

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minutes of meeting

Tuesday 16th October 2012 at 7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Town House

Present: Christine Burgess, Dewi Morgan, George Wood, Trevor Stack,
Sergeant John Philip

Apologies: Simon Barker, Gordon Mutch, Isobel Aitken, Clive Kempe, Lekky Shepherd, Irene Henderson, James Martin, Cllrs Jim Noble and
Ramsay Milne

2. Minute of September Meeting and Matters Arising

Passing of the September minutes was postponed till the November meeting as the slightly amended minutes had not been duly circulated.

CB reported she had met with the warden at Bede House Court and had heard that the reason the trees in the court had been cut back was that one of the pruned trees was split, had been creaking and considered dangerous. It was unclear as to why the others had also been cut back to the trunk. There was no update as to what is planned for these trees or this site. Action: OACC to write to Duncan McGregor for an update.

Comments on the Community Empowerment Bill had not been submitted within the allotted period.

No takers had come forward for the £3,000 business grants available to community councils as the closing date has now past.

College Bounds bus gate: Sgt John Philip had spoken to Mike McDonald, traffic management manager. There was calibration still to be done and the bus stop on the southbound approach to the signals has still to be re-located. CB had spoken to Andrew Smith, Traffic Engineering Manager, and was given reassurance that taxis would not be able to use this bus lane. Sgt Philip explained once the work was completed there would be an education phase, or possibly the police could move directly on to the enforcement phase. CB mentioned the possibility of mentioning this in "Gaudie".

3. Police Update

Sgt Philip went through the reported incidents from the period 16 Sept - 15 October in our existing and in our new area.

He also notified there would be a mobile police surgery at Tillydrone on 28th October. He was keen to run one in Old Aberdeen and the High Street and Orchard Street were suggested as potential locations.

4. Planning

- 121358 Tree work up to 100 trees at Hillhead Halls of Residence, mostly general maintenance
- 121347 Hanging sign outside the Chaplaincy Centre. CB had talked to them and sign is to provide greater visibility. OACC will email the University to explain our concerns regarding excessive signs of this sort.
- 120998 Sign at Lidl (pending)
- 120165 29 St Machar Drive (still pending) but there had been slight modifications to some windows, with no notification to OACC.
- 120242 Toilet class 3 food and drink outlet - approved, presumably for a take-away.
- 120477 20 The Chanonry - still pending and no further changes seen.
120515

5. Treasurer's Report

£15 cheque to the Community Council Forum leaving £514 in the account.

6. Report of other meetings

Community Council Forum - currently pushing an initiative to identify and collate main issues from across all community councils to put to ACC : planning communication, Roads, HMOs, planning notification were suggested as OACC concerns but to be further discussed at November meeting. Next CCF meeting is in early December.

Seaton Park - meeting on Friday 12th October.

Letter to Pete Leonard about ACC plans for maintenance and development resent due to lack of response.

The Steering Group propose to hold another public meeting to inform the Friends and public what has happened so far and perhaps to create an opportunity for new members to join the Steering Committee.

Drainage remains a critical issue to make the grassed areas of the Park properly useable and, though £10,000 has been set aside, this is thought unlikely to make much impact.

7. Elections and Newsletter

Old Aberdeen Community Council was duly elected with 9 members plus a new resident, James Martin, keen to be co-opted.
The next newsletter will be in the new year.

8. Correspondence

Only pre- and post-election information only has been received.

9. AOCB

TS raised the ACC city-wide consultation on provision of primary schools. St Peter's RC primary school would seem from the report to be secure: it is currently over-subscribed, the building is Grade B and energy rated D.

CB to contact our three councillors to ensure that the issue remains live and monitored.

DM had been in contact with Iain Mason to notify him that No 20 bus timetables had not been updated in spite of a number of timetable changes.

DM had also passed on a request from a resident in Lord Hay's Grove for a bus shelter just opposite Seaton Park. He was informed there are some 'spare' bus shelters which may be suitable.

GW noted that a 20 mph speed restriction had been placed on School Road and the the first block of Links Road. It was acknowledged that this was a safety measure due to the traffic density using this route as a rat run. He was also concerned about the effect on traffic volumes with the proposed new housing at Danestone and Grandhome.

GW suggested OACC might invite our City Wardens and Rangers along to meetings. He had reviewed the 'Ageing wi' Opportunity' consultation document and commented it was badly written and ill-thought out.

GW will contact councillors regarding the pedestrian crossing timings on King Street adjacent to Harrow Road. He felt that a 45 second delay between pressing the button and getting clearance to cross was excessive and liable to encourage jay walking.

CB had been in contact with Fraser Lovie from the University with regard to the new Nursery the University is planning, which is on the site behind King's Hall. OACC to possibly have a presentation on this at the November meeting.

There was discussion around the date of the December meeting and CB to contact everyone to arrange for either 11th or 18th December.

Date of Next Meeting : Tuesday 20th November at 7.30 in Old Town House