Press & Journal), Philip Sim, Nick Forrest, Raymond Kelly, Kevin Guyan (Secretary).

Apologies

Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Gordon Mutch, Trevor Stack, Cllr Richard Robertson, Omran Al-Mahtot, Abdul Latif.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Christine Burgess welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Old Aberdeen Community Council of 2011.

CB reminded those in attendance that OACC's December meeting was shorter than normal as it preceded a presentation by representatives from ACC on their Five Year Business Plan. CB noted that one of the speakers at the meeting, Stewart Carruth, is named incorrectly in the minute. December's minute was accepted with no further changes, proposed by Dewi Morgan and seconded by Hilda Meers.

CB noted that the Number 20 bus service has now changed routes, going from Hillhead to Scatterburn. Isobel Aitken added that she has used this service several times and everything has run as planned.

CB notified the Council of the extended closing date for representations on the Local Development Plan, closing on 17 January 2011. CB added that letters in regard to the Third Don Crossing were submitted on 17 December 2010.

CB asked whether it would be a good idea to ask ACC for further information regarding the proposed consultation events on the city's Capital Budget. It was agreed that this would be wise. **ACTION:** CB to contact ACC.

CB added her interest in the response to Abdul Latif's question regarding how ACC plan to put pressure on the Scottish Government to change policies relating to the funding formula and collection of business rates. Dewi Morgan suggested individual members contact their local MSP.

3. University Update

No report.

CB explained that she has received no response from Chris Gane, University of Aberdeen, in relation to arranging a date to meet. **ACTION:** CB to clarify whether Chris Gane has received her correspondence.

4. Police Update

Christopher Reid noted that figures for this period might look slightly odd as they reflect specific operations by Grampian Police. All-in-all, however, it was agreed that crime in the Old Aberdeen area remains low. In relation to the fire-raising in December, CR explained that the offender has since been caught and reprimanded.

CR noted the recent police operation at Hillhead, explaining that one gentleman has been sectioned under the Mental Health Act and that there is nothing for the public to be concerned about.

5. Community Council boundaries

CB noted that following a meeting with Froghall Community Council and representatives from Sunnybank, it was agreed that OACC would propose to ACC that OACC would be prepared to cede the Sunnybank and Sunnyside area of the present community council boundary to the newly formed Sunnybank Community Council in return for an extension of the OACC boundary south towards Mounthooly roundabout. Notably, The Spital and King's Crescent would fall under the remit of OACC, this being part of the ancient route north that forms the backbone of Old Aberdeen. Unfortunately, however, it was also noted that following the proposed rezoning, Katja Brittain, Clive Kempe and Hilda Meers would no longer be eligible to stand as OACC representatives.

CK asked how it could have been possible for First to gain planning permission for their depot overlooking King's Crescent. CB explained that the Old Aberdeen conservation area ends just before the bus depot.

6. Planning

CPZ – Raymond Kelly explained that he has received no response from ACC in relation to his email questioning the parking of contractors' vehicles after the implementation of the CPZ.

IA shared with the Council a recent discussion with a traffic warden, in which he suggested that the CPZ would not commence until the opening of the new library. It was agreed that this prediction might be correct as the CPZ is projected to begin in late spring and the library set to open in August 2011.

New Applications –

519 King Street – DM noted that the pull-in parking space has been removed from the plans after issue was raised by the Roads Department. It was agreed that the absence of a pull-in space would lead to cars waiting or parking on the double-yellow lines outside the proposed pharmacy. KB questioned whether there was any legal obligation to provide disabled parking at a pharmacy. **ACTION:** DM to contact Roads Department.

39 High Street – A retrospective planning application has been submitted for the signage at the Key Store newsagent. DM explained that any objections are unlikely to get any support from Heritage Scotland, as they were disinterested in the signage at the High Street bank. CB

suggested submitting a representation, requesting wooden signage with hand-painted lettering. It was noted that this would also remind Paul Piaf, ACC, about the Conservation Report.

50-52 College Bounds, Luthuli House - DM explained that this appears to be a conservation project, with the correct type of windows, pipes etc. being used. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to ACC complimenting the project and reminding developers that the overall appearance of the development will depend on the detail.

7. Reports

Nothing to report.

8. Treasurer's Report

IA distributed a draft copy of her annual Treasurer's Report. IA explained that the cheque to ACC for £1800 for the repainting of the Seaton Park train was reissued but has still not been cashed. IA also noted that the auditor of last year's Report has again agreed to audit. The Report must be submitted to ACC by the end of March, so it is proposed that the Report is passed by OACC at the February meeting.

DM noted that the purchase of a television from John Lewis and the repainting of the Seaton Park train both came from a separate fund, the now-defunct Small Improvements Grant. IA clarified that the two accounts would be identified separately on the final report to be presented at the AGM in February. CK added that it might be wise to add further information in relation to some costs, notably the Data Protection fee, the television for Bede House and the printing of the newsletter.

IA added that £110.00 is still to be deducted for the Secretarial fees for the final quarter of 2010 and £30.00 for the hire of Dunbar Hall for our Christmas meeting.

9. AGM

CB explained that the AGM is set for 15th February at Dunbar Hall from 7.30pm. As this is the third Tuesday in the month, OACC may have to use the back room in the hall. It was agreed that this should not pose too much of a problem.

10. Correspondence

- Letter from Karen Ridoch, ACC, about submission of Community Councils' Treasurers' Reports.
- Request for invitees to the Queen's Garden Party. CB suggested the Head Gardener at Seaton Park, who she believes may be retiring in the summer. CB will circulate an email requesting further nominations should the Head Gardener be unable to attend.
- Letter on proposed planning mediation in Aberdeen. It was suggested that the Third Don Crossing be proposed as a subject for mediation. **ACTION:** CB to speak to Tillydrone Community Council about this idea.

11. Newsletter

DM explained that there is no current need for a newsletter and intended to wait a few months before getting-together articles on Community Council boundaries etc.

12. AOCB

- Jim Noble noted that the University of Aberdeen's Director of External Affairs and Communication, Lori Manders, is set to move to University College London. Her position will be taken-over by Steve Cannon, University Secretary.
- CK asked if a date has been set for the results of the Third Don Crossing hearing. CB explained that she was unsure but would ask when she next speaks to Tillydrone CC.
- CK noted that the pavements were less slippery this winter than the winter of 2009-2010. However, he questioned whether it would be possible for additional handrails in the area around Spital and College Bounds as it was often near-impossible to cross. CB asked whether ACC intend to review their response to the recent inclement weather. JN explained that ACC will not necessarily review the recent winter but will look at provisions for winters ahead. JN added that should more grit boxes be required for the Old Aberdeen area, he could investigate. It was agreed that this would be helpful. HM noted that she found the Roads Department particularly helpful this winter, enabling her to access her scooter.

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

OACC will next meet on Tuesday 15th February at 7.30pm at Old Aberdeen Town House. Should the venue be changed, an email will be circulated.