

Old Aberdeen Community Council
Meeting 20th August 2013 7.30pm
New King's, Room NK7

Present

Isobel Aitken (chair) Dewi Morgan, Gordon Mutch, Lekki Shepherd, Jacinta Birchley, Andrea Schwedler, Lidia Revello de Torro, Inspector David Forsyth.

Apologies

Christine Burgess, Trevor Stack, Simon Barker, James Martin, Cllr Jim Noble, Cllr Ramsey Milne, Cllr Ross Grant, George Wood, Hazel Christie.

Isobel opened the meeting by introducing all present.
Only a small group as a many people are still on holiday.
More apologies than people at the meeting.

Minutes of 18th June meeting and Matters Arising

First Bus: Trevor to confirm with First Bus that they will attend the Sept OACC meeting. No set agenda from OACC.

Police:

Doug Ritchie is now the police contact person at the council as well as for OACC. The individual causing trouble at the St Machar Drive public bench has been visited & warned as to his future behaviour.

Tennis Courts at University: The 3 courts will remain but the one with the uneven surface will not be used. Cost of repair is too high to fix the damaged court.

Minutes 18th June: Approved & seconded.

Police report

- Incidents down 20% over the long term in OACC area.
- Police Scotland initiative on checking vehicle MOT's & Insurance.
- Vandalism/Spray Painting at Marischal College & Meston Walk was by the same individual. He was apprehended & charged.
- Foreign exchange tellers are being targeted by criminals – they attempt to bamboozle the teller by giving him money then taking some back etc.
- Lights at Spital/High St – will attempt to give some focus on freshers week dependant on resources.
- Freshers week – police will attend freshers events & highlight security.
- Dog fouling – legislation is in place to prosecute individuals who allow their dog to foul pavements & parks & don't pick it up. Only one witness is required and no corroboration.
- Dangerous dogs act is poor legislation – almost impossible to prosecute the owners of dangerous dogs. Only one of the breeds of dog referred to in the act is still around in the UK – the pit bull terrier. Police guidance on this is to take action if there are grounds of reasonable fear that a person may be injured.
- Theives tried to strip lead off the roof of the Bank of Scotland in the High Street. Aborted the attempt.

University Report

Postponed – Angus to reschedule.

Planning

Old:

Council Response on questions from George Wood/OACC on the CPZ:

“The review of the controlled parking zone was due to return to the May E P & I committee. However this was delayed due to a lack of staff resources to complete the surveys and they weren't completed before the students started to go off during May for their long summer break.

The public consultation was completed, however there was a very poor response from residents. The individual comments received throughout the process including those from Mr Wood will be considered within the report.

We are currently recruiting some of the vacant posts we have and it is our intention to complete the surveys on the periphery of the zone following the students returning in September/ October”.

Council response on questions from George Wood/OACC on Seaton Park:

“I know there has been and continues to be flooding in the park - but the park forms part of the natural flood plain for the Don - reference to historical maps will illustrate this. The cost of preventing the flooding would be disproportionate to any benefit achieved and may worsen flooding problems elsewhere. - eg at Kettocks Mills. Drainage within the park was cleaned and altered a couple years back and this solved the problem of water lying to any depth over the park, the level of the park and current water table does mean that at times of high rainfall the park takes longer to drain”.

All at the meeting were agreed the council response to the water lying in Seaton Park was unacceptable. We know this is a flood plain but standing water through the summer months is a new occurrence. The issue is with drainage and a council that is unwilling to commit resources to Seaton Park. To be taken up with councillors at the next meeting.

HMO's:

The Director of Housing & Environment will be giving the results of a council survey on HMO overprovision to the housing committee on Tuesday 27th August. He is recommending no restrictions on HMO's. Action: Gordon to send a letter to all our councillors + all on the committee stating that turning family houses into HMO's was a blight on our area turning parts into ghetto's.

New:

131173 37 Don St – replace windows with UPVC units, Comments to be submitted by 5 Sept. Object to the use of UPVC units. Action: Dewi

131192 Erection of 2 sculptures by the University (retrospective) Comments to be submitted by 6 Sept. Object to the obtrusive lighting associated with this. Action: Dewi. Maybe a letter to Angus as well?

131212 39-41 University Rd – Extension of property to rear Comments to be submitted by 5 Sept. Object due to gross overdevelopment (13 bedrooms – most doubles) Action: Dewi.

Treasurer

Gordon gave update.

Previous balance £1253.16.

One cheque paid to McKenzie Print (for the newsletter) of £248 making the present balance £1005.16.

It was thought appropriate that approximately £300 was made available for a community project & the rest to be retained for newsletters.

Reports of other meetings.

Community Council Forum

Barney Crockett & Valerie Watts in attendance. OACC tried to put across our displeasure with the chaos in the planning department. It wasn't well received.

Community Council Protocol is to be discussed at council. Comments by 2nd September to Karen Riddoch at ACC.

Correspondence

- Consultation on Litter Free Scotland – litter & fly tipping.
- Alcohol licensing review – out for consultation.
- Dog fouling fortnight 30th Sept to 13th Oct 2013.
- Planning Scotland's Seas – consultation.
- Fair trade – asking CC's to promote.
- City & Shire development plan update.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th September 7.30 pm New Kings.

AOCB

Ask Prof Rodgers to our next meeting. Action Isobel.

Lekky proposed that display boards at Seaton Park may be a possible "good cause" & use for the £300 available from OACC funds. This had been mooted by the head gardener. These would tell the history of the park + map + wildlife. Location – car park, gates, fountain. Obviously the cost would be considerably more than £300 but this could be seed money. Action: Lekky to follow up.