

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 19th March 2013 at 7.45 pm

Old Aberdeen Town House

Minute of ordinary meeting

1. Present and Apologies

Present: Isobel Aitken (chair), George Wood, Trevor Stack (minutes), Gordon Mutch, James Martin, Jacinta Birchley, Hazel Christie, Cllr Ramsay Milne, Cllr Jim Noble, Ross Melton (Absafe), Inspector Dave Forsyth.

Apologies: Simon Barker, Abdul Latif, Ross Grant, Christine Burgess, Karen Riddioch, Lekky Shepherd, Dewi Morgan.

2. Minute of February Meeting (circulated immediately after Feb meeting) and Matters Arising

- Minutes proposed George Wood; seconded Isobel Aitken.
- George Wood proposed to co-opt James Martin as councillor; seconded by Gordon Mutch.
- GW reported that pumping has been carried out at Seaton Park, but still serious problems remain.
- GW compares template constitution with current OACC constitution, finding that only difference is size of quorum.
- GW reports that ACC has responded adequately to complaint about barrier between Don Street and Cheyne Road.
- On complaint by residents about First Bus depot, Cllr Noble reports that depot is part of ward of Harbour councillors. Cllr Milne reports that screening was not planning condition, and that First Bus manager Duncan Cameron is trying to get the Estates division to plant some trees. TS reports that Mr Cameron accepts OACC's invitation to the 18 June meeting.

3. Police Update (Inspector Dave Forsyth)

- A similar number of incidents as previous months, including a number of thefts around the University, including bicycles and laptops.
- Operation Rowan is considered a success, although still some offenders including after football matches; admits that signage could be clearer.
- Police reform: Grampian Police will be absorbed into Police Scotland on 1st April, but will continue with local policing model, with Tillydrone station still covering Old Aberdeen.

4. Presentation by Ross Melton (Absafe)

- Absafe is a charity concerned with creating safer communities, and has recently taken on Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Explains that Neighbourhood Watch is about groups of like-minded neighbours wanting to make communities better. Benefits include reduced crime; better information from partner organisations down to local communities and back up again; enhanced support from Absafe NW team including weekly bulletins, which available online; monetary benefits including reducing insurance premiums; empowers people by supporting projects to improve community relations.
- Inspector Forsyth reports that Ross Melton has made progress in potentially difficult areas of Tillydrone. Ross Melton adds that students are also to be included in Neighbourhood Watch.
- Proposes setting up smaller watches rather than, for example, OACC constituting NW covering whole of Old Aberdeen.
- OACC agrees to include article in newsletter on Neighbourhood Watch.

5. Street cleaning survey (CB)

In CB's absence, James Martin explains that ACC is conducting consultation on street cleaning, and is inviting feedback on its website.

6. Aberdeen City And Shire Strategic Development Plan

- GW argues that Plan is poorly written and conceived, agreeing with email comments from Dewi Morgan.
- Since deadline is before next meeting, it was agreed that OACC would reach a consensus by email, prior to submitting comments on the Plan.

7. Aberdeen Local Development Plan

Since deadline is later than City And Shire Strategic Development Plan, it is agreed to return to it at the next OACC meeting.

8. Seaton Park Friends

Postponed to next meeting when DM will be present.

9. St. Peter's RC School proposal to house overflow (TS)

- TS reports attending St Peters' Parents Council meeting at which Directors of Education explained their plans to install temporary classrooms, probably in the playground area, while expanding other parts of the playground area.
- Cllr Milne believes that once the ongoing consultation into RC provision is completed, St Peters is likely to move into Old Aberdeen building. Since this will be expensive, it has been decided to wait until completion of exercise.
- Cllr Noble explains that consultation will be concluded by September, at which time a final solution will be sought for the 3 RC schools.

10. Planning Matters

- 34-36 St Peters
 - ACC have responded to DM's complaint that the Planning Officer's report (which will be submitted to the Committee for consideration on Thursday) states that no comments had been received, when in fact OACC had submitted comments.
 - Jacinta Birchley notes a number of other inconsistencies in the report, and laments both the height of the building as well as the population density that it will bring to the area.
- GW mentions a number of other planning applications that do not present significant concerns.

11. Treasurer's Report

GM reports minimal expenses in past month.

12. Reports of Other Meetings

TS will propose George Wood as representative on the Civic Forum.

13. Correspondence

TS reported that notified of consultation on Aberdeen conservation areas but not including Old Aberdeen. Cllr Noble reports that consultation including Old Aberdeen will be launched around July.

14. Date and Venue for April meeting

Will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16th April. Prof Albert Rodger will attend.

15. AOCB

- GM follows up comment submitted to February meeting that ACC has done almost nothing for Old Aberdeen in recent memory.
 - Cllr Milne notes there are greater needs in neighbouring communities, and that ACC does not own property in Old Aberdeen which makes it harder to invest. Also that University has invested heavily in Old Aberdeen.
 - Cllr Noble points out that new ACC administration has only had one year, and that heavily constrained by budget.
 - TS agrees that UoA has invested in other areas of Old Aberdeen, but argues that Seaton Park is most obvious area for Council to invest, since investment in Park has been minimal despite urgent needs in relation to flooding. Cllr Milne agrees, although notes that now typical for parks to be funded from non-CC sources (e.g. Common Good funds). GM reiterates that investment in Seaton Park, especially to alleviate flooding, would be obvious project for ACC.