

## **Old Aberdeen Community Council**

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 7.30pm at The Old Town House**

### **Minute of Meeting**

1. Present: Christine Burgess, Simon Barker, Graham Abraham, Cllr. Norman Collie, Gordon Mutch, David Hutchison, Shaunagh Kirby, Hamish Mackay, Trevor Stack, Clive Kempe, Cllr. Richard Robertson, Prof. Christopher Gane, Cllr Jim Noble, Dewi Morgan

2. Apologies: Isobel Aitken, Morag Paterson, Helen Rushmore

3. Minute of meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008 was approved having been deferred to this meeting. (Prop: S Barker, Sec: G Abraham)

Minute of meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 was approved+ (Prop: G Mutch, Sec: G Abraham)

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere:

4.1 High Street Lighting – was noted with concern to be ‘stalled’. Cllr Noble agreed to kindly investigate

4.2 Junction College Bounds/University road – C Burgess reported that significant progress had been made at a meeting of the City Councillors with representatives of Roads Dept, the University, OACC, Police and First Bus. H Mackay intimated that the options of closing the junction permanently vs a retractable bollard had been discussed. It had been agreed that a retractable bollard would be the most acceptable way forward with September as the target for installation. Financing was to be shared between the University and Aberdeen City Council with a contribution from First Bus. Efforts are underway to introduce this for the 08-09 financial year budget. OACC is grateful to the City Councillors for their efforts in this regard.

5. University Update

5.1 The OACC welcomed Professor Gne to the meeting.

5.2 Library - Controlled Parking Zone: The University had now received the City Council’s proposal in this regard. The University takes issue with the current cost and extent of the proposals. Whilst cost neutrality is a high priority for residents, the University made the limited commitment that amelioration of resident permit costs had ‘not been ruled out’. Resident concerns were acknowledged by the University however commitment beyond this is awaited. OACC noted that a satisfactory CPZ is a precondition of planning permission for the new library.

- 5.3 University Parking Charge proposals – Contrary to speculation, the charge has not yet been set. Proposed enforcement will last 10am to 4pm. Term vs non-term time enforcement has not been resolved. A phased introduction of charges is planned in concert with the CPZ. Any revenues to the University are committed to sustainable transportation. Suggestions of subsidised bus travel for students were acknowledged to be desirable.
  - 5.4 University sustainable travel plan – the University is ‘very sensitive’ to the need to involve the community in the development of this.
  - 5.5 Vacant property – OACC reiterated concern regarding the ongoing dereliction of University property at 21-23 High St. Professor Gne intimated options to address this might be forthcoming soon. H Mackay indicated negotiations to transform the old University Shop into a Bistro/Wine Bar were underway. Consultation with University staff, students and OACC would follow with planned opening by next term. This news was warmly welcomed.
  - 5.6 OACC learned the new SA President, Duncan Mackay is in post – and has been invited to subsequent OACC meetings.
6. Police Report – there being no officers present this was deferred to next meeting
  7. Old Aberdeen ‘Neighbourhood Plan’ – C Burgess reported on her meeting with Keith Paterson. Last year’s priorities were reiterated and discussed. Progress was noted in respect of Policing, the continuation of St Peter’s School, and development of Dunbar Hall as a community facility. Ongoing issues remain with improving public transport, with proposals to introduce single decker buses on High St and extension of the route to the Railway Station being welcomed. The Community Council discussed proposals for new projects and issues at length (modified document attached).
  8. Core Paths – G Abraham presented plans for a supplementary path to enhance the current core paths in and around Brig o’Balgownie/Seaton Park. The OACC welcomed the proposals and offered its support.
  9. Planning – C Kempe reported no activity
  10. Treasurer’s report – In the absence of the treasurer this was deferred to next meeting
  11. Communication – D Morgan reported progress on the website. C Burgess to discuss with Dewi regarding content. G Mutch reported the noticeboard has been erected at Dunbar Hall. C Burgess (as Chair of OACC) will have one of the keys and OACC agendas/notices shall be included from now on.
  12. Constitution – 2000 Constitution will be reviewed by SB and CB with proposals brought to OACC for any amendments in due course.

13. Venue for OACC meetings – To afford disabled access it is considered appropriate that every 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting is held in a more accessible location – Dunbar Hall will be approached in this regard. OACC would not however wish to concede its regular access to The Old Town House.
14. Correspondence –
  - 14.1 Data Protection Act – OACC has been advised that it must register. D Morgan has agreed to progress this and act as ‘Data Controller’ for OACC. A fee of £35 is payable to Register and will need to be allocated on an annual basis from hereon.
  - 14.2 Government proposals for Community Councils – an update detailing enhanced funding via Community Councils was discussed.
  - 14.3 Forestry Commission Scotland – consultation document received
  - 14.4 Aberdeen Community mediation service – introduction letter received
  - 14.5 Nigel Don MSP has indicated he will be opening an office near to Old Aberdeen
15. AOCB – C Burgess indicated that the £700 funding proposal for ‘word festival’ maps had not been pursued in favour of development of the University Heritage guide to Old Aberdeen. OACC could readily place content in this document in line with its support for its republication.

**Date of next meeting** – 20<sup>th</sup> May, Old Town House at 7.25 for 7.30pm