

Old Aberdeen Community Council

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

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Hilda Meers, Dewi Morgan, Clive Kempe, Katja Britten

Also Present

Cllr Jim Noble, PC Sam Grant (Grampian Police), Karen Forsyth (Robert Gordon's University), Euan Davidson (Robert Gordon's University)

Apologies

Simon Barker (Vice -Chair), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Gordon Mutch, Cllr Norman Collie, Richard Robertson.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising

CB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the students attending from Robert Gordons as well as Irene Henderson for volunteering to take the minutes. CB apologised that the minutes for September's meeting had not been circulated but these would be presented at the November meeting. She informed the group that A.U Centre Stage members had been contacted regarding submitting an article for the next Newsletter. In addition, they had been invited to give a 15mins presentation at the December OACC meeting but had now withdrawn their interest. CB notified members that OACC had been invited to visit the new Aberdeen University Library on November 15th at 6.30p.m. and suggested this be the venue for the November meeting. It was agreed to defer this decision until later in the proceedings.

DM requested articles on Sunnybank Park be submitted ASAP. KB queried if any discussion had taken place regarding the Park and if there was a replacement for Sinclair Laing who had stepped down from the management committee? DM stated their AGM was noted and that a new committee had been elected but to date no details had been published. The OACC would like to include an article on Sunnybank in the December Newsletter but had received no response – KB volunteered to write an article.

3. Police Update

PC Sam Grant introduced herself and distributed copies of the latest statistics from Storm and Crime file from 1-30th September, 2011.

SG explained there were cases reported of new fresher students being targeted. Two cases of theft in the Sunnybank area had been reported during September but no vandalism.

SG advised leaflets were being issued to new students regarding safety but DM pointed out that they needed to be informed that Seaton Park was not the safest route at night. SG provided

reassurance that this matter had been addressed. Several attempted thefts from cars had been noted in the Old Aberdeen/Tillydrone area and SG explained that these had arisen as a result of owners leaving valuables in their cars.

ACTION: SG will endeavour to provide the Kittybrewster statistics at the next meeting so OACC has the figures for the Sunnybank area too.

4. Planning

CPZ – JN explained that some of the original signage had been inaccurate but was now corrected, plus double yellow lines had been finished off. CB advised JN the Old Aberdeen Heritage Society thought the bright yellow colour was wrong in a Conservation area but was assured by JN it was the correct 'primrose' colour. JN further stated that he had received requests from residents in the area for an extension of the CPZ to cover their street. KB remarked that students were parking on the back lane between Bedford Place and Sunnyside Terrace in order to avoid paying parking charges and asked if enforcement could be done. DM suggested that, as it would appear to be an un-adopted road it was up to residents to put up gates etc. to deter illegal parking.

CK complained that during the construction phase of CPZ concrete had been dumped close to his residence.

ACTION: JN agreed to follow up on the dumping of building materials.

3rd Don Crossing – CB explained that there was to be a public enquiry relating to the compulsory purchase orders for land related to the new bridge. DM advised that people who had received these would have to present their 'statement of case'. CB added that Old Aberdeen had put its case thanks to GM having written a reply. CK stated it had been dubbed the 'road to nowhere' by Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen's natural and cultural assets would be reduced to an island surrounded by noisy roads. He suggested circulating GM's report. HM expressed concern regarding the increased pollution from transport and the consequent risk to health and CB noted GM had included the impact of pollution on wild life. CK stated he had raised the issue of pollution previously and the council must bear responsibility for pollution. DM stressed that a clear argument was needed not just the use of the word pollution. CB queried if any air monitoring had been undertaken and JN confirmed five areas around Aberdeen were currently being monitored though none in the immediate area. KB proposed that the focus should be placed on the peripheral route then a decision taken as to whether a 3rd Don was necessary. DM advised this was not up for discussion but only the matter of compulsory purchase should concern the group at this point. KM asked how the effects of pollution could be quantified.

ACTION: JN will follow up the matter of air monitoring to see if he can provide further details as to who does it. **The group** to forward any further comments regarding the OACC submission to DM by Friday 21st October so they can be forwarded to GM.

Planning Applications – DM presented the following new applications for planning

- a) 11 University Road - replacement windows. DM noted that there was as yet no lamp-post notification of these proposed changes.
ACTION: DM requires comments on this proposal by 3rd November.
- b) 22-24 St Peter's Street. Proposal for 28 flats. Although the flats were acceptable in principle, DM did not think the planning was well thought out due to
 - The parking for bicycles and cars is remote from flats
 - The location for wheelie bins is impractical as remote and inadequate
 - Whilst the flats are suitably sized for families no provision has been made for children's

play areas

ACTION: DM advocated OACC should respond on these concerns as the flats are expected to fall within our revised local area.

- c) 8-12 St Machar's Drive (currently a tool hire depot). Erection of illuminated and non-illuminated signs for a car hire depot. Outside our area and no concerns raised.

5. Reports

Meeting of Civic Forum Lead Group. KB attended this meeting at which the Lead Group's purpose was discussed. She stated there is a sense that it is too removed from the Civic Forum to which it is supposed to provide guidance. KB remarked that the Civic Forum had lost representation in other forums but does have enormous potential to do things.

DM outlined the proposed new Aberdeen structure for Community Councils based on Scottish Government proposals. This includes a Code of Conduct and a Model Constitution and new boundaries. Approval for these proposals is required by 14th December.

6. Treasurer's Report

CB notified the group that £577.28 is currently in OACC's account

7. Seaton Park

If Seaton Park is to be protected and developed, a strong local 'friends' group is needed to provide focus. DM suggested :

- the area be featured in the OACC Newsletter at the end of November

- The OACC meeting on December 13th to include Seaton Park

- Possibly include an article in the magazines distributed in December to Tillydrone and Seaton Park

CK stated advice should be asked from other Park Groups and KB advised that friends of Cruickshank Gardens were a group who met several times a year. JN added that a 'Friends of Westburn Park' had recently been created and were a group who took its lead from 'Friends of Duthie Park'. CB suggested a presentation from any Park Action Group would be welcome.

ACTION: JN to follow up on contacts from Westburn Park.

8. Newsletter

DM proposed the following items should be featured in the November Newsletter

- The results of the residents' survey

- Seaton Park – and invitation to start an Action Group

- CPZ – the story so far

DM & DR

- High Street Museum Shaunagh
- The New Aberdeen University Library Shaunagh
- AV Centre Stage

Community Council Boundary – update if there is news

St Machar Cathedral – appointment of new Minister

9. Correspondence

Receipt by CB of Aberdeen and City Shires Strategic Development Plan. Over 1000 pages setting the way for forward planning for the area.

ACTION: CB requires comments on this document by 6th January

Capacity Building Officers. Letter received by CB outlining new Committees Team within Education, Culture and Sport.

6th Review Parliamentary Boundaries. Notification received of seven seats in Scotland.

10. AOCB

Street Lighting. DM presented his communication with the roads lighting dept regarding the number of different lights used in the area. He would like to see the OACC involved in future selection of light design.

Union Terrance Gardens. JN informed the group that the six new designs proposed for the regeneration of the City Centre and Union Street gardens were on display at the Academy Shopping Mall.

11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Old Aberdeen Community Council will take place at the Aberdeen University's New Library at 7.30p.m. on 15th November. A visit of the Library will be undertaken beforehand at 6.30 followed by the meeting on the Library premises.