

## Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2012** at Old Aberdeen Town House, Old Aberdeen.

### 1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Dewi Morgan (Newsletter Ed & Website), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Lekky Shepherd, Hazel Christie, Gordon Mutch, Trevor Stack.

### Also Present

Cllr Jim Noble, PI David Forsyth (Grampian Police), Fraser Lovie (University of Aberdeen), Jacinta Birchley (Resident).

### Apologies

Abdul Latif, George Wood.

### 2. Police Update

CB welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the two new OACC members Lekky Shepherd and Hazel Christie. She then introduced Detective Inspector David Forsyth who covers the Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen area and Fraser Lovie from the University of Aberdeen. DI Forsyth introduced himself and then described the latest statistics from Storm and Crime file 15<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012, from which Old Aberdeen raised 32 reports. Of these, two thirds related to the University of Aberdeen, particularly in relation to bike thefts (now code named Operation Inchbrae) plus two thefts of Apple laptop computers and a number of cases of vandalism. Crime however was down by 20%, similar to the previous year. He then described a second initiative called Operation Rowan which is to monitor the bus gate infringements at College Bounds. CB suggested an article be placed in the student paper 'Gaudie' regarding this. SB informed DI Forsyth that the public was not aware of the signage put in place for monitoring the flow of traffic in the High Street and DI Forsyth agreed to look into traffic management in general in Old Aberdeen. With relation to the low figures on vandalism GM commented that residents in the Chanonry would never leave their cars out at night. DI Forsyth encouraged all OACC members to contact him directly if there were any problems. CB then thanked him for attending the meeting.

### 3. Presentation on new University Nursery

Fraser Lovie explained he was a clerk on the Board of the University Rocking Horse Nursery. Funds were approved mid 2011 for a new purpose-built Nursery to

accommodate up to 75 children, to be built on the site behind Kings Hall. The eco-friendly design is low carbon, low energy, has solar heating, a security entry system and three play areas. Although the site is challenging it is not problematic for a one story building and is anticipated to be completed by 2014. The entry is through Powis Gate and CB was reassured the design incorporated the retention of existing mature trees, where possible. FL explained the design team included an archaeologist, an environmental specialist and a tree specialist.

Fraser Lovie further informed the meeting that advanced discussions had taken place with Marks and Spencer regarding a food outlet in the Hub and that Zeste would shortly become a Starbucks. CB requested FL circulate the power point presentation, with which there had been technical problems, so that OACC members could view the designs of the new Nursery and make comment. She asked that OACC be kept up to date with its progress and thanked Fraser Lovie for his talk.

#### 4. Minutes of September and October Meetings and Matters Arising

The September minutes were approved by GM and seconded by IA; the October minutes were approved by TS and seconded by DM.

CB advised that under Matters Arising Duncan McGregor had been contacted about the trees in Bede House Court and had replied that the four trees were being reduced in size and retained for the time being.

#### 5. Election of New Office Bearers

CB officially announced she was standing down as Chairperson of the OACC after six years and thanked all for their support. Christine asked members of OACC to consider what they could contribute and how all the roles and tasks could be covered, perhaps in new and different ways. She stressed it was important that the the role of the Chair be supported by an official Secretary. SB then took the Chair and thanked CB stressing she had worked tirelessly over and above what was expected. Nominees were requested for the position of Chair. A lengthy discussion ensued after which the key positions were filled as follows:

CHAIR:	Isobel Aitken
VICE CHAIR:	Gordon Mutch
TREASURER:	Gordon Mutch
SECRETARY	Trevor Stack
WEBSITE & NEWSLETTER:	Dewi Morgan
PLANNING:	Lekky Shepherd offered to help with planning matters

## 6. Planning Matters

**Planning Applications** –DM discussed the following applications for planning

- a) Change of use of Police Station to Barber's Shop                      NO OBJECTIONS
- b) 29, St Machar Drive: This application has been approved without the letter of objection from OACC being circulated. CB noted that if OACC objected to an application, the Council were legally bound to take the letter into consideration. JB agreed, stating it had to go through the Planning Committee. DM noted that whilst the Council had acknowledged the letter they had not followed due procedures. SB and JB advised this issue had to be followed up and CB agreed it was a matter of precedent. DM suggested the new Planning Team devise a letter to this effect which IA would sign as official on behalf of OACC. This was agreed.
- c) St Peters Street: 2 Planning applications had been submitted for student accommodation Pending
- d) 20 Chaplains Court: revised application for house alterations and garage While OACC issues had been addressed particularly with relation to the garage, serious concerns were raised in relation to the requirement for a traffic calming island and bollard in the Chanonry. DM advised OACC had until 29th November to comment on application120477.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

IA advised the committee that since September there had been one withdrawal and the current balance currently stood at £514.70.

## 8. Reports of Other Meetings

DM advised there would be a Public Meeting regarding Seaton Park on December 1 at 10.00 am in Dunbar Hall to raise awareness of the work being done. He commented that there was a dip in momentum with the Friends of Seaton Park and more volunteers were required for Fund Raising. LS stated the difficulty had been they were waiting for the Council to let them know their plans and funding for the Park. Cllr Noble stated there was a full Council Meeting in December during which the budget for Seaton Park would be determined. St Machar's Cathedral had agreed not to charge for the use of the Hall.

## 9. Correspondence

Aberdeen City Council:            Letter regarding the trees at Bede House Court.

MSP Kevin Stewart:            Letter regarding The Healthy Mind and Body Campaign

NHS Non Executive Board: Letter requesting the need for two more Board members

Scottish Water: Letter notification regarding people's views on water/  
waste consultation with a deadline of 12/2/13

MSP Kevin Stewart: October Newsletter

10. AOCB .

None

11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Old Aberdeen Community Council will take place at Old  
Aberdeen Town House on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Lastly CB thanked Irene Henderson for her time and energy in taking the OACC  
minutes throughout the past year.