

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 18th September 2007
The Old Town House
7.25 for 7.30 p.m.

Minutes

1. Present: Graham Abraham, Isobel Aitken, Christine Burgess, Graham McKechnie, Clive Kempe, Hamish McKay, Angus Donaldson, Cllr Jim Noble, Valerie Morgan, Mr and Mrs McFarland
Apologies: Simon Barker, Gordon Mutch, David Hutchinson, Morag Paterson, Cllrs Collie and Robertson, Dewi Morgan, Helen and Peter Rushmore, and Adrian Marshall,
2. Minutes of August meeting were approved (GA and IA)
3. Matters arising:
 - Good P & J article on police campaign for freshers' week.
Police campaign around No Entry at the junction of University Road and College Bounds well underway with almost 100 cautions being issued on the first day. There will be fines of £30 for traffic infringements in the following week. Mr McFarland suggested No Entry signs at the entrance to Meston Walk from the High Street. This should not be needed but would be brought up at the next meeting of the Old Aberdeen Traffic Management Forum on Friday 1st February.
 - Library meeting Good turn-out for informative meeting with the University re New Library on Saturday 1st September.
 - CPZ Cllr Noble reported that Old Aberdeen CPZ does not seem to have started and that Roads are waiting to see the result of the New Library. He also reported that any parking zone will take at least 9 – 12 months to put in place. Angus indicated that Roads and Planning needed to work together on how to manage the CPZ - traffic charging needs to be co-ordinated with what the University will charge. Though CPZ could be in place by the time the Library is complete there did not appear to be a temporary solution earmarked for while the construction work was on-going. An extension of residents' parking might also be appropriate -this is 'patchy' on the High Street for example.
 - Orchard cottage: the "garage" has been refused
 - Dunbar Street Hall – discussion on contribution postponed until next meeting
 - Multiple Occupancy – Christine had attended – the licence had been granted.
4. University update
 - Severe accommodation problem with almost 300 1st year students in hotels/youth hostels and other very temporary accommodation caused by increased numbers of non local students and the non availability of any affordable rented accommodation in the city. Hillhead is being looked at as a site for possible temporary solutions. CC to be aware that planning applications for temporary accommodation will possibly be being submitted.
 - Road between Bedford Road and Elphinstone Road still closed as work still on-going on removal of asbestos and the large boilers.
 - University Shoppe now closed and prospective tenants sought – something good for the High Street. Possible return of upper floor for accommodation

- Street lighting improvements on High Street – no movement here yet. Angus and Jim to contact Allan Adam to find out revised schedule and check on suitability of design

5. Police update

PC McKenzie was not present but an early morning assault in Don Street which had been in the P & J was reported and Valerie reported an early morning attempted break-in at St Machar's Cathedral on 17th September. The new CC cameras had captured the time but the pictures were fuzzy. Christine to contact PC McKenzie with both of these cases – to be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Planning update

- Letter re New Library half complete but CB to check one or two points with Planning.
- Valerie submitted a copy of Dewi's letter to Planning strongly objecting to the New Library in terms of its height and intrusion on to the Old Aberdeen skyline, particularly in winter.
- Some discussion on proposed new hotel down by the Don but this is in Tillydrone CC's area.

7. Treasurer's report

- Same sum in the bank, minus £60 now the bill for the hire of the hall on May 22 had been settled.

8. Correspondence

- Letter and CD received of Scottish Executive Inquiry Reporter's . To be discussed more fully at the next meeting but Old Aberdeen is back on the map! The Council will now decide and publish its own responses in January 2008 We still need to monitor situation particularly with regard to the Third Don Crossing. Clive to contact Tillydrone CC. Councillors can vote not to accept Reporters' recommendations e.g. M74 in Glasgow.
- Aberdeen and its Twin Cities – ideas welcome for making links

9. AOCB

Neighbourhood Networks – CB to have meeting with Keith Patterson to review OACC position and look at ways forward, KP to be invited to next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 16th October