

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 16th April 2013 at 7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Town House

Minutes

1. Present and Apologies

- Present: Isobel Aitken (chair), George Wood, Trevor Stack (minutes), Gordon Mutch, James Martin, Simon Barker, Jacinta Birchley, Hazel Christie, Cllr Ramsay Milne, Dewi Morgan, Prof. Albert Rodger (University), Jayne Forman (Police), Steve Galashan (Police)
- Apologies: Ross Grant, Christine Burgess, Lekky Shepherd, Cllr Jim Noble

2. Minute of March Meeting and Matters Arising

- Minutes approved and seconded
- Matters arising:
 - Following Absafe presentation, JM says has suggested setting up group in his area, and corresponding with Ross Melton on this.

3. Police Update

- Officers report
 - Full crime statistics not available due to staff sickness.
 - No significant changes to policing as result of transition to Police Scotland.
 - Operation Rowan continues and still problem on football match days.
 - Issues with theft of unsecured property in University, vandalism to Seaton Park toilets, and theft across city of unsecured cars or car keys from unsecured houses.
 - 101 is new number for dialling police if not emergency.
- With regard to Operation Rowan, SB asks for police to meet with Council officials to discuss signage on High Street.

4. University Report (Prof. Albert Rodger)

- Prof. Rodger reports
 - UoA still in top 200 universities, successful recruitment of students, and increasing PG numbers.
 - Running regular exhibitions in University Library – asks for feedback on nature of exhibitions and other events running.

- Awarded £300K RCUK grant for public understanding of research, part of which used for May Festival, designed to showcase UoA research for public – asks for feedback after event with a view to expanding in future years.
- Concern to promote other events
 - Sound Festival
 - looking into uses of Pavilion
- University wants to feel like partners with community.
- Angus Donaldson to address Estates issues at June meeting, when will be able to present 10- and 50-year plan.
- Discussion
 - GM asks about future of Pavilion
 - AR replies that considering option of cultural centre, including use swimming pool as performance and exhibition space, as well as cafe.
 - SB notes that still minor issues with University Library building, e.g. painted glass.
 - AR replies that still within snagging period and contractors being pushed to rectify all issues.
 - SB also notes that issues with traffic on High Street is part of broader traffic flow problem in area.
 - AR replies that keen to work with OACC on such issues.
 - In further discussion, IA mentions issue with parking on Elphinstone Road; DM notes that raised with Roads Department in June.
 - SB raises issue with St Machar Drive, recommending filter for traffic turning right onto Elphinstone Road.
 - Agreed that to call meeting to discuss traffic issues with all parties, including Council officials.
 - DM notes high luminance of lights in car park beside Uni Library.
 - AR to raise with Angus Donaldson.
 - AR notes that Aberdeen International Youth Festival is upcoming in July, and agrees to invite OACC to it.

5. Seaton Park Friends update (DM)

- DM reports
 - issues with access to enclosed garden for Barkathon
 - Council considering turning flood area to permanent loch

6. Signage on High Street (DM)

- DM to email Council to ask to remove 1-way signs recently erected on High Street.
- TS to email Doug Ritchie to discuss recent notice on lampposts as well as Tom Rogers to discuss impact on Old Aberdeen of preparations for Third Don Crossing.

7. OACC response to

a. Draft Conservation Area Management Plan (DM)

b. Aberdeen Local Development Plan (DM)

DM asks who is prepared to take responsibility for OACC response to the Local Development Plan.

c. HMO paper (CB)

DM notes that consultation is open on whether there is overprovision of HMOs in city. Individual councillors to submit their own return to survey, while GM submit letter on behalf of OACC.

8. Planning Matters (GW)

GW: no significant issues to report.

On 35-36 St Peter's Street:

- DM notes irregularities in planning for
 - OACC and residents not notified of increase from 100 to 125 beds
 - Planning Committee not shown submissions of 19 local residents
 - ACC said during site visit that Scottish Water had not raised objection, but Scottish Water says had not been informed and ACC does not include them in planning process.
- SB notes that irregularities are common in ACC planning process, and would like to see significant improvement.

9. Treasurer's Report

- GM reports
 - 2 cheques made out to Information Commission and for Website hosting
 - current balance of £374.76
 - Council grant of £908.40 (increase on previous year) to be received soon.

10. Reports of Other Meetings

- DM reports on Community Council Forum
 - School Estates:
 - CCF to take 4 places on Traveller Stakeholder Group
 - Planning group going through mediation process with ACC in relation to planning process

11. Correspondence

None received.

12. Date and Venue for May meeting

21st May.

13. AOCB

- Issues for TS to raise with Duncan Cameron of First Bus in advance of June meeting
 - concerns of residents around dept
 - bus fares
 - poor timekeeping of buses
 - poor condition of buses and bus stops