

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of Meeting

Tuesday 18th September at 7.30pm in The Old Town House

Sederunt:

Christine Burgess (Chair), Simon Barker, Will Lind, Isobel Aitken, Cllr Ramsay Milne, Fruoke Hermens, James Martin, Dewi Morgan, Gordon Mutch, Hilda Meers, George Wood, Jacinta Birchley, PC Ross Lindsay, Clive Kempe, Hazel Christie, Cllr Jim Noble, Lynne Taylor

Apologies:

Cllr Ross Grant, Abdul Latif, Irene Henderson

- 1.0 **Minute of Previous Meeting** (21st August 2012)
 - 1.01 Subject to two changes requested by CK the Minute was agreed to be an accurate record.
 - 1.02 Proposer – Gordon Mutch, Seconder – Isobel Aitken
- 2.0 **Matters arising** not covered elsewhere on the agenda
 - 2.01 It was noted that HMO licensing was discussed at the Council Housing & Environment Committee and it was confirmed that community councils will be consulted as part of the HMO ‘over-provision’ consultation, which is anticipated in early 2013. OACC remain concerned at the gradual transformation away from family housing in our area.
 - 2.02 Tree pruning at Bede House Court was noted to have failed to completely kill the trees concerned and the tree trunks had still not been removed.
 - 2.03 The 3rd Don crossing compulsory purchase hearings are due in the Court of Session in November, although the status of the crossing remains open to debate.
 - 2.04 Police contact details have now been successfully updated
- 3.0 **Police update**
 - 3.01 Constable Lindsay apologised that local crime statistics were not available to the Community Council this time. The new Community Council boundary was supplied to PC Lindsay so that relevant crime data could be included in future.
 - 3.02 A resident reported bins being ‘rifled through’ in Don Street with concern that identity theft was in mind of the perpetrators.
 - 3.03 Recent fire damage was noted in Cruickshank Botanical Garden.
 - 3.04 Lead thefts were noted in the area.
- 4.0 **Planning**
 - 4.01 29 St Machar Drive application for HMO remains pending – OACC has objected
 - 4.02 Public Toilet conversion on High St – pending
 - 4.03 Chaplains Court, 20 Chanonry – OACC has objected
 - 4.04 45 Don St internal alterations – has been approved
 - 4.05 164-166 Spital, Mosque alterations – has been approved

- 4.06 It was noted that the previous minuted action point to write concerning 47 Spital had regrettably not been done.
- 4.07 The Community Council discussed the ‘planning pathway’ which has apparently stalled. **ACTION: To be raised at CC Forum**
- 4.08 The changes in planning applications and lack of notice to parties consequent upon such changes was discussed. It was regretted that the City Council could not provide a better system of notification.
- 5.0 Community Empowerment Bill**
- 5.01 The ‘Easy Read Summary’ was noted to be more accessible than the impenetrable parent document. Responses are required before 26/9.
ACTION: CK and IA agreed to help draft OACC response
- 6.0 Community Council Handbook**
- This was noted to inappropriately reference named individuals rather than office bearers – leading to a short shelf life of the document. Feedback is required before 23/9. **ACTION: DM will coordinate feedback**
- 7.0 Treasurers Report**
- 7.01 IA reported the balance stood at £529 with a Civic Forum Fee of £15 falling due soon.
- 7.02 The balance was felt to be adequate to fund next newsletter and carry the Community Council expenses until the next financial year.
- 8.0 Other meetings**
- 8.01 Community Council Forum – August Meeting – the stalled Planning pathway had been discussed.
- 8.02 Friends of Seaton Park – There had been Weeding activity and participation in the Britain in Bloom entry. No further meeting had taken place but is planned.
- 9.0 Elections
- 9.01 Closing date noted to be 20/9 at 4pm.
- 10.0 Newsletter
- 10.01 Thanks were expressed to DM for his tireless work to format, print and distribute. Those that helped with distribution were also thanked. It was noted that the new CC area would require a similar distribution of 1500 copies and further help in distribution would be welcome.
- 11.0 Vote of thanks
- 11.01 Hilda Meers, Katja Brittan and Clive Kemp were thanked for their hard work and commitment to Old Aberdeen and the Community Council. The OACC wished them well.
- 12.0 Correspondence
- 12.01 Community Business Grant Competition – grants of £3,000 available, details from Christine
- 12.02 Remembrance Sunday Parade announcement
- 12.03 Letter from Cllr George Adam inviting Community Councillors to a civic reception in the Beach Ballroom – details from Christine.
- 12.04 Letter from Ross Grant thanking Community Councillors for their work.
- 12.05 Email regarding Christmas fund availability for a Community event
- 12.06 Acknowledgement from First Bus in respect of letter
- 13.0 AOCB
- 13.01 Cllr Noble advised that air quality monitoring on King Street had apparently been taking place, outside langstane Housing offices and the

quality was 'good'. Details should be available in the Housing and Environment Committee papers.

13.02 The College Bounds Bus gate is now stopping non-buses at a red light. This was stopping some illegal traffic however some users appear to grow frustrated with their perception of broken lights and drive through after waiting. Further signage is apparently planned. Policing will be required to enforce. **ACTION: Enquire of enforcement plans from Police at next meeting**

13.03 A request for a bus shelter has been made on Lord Hays Grove

13.04 A resident had complained of noise /vandalism on Orchard street

13.05 GW noted that the one way system at Harrow Road is being flaunted and that enquiries of the Council had concluded the signage was 'adequate'.

13.06 CK questioned the Council's policy on 'communal spaces' and the potential for cost-saving abandonment, with particular reference to road-side grass verges not being cut. By not informing the community, the council was removing an opportunity for the Community Council, or the residents of the streets in question to put in place alternative arrangements if they so wished. Cllr Milne acknowledged that some areas may have been 'abandoned' and communication to CCs would be appropriate when these decisions are taken. City Councillors agreed to make enquiries on our behalves.

14.0 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th October at 7.30pm in the Old Town House