

## **Old Aberdeen Community Council**

Minute of the meeting held on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012** at The Old Aberdeen Town House, Old Aberdeen.

### **1. Present**

Christine Burgess (Chair), Dewi Morgan ( Web Admin & Newsletter Ed), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Mike King, George Wood, Clive Kempe.

### **Also Present**

PC Ryan Harrison (Grampian Police), P.C. Amanda Campbell (Grampian Police), Cllr Ramsay Milne, Cllr Ross Grant, Graham Stephen (OAHS).

### **Apologies**

Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Gordon Mutch, Katja Britten, Cllr Jim Noble.

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

CB welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved by Isobel Aitken and seconded by Dewi Morgan.

Matters Arising from Minutes:

CB will email Cllr Noble to enquire on the progress regarding HMO's.

Following the Chair's meeting with the Tree Felling Officer she was pleased to report the four trees which were felled along the tennis courts in University Road have now been replaced.

She then invited GW to comment on his correspondence in relation to Harrow Road and he informed the committee no reply had been received from Doug Ritchie. He further noted that road markings had been removed from Kings Road but this did not pose a Health and Safety issue and observed that one bus stop had also been cancelled. DM added there were still two stops between St Machar's Drive and Lidl whilst MK noted there were long gaps from the cemetery to the Bridge of Don. CB noted she thought the Community Council should have been consulted regarding the issue as bus stops were a community matter.

CB suggested a letter be written regarding the drastic pruning of trees in Bede's court as they were now left with six stumps. GS informed the meeting that OAHS also intended submitting correspondence regarding this issue. DM also agreed to a letter being submitted due to the fact the trees were in a conservation area.

CB queried Cllr RG about the Third Don crossing and its future. He informed her it was not a straightforward issue regarding those for and against but the new administration would outline/decide on the action to take at their August meeting.

**ACTION:** It was agreed two letters be written by CB to Aberdeen Council one with reference to bus stops and the second in relation to the tree pruning.

### 3. Police Update

PC Harrison introduced himself and PC Campbell as serving officers from Tillydrone, then distributed copies of the latest statistics from the Storm and Crime file from 1-31<sup>st</sup> May 2012. He notified the group the new Community Officer was now John Philip ([john.philip@grampian.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.philip@grampian.pnn.police.uk)) and the new Staff Supervisor was David Forsyth ([david.forsyth@grampian.pnn.police.uk](mailto:david.forsyth@grampian.pnn.police.uk)). Regarding the statistics, he agreed with previous colleagues that during this period there had been very limited crime in the Old Aberdeen district compared to other parts of the city. There had been six Storm Incidents, four in relation to motorbike offences and two in relation to public nuisance so the number was coming down. Eight Crime Files had been raised one being a smashed window at the Hub plus the theft of a car radio in the Chanonry. P.C Harrison asked the OACC if they had any concerns and MK stated the number of cars on the High Street. CB also queried if there had been any response to bus lanes and DM stated a letter had been sent to the council regarding clearer signage which he would follow up. IA observed cars went down the High Street the wrong way and DM described there was a problem on Elphinstone Road due to the three point turns at the Hub which IA agreed was dangerous. CK suggested the installation of traffic lights. PC Harrison stated he would bring these issues to the attention of his supervisors.

CB thanked the constables for attending the meeting.

### 4. Planning Matters

#### Individual Planning Applications –

- a) **120242** Former public toilet on High St – waiting on planning decision
- b) **120477 & 120516** Chaplain's Court 20, Chanonry, application for private dwelling to have covered walkway extension, garden room and garage. OACC had objected due to the history nature of the house and suggested the garage should be set back.
- c) **120733** 45 Don Street – internal alteration **No objections**
- d) **120739** 164-166 Spital – The Mosque – various alterations plus conversion of adjoining house **No objections**
- e) **120830** 5-52 College Bounds – restoration of sash windows **No objections**

#### Scottish Government Planning

DM described The Scottish Government's Planning Reform as a massive aspirational document to reform the planning process. CB queried if there was any relaxation of issues relating to planning permission in conservation areas and was informed by DM that small things could be done without planning permission. CK stated standards needed to be kept across the board and not just in conservation matters. DM explained he has to review this document by 22<sup>nd</sup> June and provide feedback plus Gordon Mutch had also contributed.

**CPZ** DM notified CB there had been no progress on this issue to date

## **5) Treasurer's Report**

IA notified delegates that last month OACC had a balance in the bank of £1047.70. From this £192 had been paid to McKenzie Print and a book token had been purchased for the auditor. To date a balance of £825.70 existed in the account with nothing outstanding to pay. CB asked if the dates for the new financial year had changed but IA stated she did not have any further news on this matter.

## **6. Seaton Park**

DM stated the Friends of Seaton Park initiative had slowed a little, though a draft Constitution was being developed including a process for membership. He advised a meeting would be held during the next two weeks - The Steering Group were meeting on the ground floor of the new Library as there was no money for room hire. MK asked if the Aberdeen Council were assisting and was informed by DM they were providing encouragement but not cash. DM advised that the Friends had written to the Environmental Department requesting they provide information regarding their plans for Seaton Park for the next twelve months. That would help inform just where the Friends of the Park should focus regarding: Maintenance, New Ideas and Fund Raising.

CB queried where the Park stood in relation to the Common Good Fund as it was understood that the Park was originally purchased using the Common Good Fund. and Cllr. Milne replied that the park may well have been transferred to mainstream accounts. CB noted Duthie Park refurbishment was receiving funding from the Common Good Fund. Cllr. Milne stated the Land Fill Tax needed to be explored to see if this was an appropriate source of funding. MK observed the stables at Seaton Park were now houses and queried if there was an income from this but DM thought they were no longer part of the park. CB further queried what happened to income from events in the park and GW asked if there was an income coming from the installation of the electric cable last year.

## **7. Reports of Other Meetings**

Community Council Forum: Cllr. Grant explained Andy Finlayson had stepped down and Cllr. Barney Crockett had spoken to the Forum. Cllr. Grant further expressed concern at the lack of other Community Councils attending the meeting and stated over twelve months ago a document had been drafted which described how Community Councils and City Council interact but, to date, no protocol had been established.

Civic Forum: CB pointed out a new OACC representative would be required with the pending change of boundaries. DM explained the new OACC boundary had now been clarified within the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, which was waiting approval. Cllr. Grant added the majority of issues were not contentious and were approved apart from two which were not passed due to a lack of a majority.

Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill – response required by 29<sup>th</sup> August.

This includes some questions of specific interest to us, e.g.

Q6. What role, if any, can community councils play in helping to ensure communities are involved in the design and delivery of public services?

Q7. What role, if any, can community councils play in delivering public services?

Q8. What changes, if any, to existing community council legislation can be made to help enable community councils maximise their positive role in communities

CB concerned by the assumptions in Q7 i.e. The role Community Councils play in public services.

DM questioned if any Community Councils were still to be responsible for community halls? Cllr. Grant stated the main concerns were over cost/damage to buildings. Cllr. Milne was concerned about the complexity of leases.

**ACTION:** CB asked DM to send Q's 6-8 to OACC members.

## 9 Correspondence

a) Aberdeen City Heritage Trust talk on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 7.00p.m.

b) Notification of RCOG Jesus House Festival of Light procession – any objections in by 11<sup>th</sup> June.

c) Growing God's Gifts Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September meetings at St Machar's Cathedral. OACC invited by Sandy Riddell to give a display on information and talk informally to visitors

## 10. AOCB

CK enquired if there was a mechanism in place for notifying residents of grass cutting in community areas as to whether it will take place or not. Cllr. Grant stated he will put in an enquiry regarding this, stating green areas be kept tidy or left. CB added OACC needs to be notified if this is stopped due to budget concerns or not. GW asked why the manhole in St Machar's Drive was being repaired on a weekday and Cllr. Ramsay informed him this was due to the fact it had been reported as an emergency. GW queried the position on Thomas Glover House as this had been another non consultation issue with Community Councils. Cllr. Grant notified the group that as the city had put in a bid for Aberdeen to be considered the City of Culture, there had to be sufficient projects within communities and not just within the city centre e.g. Wallace Tower and Glover House.

## 11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Old Aberdeen Community Council will take place at the Old Aberdeen Town House on Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup> 2012 at 7.30p.m. DM offered his apologies – he would be unable to attend.

**ACTION:** CB advised that this meeting needed to think about the September elections so a letter would have to go out at the beginning of September to the community. CB will liaise with Karen Riddoch regarding this.

DM requires articles of interest in the OACC and to capture peoples' attention for the next Newsletter.