

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on **Tuesday 20th March 2012** at The Town House, Old Aberdeen.

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Gordon Mutch, Mike King, George Wood, Clive Kempe, Trevor Stack.

Also Present

PC David Crighton (Grampian Police), Ramsay Milne (Visitor).

Apologies

Dewi Morgan (Web Admin & Newsletter Ed), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Abdul Latif, Katja Britten, Simon Barker, Prof Albert Rodger.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

CB welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved by Clive Kempe and seconded by Christine Burgess.

CB invited MK to provide an update with regard to his new Tartan design. He informed everyone present that the Queen will be visiting Aberdeen and his Old Aberdeen Tartan design will be used for kilts, tablecloths and napkins.

CB informed the meeting that she had written to Dr. Bochel regarding the issue of the felled trees and asked for the officer to liaise with the University to see if replanting was going to be possible.

With regard to Seaton Park and funding from the Common Good Fund, CB explained that she had contacted Cllr Noble who advised that a report is being compiled on this issue. MK stressed that a considerable sum was held in the Common Good Fund but RM added there were limited funds to disperse from the Common Good Fund in any one year. MK explained he had spoken to the Head Gardener who urgently needed four hundred pounds to replace roses that were being eaten by the deer. CB suggested this could be a matter for the potential Seaton Park support group to take forward and noted the meeting to be held in Dunbar Street Hall in April to form this group.

3. Police Update

PC Crighton introduced himself and distributed copies of the latest statistics from the Storm and Crime file from 1-29th February 2012. He remarked during this period there had been very limited crime in the Old Aberdeen district compared to other parts of the city, apart from thefts of bicycles at the University. CB queried fires in the area and GM explained a recycling bin had been torched. CB thanked PC Crighton for his time and the report.

4. Planning Matters and Third Don Crossing

3rd Don Crossing- GM advised that Scottish Ministers had given the Third Don Crossing the go-ahead and reckoned that it could now only be stopped through political means. A meeting of the Don Crossing Alliance is to be held at St Georges Church Tillydrone on Thursday 22nd March to discuss the way forward. He added once more that tackling the Haudagain Roundabout was the way to ease the traffic problem. RM noted this was the responsibility of the Scottish Government - CB added at present. CK advocated a greater use of bicycles. GM noted that even with a new bridge there would still be congestion and GW advised ground was purchased years ago for a dual carriageway. CK asked the time frame for appeals and GM notified him six weeks. CB questioned how many compulsory orders had been issued and GM added a small number at present and these would take three months to take effect - Ross Grant was dealing with the issue. RM however advised there would be negotiations regarding these.

Planning Applications –

- a) CB informed the meeting that a class 3 application had been submitted to change a closed toilet block in the High Street into a food and drink premises - this would permit the serving of teas and coffee but not a hot food takeaway. DM had written to the developers and had received a reply stating they had no plans beyond obtaining class 3 consent for the property. NO OBJECTIONS

- b) 519 King Street (the new Chemist building at the corner of University Road) Change of use for the floor space on the second floor from Class 9 residential to Class 2 Financial, Professional and other services or office space. NO OBJECTIONS

- c) 8, Cheyne Road. Application had been withdrawn then resubmitted. It was noted that OACC and 8 residents had objected but the report submitted by the case officer had dismissed all concerns and recommended approval.

PENDING (22/03/12)

There was much discussion as to the limited family accommodation in the area and how HMOs, particularly for student lets, were eroding this. Cllr Noble had spoken to CB and she reported that this issue had been out to consultation with the Scottish Government (it was noted St Andrews was equally concerned) and the outcome is currently with Ali Thain at Aberdeen City Council who will be getting in touch with us.

- d) 29, St. Machar Drive and the large extension application. OACC has objected. PENDING

- e) Application for three aerial masts on the MacRobert Building
OACC objected and suggested alternative siting but planning officer has recommended approval. PENDING (22/03/12)

CK queried if a licence was required to which RM stated it was and it must comply with Health and Safety regulations. CK advised a short term lease to protect residents. RM stated it was very difficult to get rid of masts.

ACTION: It was agreed CK write a letter of concern re this issue to Frank Doran MP.

- f) CB informed the meeting that a letter had been drafted regarding the cassies on the High Street which badly need to be re-lain. GW agreed the current situation was a

disgrace.

- g) MK queried the reason for the road closure at the new Library in Elphinstone Road - CB informed him this was apparently for road calming measures to be put in place

5. Treasurer's Report

In the Treasurer's absence there was no report. CB was unsure if the accounts had been finalised - these are to be submitted by 31st March.

6 Newsletter and Seaton Park

CB reminded the meeting that DM was proposing either 21st or 28th April for the community meeting regarding Seaton Park and the formation of a community support group. He is proposing to hold this in Dunbar Steet Hall and Seaton Park will be the focus for the next Newsletter. MK asked how funds could be raised and CK suggested the Sunnyside Park model could be used.

7. Reports of Other Meetings

CB attended a meeting on the proposed Grandhome project that had been the focus of the Charrette led by Andres Duany in 2010. She reported that this scheme has now been included in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan and all concerned with the project were very much assuming the Third Don Crossing as a given. Bridge of Don residents at the meeting were of the opinion that no further development at the Bridge of Don should take place until the Third Don Crossing was built.

8. Correspondence

Letters received from Aberdeen City Council regarding the adoption of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan that was formally adopted on 29th February, 2012.

DM is pursuing with First Bus the cost of bus fares in Aberdeen as the city appears to have the highest fares in the UK. While the reply DM had received from First Bus mentioned its cost base and the cut in subsidies by the Scottish Government, it skirted the questions asked. It appears the Scottish Government has switched subsidies to rural areas and GW stated Edinburgh has set the rates.

9. AOCB

Prof Albert Rodger will be attending the May 15th meeting, an opportunity for matters of common interest between the OACC and the University to be discussed. Ideas and suggestions for this will be further considered at the next OACC meeting in April. TS suggested that the issue of HMOs and accommodation for University staff in the area could be raised.

10. 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 17th April 2012 at 7.30p.m