

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 19th January 2010** at Old Aberdeen Town House, Old Aberdeen.

1. Present

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

Also Present

Clair Sutherland (Grampian Police), Shaunagh Kirby (University of Aberdeen), Angus Donaldson (University of Aberdeen), Robin Parker (Students' Association), Akadar Rasul, Dauna Matheson, Raymond Kelly, Kristian Chapman, Abdul Latif.

Apologies

Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Kevin Guyan (Secretary), Trevor Stack, Clive Kempe, Cllr Richard Robertson, Cllr Norman Collie, Cllr Jim Noble, Gordon Simpson (Grampian Police), Christopher Gane (University of Aberdeen), Omran Al-Mahtot.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

December's minutes were passed with no changes, proposed by Katja Brittain, seconded by Dewi Morgan.

Angus Donaldson noted that the university are currently working with the Students' Association to determine areas of concern in relation to poor lighting. Notably, repairs to lighting on The Chanonry and improvements to Don Street have been discussed.

Clair Sutherland noted that due to the recent bad weather the technology to monitor traffic in Old Aberdeen has not yet arrived.

Robin Parker was reminded that he is to present information on AUSA's plans for Butchart Centre at OACC's March meeting.

DM noted that the key issues of the Old Aberdeen Community Action Plan have been emailed to community councillors and are also available on the OACC website.

DM added that he has emailed ACC in relation to the Don Street property that wishes to replace its current windows with PVC alternatives.

Christine Burgess explained that she has not written in a letter in relation to the third Don crossing but is meeting with Lewis Macdonald MSP and a representative from Tillydrone community council to discuss the idea of establishing a pressure group. **ACTION:** third Don crossing to be added to February agenda.

3. University Update

AD highlighted recent progress in relation to the proposed swimming pool at the Aberdeen Sports Village, with the formal plan soon to be submitted.

AD also noted the progress in relation to 50 – 52 College Bounds and Butchart Centre.

Robin Parker explained that he has recently spoken with Bob Watson about security on campus, with the discussion mainly relating to lighting on campus.

Dauna Matheson asked whether the university currently has any plans for their Don Street land-banked site. AD noted that the university currently has no plans. It was also highlighted that some homeless people were sleeping rough in this area. Grampian Police are currently investigating.

The dilapidated condition of 21-22 High Street was raised. AD explained that this concern would be noted.

4. Police Update

Clair Sutherland distributed the crime figures for December 2009.

CS also explained that the speed monitoring equipment would be used in Old Aberdeen, with Grampian Police currently investigating the logistics of this operation.

5. Planning

DM noted an application for a change of windows at 404 King Street.

DM added that the mobile telephone operator Vodafone are hoping to install more masts in Aberdeen, with some proposed for parks. It was agreed, however, that Sunnybank Park could not accommodate a mobile telephone mast.

6. First Bus

CB explained that First Bus was contacted in December. CB highlighted the proposed changes to the schedule, notably the merger of the number 20 and number 9 routes, which previously served the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon's University individually. This proposal would mean that the new route would run from Hillhead Halls through Old Aberdeen, across the city centre and out to the RGU campus at Garthdee. This new route is set to commence on 1st February 2010.

RP noted that he has met with the university to discuss this issue and highlight concerns over the likelihood that First may choose to terminate this service over the summer months as the route may be viewed as a 'student service'.

AD added that although the university are still pushing for a service connecting King's and Foresterhill campuses, First currently have no plans to introduce this service.

Hilda Meers asked for a representative from First to be invited to OACC's February meeting allowing residents to raise their concerns over these changes. **ACTION:** CB to write a letter to First.

Kristian Chapman added that there is a need for the number 20 service (soon to become the number 29) to run later at night, with the current provision for students limited.

7. CPZ

CB explained that a letter regarding the CPZ has been submitted and a response received from David Wemyss, ACC. The letter explained that those submitting objections during the consultation process would be contacted and invited to meet to discuss their concerns. No date has yet been set for this meeting.

8. Sunnybank Park Update

HM updated the Council on the work of the group looking at the future use of the park. HM added that the key areas of discussion are building on the findings of the questionnaire, improving accessibility to the park, the security of the park, potential partitioning of the park's usage and overall project development.

9. Neighbourhood Action Plan

DM reminded OACC of the key areas highlighted in the 2008 Action Plan:

- 1) Community facilities
- 2) Community safety
- 3) Environment
- 4) Health and well being
- 5) Life long learning

- 6) Local democracy
- 7) Prosperity and jobs

A discussion regarding these points followed. Further information on this can be found at www.oldaberdeen.org.uk. **ACTION:** any comments to be emailed to DM. **ACTION:** CB to contact Marc Ellington in relation to Old Aberdeen's potential World Heritage bid.

10. Treasurer's Report

IA updated the Council on OACC's finances, with the OACC account currently standing at £800.00.

IA also highlighted that the Small Improvements grant must be spent by the end of March 2010. The possibility of using the money to cover the Sunnybank Park survey was discussed, as this could be viewed as local improvement. **ACTION:** CB to check guidelines. It was also discussed whether Bede House would benefit from some funding. **ACTION:** CB to investigate.

11. Reports

Civic Forum – CB reported that the last meeting focused on the future of Union Terrace Gardens, with Forum shown a Public Relations video from ASCEF and Scottish Enterprise. It was also highlighted that Peacock Visual Arts' funding for the project would expire in March.

Community Council Forum – IA explained that the Forum next meets in February.

12. Newsletter and Website

Information relating to the Neighbourhood Community Action Plan can be found online at www.oldaberdeen.org.uk.

13. Correspondence

- Letter from ACC asking for local invitees to the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood House on Tuesday 13th July 2010. It was suggested that the Kilau staff could be nominated.
- Invitation to a BBC Scotland political debate on Friday 22nd January at Queen's Cross Church.

14. AOCB

- The poor condition of the Wallace Tower windows was highlighted. ACC currently has no plans to repair them.
- CB explained that she would respond to the questionnaire from Alan Simpson relating to the Bus Information Strategy Consultation.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of OACC will be on Tuesday 16th February at Old Aberdeen Town House from 7.30pm.