

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of Meeting

Tuesday 15th June 2010 at 7.30pm, in the Old Town House

Sederunt: Christine Burgess (Chair), Barry Black (Youth Council), Akhtar Rasul (Mosque), Dot Fraser (City Warden), Ann Keilloh (City Warden), Dewi Morgan (OACC), Simon Barker (OACC), Isobel Aitken (OACC), Angus Donaldson (University), Shaunagh Kirby (University), Clive Kempe (OACC), Martin Wilson, Agnes Wilson.

Apologies: Katja Brittain, Hilda Meers, Richard Robinson, Robin Parker

Visitors and newcomers to the meeting were welcomed by the Chair.

1. Minute of previous meeting & Matters arising
There were no corrections, the minutes were approved.
It was noted that the HMO application for Aberdon House had been refused. The forthcoming disruption to the No 20 service due to roadworks on Elphinstone Rd (18-21/6) was noted – outdated timetables and lack of bus stop information about this need to be addressed.
Action: CB to contact first bus
2. University Update
 - a. Graduation week is imminent at Elphinstone Hall – w/b 5/7/10
 - b. The University has secured an International Science Festival for September 2012 – details will follow.
 - c. Plans for a Museum at 21-23 High Street are being pursued
 - d. 50-52 College Bounds development has stalled due to University perspective differing from that of Historic Scotland.
 - e. The new Principal is to move in to Chanonry Lodge in July. OACC plan to welcome the Principal to Old Aberdeen and invite him to an OACC meeting later in the year
 - f. New Swimming Pool (50m) is at design stage. Hoped application would go in this Autumn.
3. Police Update
 - a. Community Beat areas were reviewed and it was noted that the Sunnybank area of our patch was not included in our beat.
 - b. Crime statistics were reviewed
 - c. Recent Traveller issue was discussed – mess left behind was depressingly displayed in a slide show. The police were thanked for moving them on speedily.
 - d. A poster advertising our neighbourhood policing office in Tillydrone was distributed.
 - e. City Wardens reported some vandalism to JCB in Sunnybank Park. City Warden contact details will be added to our website. *Action: DM*

4. Planning

- a. Elphinstone Road Calming Measures – AD reported the University had pursued this with Roads department. OACC were broadly supportive but considered the number of speed bumps excessive and in the case of Meston Walk (East) completely unnecessary. *Action: DM to write before 18/6 deadline*
- b. College Bounds/University Road Jcn – Although the bus lane option has been approved there are no funds to progress the project. An interim arrangement of bagging the misleading traffic lights and installing a no entry except local buses sign has fallen foul of the national cycle route along this road. The possibility of designating a cycle lane adjacent to the bus lane will be explored. *Action: DM*
- c. Controlled Parking Zone – CB reported on her deputation. All objections had been overruled and the report accepted by the Council although a delay of 6 months implementation was agreed from 31/5/10. CB noted that we still await a letter of explanation from Mrs Bochel regarding the process failures we had complained of. Mr Wilson raised his concern that the planning consent had not been fulfilled in his opinion – in particular his concern centered on the phrase ‘cost of implementation’ was to be borne by the University – and whether implementation meant instituting or running costs. It was agreed that the phrase was ambiguous. Additionally Mr Wilson feels that the scheme was initially formatted to be like that in Gathdee with residents costs ameliorated – Mr Wilson intends to pursue a complaint on this basis against the Council. There was a lengthy discussion. CK wondered if University would be sympathetic to redirection of staggeringly large implementation funds to a green transport initiative such as Kittybrewster Rail station. CB agreed to write to Gordon McIntosh to raise our questions and concerns at a higher level. *Action: CB*
- d. Sunnybank Park – the constitution has been agreed, there is a park picnic planned for Saturday at 12pm. A climate challenge fund grant of £37,500 has been confirmed.
- e. Shop signs – Bank Of Scotland objection had been overturned since it will be a like for like replacement. Historic Scotland not in favour of Perspex signs in general but to recall this would be a disproportionate response by them. The Old Post office replacement sign is still not in keeping – Conservation Dept at ACC aware.
- f. Velux in Chapter House, Don St – objection overruled.
- g. New application - ? plastic windows in Orchard St. *Action: DM to chase*

5. 3rd Don Crossing

- a. Our letter of objection seeking the plan to be called in to Edinburgh has been sent to the Minister.
- b. CB has handed in our objection to the City Council.
- c. A large number of objections makes a public enquiry more likely than ever

- d. 'DOCA' is to be formally constituted – OACC will not seek membership but wishes to be supportive.
 - e. The officially 'neutral' position of the University and the Youth Council was noted.
6. CC Forum (DM reported)
- a. Open Space audit was presented. Lots of data of uncertain import.
 - b. Planning workshops are planned for 25/6 & 30/6. DM will attend 25/6, if these are useful there is option to have one organised for us.
 - c. 6th May – special meeting held regarding planning. Discussion ranged to the Union Terrace development with failure to agree a joint statement. Question was asked whether delegates should have authority to agree for their respective CC. This was not considered helpful as the forum should not be policy generating.
7. Civic Forum (CB reported) – 'City of Learning' strategy is underway. Union Terrace Gardens issue discussed – a letter of complaint was agreed to that the 'Masterplan' had undergone no consultation.
8. Treasurer's report – IA reported that there was a balance of £1120 in the account, although once committed funds were accounted for there was approximately £806 left over.
9. Correspondence – Flood report re 3rd Don Crossing received
10. AOCB – nil
11. DONM – Tues 17th August in Old Town House at 7.30pm