

## **Old Aberdeen Community Council**

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010** at Dunbar Hall, Dunbar Street, Old Aberdeen.

### **1. Present**

Christine Burgess (Chair), Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Gordon Mutch, Hilda Meers, Trevor Stack, Dewi Morgan.

### **Also Present**

Robin Parker (AUSA), Karen Douglas, Abdul Latif, Jean Hutton, Sheila Sinclair, Wim der Kinderen, Jacinta Birchley, Teresa Harwood, Kevin Guyan (Secretary).

### **Apologies**

Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Clive Kempe, Cllr Jim Noble, Cllr Norman Collie, Shaunagh Kirby (University of Aberdeen), Omran Al-Mahtot, Raymond Kelly.

### **2. Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

Christine Burgess introduced herself and explained the format of tonight's meeting: a 45 minute meeting dealing with OACC's business would take place, followed by a presentation and question and answer session with Cllr John Stewart, Council Leader, and Stewart Carruth, Director of Corporate Governance.

It was noted that updates from the University of Aberdeen and Grampian Police would be deferred until January's meeting.

Minute of OACC's November meeting passed by Trevor Stack, seconded by Dewi Morgan.

CB thanked DM for producing the most recent edition of the Auld Toon News. CB also expressed thanks towards those who helped distribute the newsletter.

### **3. University Update**

Deferred until January meeting.

### **4. Police Update**

Deferred until January meeting.

### **5. Community Council boundaries**

CB outlined the discussions relating to community council boundaries in the two preceding OACC meetings. CB explained that after a vote among members, it was apparent that the overall view of OACC was not in support of a full merger with Froghall Community Council. CB

reminded everyone of the four options: (i) retain the status quo (ii) cede the Sunnybank area to Froghall CC (iii) cede the Sunnybank area to Froghall CC in exchange for bringing in the Spital and King's Crescent, the conservation area (iv) a full merger of the two community councils. CB noted that the deadline to submit proposed changes has been extended and is now 14 January. To confirm OACC and Froghall CC's submission a joint meeting is proposed for 6 January at the Butchart Centre. The meeting's date and time will be confirmed on the OACC website.

## **6. First Bus**

CB highlighted the proposed changes to the Number 20 and 14 routes. The Number 20 will be extended so that it takes up the route of the current Number 13, running from Hillhead to Scatterburn every 20 minutes. The Number 14 will terminate at Seaton. CB explained that First are currently in discussions with the University of Aberdeen as these changes will mean that those living in the north of the city will have to go into the city centre and back out again to be able to reach the hospital. It was noted that many students living in Old Aberdeen study at ARI. Robin Parker noted that as First is a private company, there is very little the public can do in relation to their actions beyond adding to their already poor publicity and reputation.

## **7. Planning**

### ***Third Don Crossing –***

Gordon Mutch explained that he recently made a representation on behalf of OACC at a meeting of ACC's Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Sub-Committee. He noted that his argument saw the proposed route as a road to nowhere and represents a poor overall transport strategy. GM added that the Third Don Crossing would encourage car usage and ultimately surround the Old Aberdeen area with major roads. Rather than perceive the Haudagain roundabout and Third Don Crossing as part of the same project, ACC should look at addressing the problem of the Haudagain before embarking on the Third Don Crossing. GM reminded everyone that the Third Don Crossing is a very political situation, with councillors tending to vote along party lines.

CB thanked GM for his report.

### ***Local Development Plan –***

It was noted that the deadline for submission of responses is 17 December. CB outlined the key points raised by OACC:

- Growth is predicated on the significant expansion of the city, yet the recent need for cuts have emerged since the structural plan was established. There is a need for a staggered approach to development.
- Greenspace no longer appears sacrosanct, with expansion continually eating into the city's greenbelt.
- There is too little commitment for civic amenities, parks, schools, community facilities etc.
- Too much faith is assigned to the Third Don Crossing's ability to remedy the traffic problems of the city.
- Air quality needs to be rigorously assessed.
- Safeguards for the heritage of Old Aberdeen need to be maintained and the language made less vague.

Robin Parker added that AUSA would like to highlight the need for more affordable housing in the city and the need to develop brown fields rather than green space.

***New Applications –***

DM noted an application for 519 King Street. The chemist currently sited across the road wishes to build a three-storey building consisting of a pharmacy, a dental practice and flats. It was agreed that this application makes good use of the site and mirrors the height/guttering of the adjacent properties. DM noted potential problems relating to parking and drainage.

**8. Reports**

Nothing to report.

**9. Treasurer's Report**

Isobel Aitken submitted her apologies for tonight's meeting.

**10. Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**11. AOCB**

Kartham Kumar explained that he is the owner of the newly opened Old Aberdeen Gift Shop. KK highlighted problems relating to littering in the area around his shop. He explained that he has spoken to ACC but they have been unable to address the problem.

**12. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

OACC will next meet on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm at the Old Aberdeen Town House. OACC's AGM will take place in February at Dunbar Hall, please see the website for updates.