

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 19th April 2016

7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present and apologies

- Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), George Wood, Dewi Morgan, Lekky Shepherd, Isobel Aitken, Cllr. Ross Grant, Cllr. Michael Hutchison, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Danny McKay (Evening Express), David Adam (First Bus), Walter Elmslir (City Warden), Martin Quinn (City Warden), Alan Wight (UoA), Teresa Harwood (resident), Resident A (anonymous)
- Apologies: Darren Bruce (Police Scotland)

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

- Approved and seconded, with minor corrections.
- Matters arising
 - Resident A points out what appeared to be an error in the paper version of the new First Bus timetable – David Adam will investigate.
 - LS asks how often streets are cleaned, since there has been broken glass on University Road for several days, and IA reports something similar

3. Police update (if able to attend)

- Inspector Darren Bruce sends apologies and reports by email that:
 - he supports making Seaton Park safer, though the lighting would have to be adequate and ideally there would be CCTV
 - the person responsible for the break-ins reported at the start of the year has been arrested, bringing them to an end
 - most of the crimes reported this month have been road traffic, due to an ongoing operation

- He had previously reported on 21 March a Traveller encampment in Seaton Park, which was moved on
 - TS notes that Travellers encampments are not prosecuted under criminal law because of lack of temporary halting site, and asks whether City Council has made progress in identifying a site. RG responds that this has been politically very difficult, and MH reports that Shire has also failed to provide sites. DM asks why not possible to provide sites on land marked for expansion. RG to find out whether other cities in Scotland such as Edinburgh have provided sites. He notes that some groups – including the one that visited Seaton Park in March – have a poor record of behaviour, and are unlikely to confine themselves to legally-sanctioned sites, but a by-law would still help to deal with them.

4. City Wardens update

- GW reports that Council officers have still failed to correct figures provided in response to FOI request.
- City Wardens report ongoing parking violations by mosque during Friday prayers, though only a minority of mosque worshippers are to blame. Talks with the mosque are ongoing. TS notes that parking restrictions are lifted on Sunday mornings in the city centre to allow for Christian worshippers to park, and asks if the mosque has requested similar treatment. The city wardens explain that this would be difficult to implement because Friday prayers vary in time from one week to the next.
- Residents note that on other streets such as High Street and King's Crescent it appears that illegal parking is being tolerated, for example during match times at Pittodrie. City Wardens note this is an ongoing issue. They also acknowledge that the double yellow lines are breaking up on several streets.
- TS asked if First Bus staff have any issues finding parking bays. DA replies that there are more than enough parking spaces in the carpark, and that if any staff are parking on the street, as residents have observed, this is just laziness.

5. First Bus update

- No. 20 service has been revised in response to residents' observations.

6. Seaton Park – update and other issues

- LS reports delay in drainage of wetlands due to swans nesting, but work is now due to start.
- GW, GM and TS ask about muddy sections of other paths, including the path to Brig o' Balgownie, which have been deteriorating over the past decade.

7. Community Council Forum – proposed Planning Sub-Committee (DM)

- DM reports that CCF is now paying attention to HMO issue, and asks if any else would volunteer to attend the forthcoming meeting on the topic.

8. Planning issues

- Ex-public toilet has been bought and is being refitted as a café. No need for planning application for interior works since the building is not listed, and the site has been inspected, although planning permission is being sought for change of use (since previous permit has expired).
- 87 Don Street: OACC will only issue formal objection if new windows are of a different proportion to the old ones, or uPVC.
- 78 Don Street: proposing to build garage inside walls of garden that will be hard to see from street.
- Kings Pavillion: application for converting swimming pool into music hall. AW explains that only intended for rehearsal hall and therefore not currently necessary to consider access for performances.
- Bobbin Mill, proposed for development as student accommodation and shops: GM and GW attended meeting today. GM observed that no disabled parking and that no student parking even though some likely to have cars, though regards as reasonable development, and GW agrees.

9. UoA update

- AW reports that planning application will be submitted for William Guild Building, but otherwise plans remain on hold until Court meeting in June.

10. City Councillors' update

- RM reports that he and RG will be meeting with AUSA reps to attempt to resolve issue of Torcher Parade.
- Meeting with NesTrans looked at options for developing rail connection to Ellon and nearby settlements, as well as bus links. Crossrail should be operational from Inverurie to Montrose by 2019.

11. Treasurer's report

- Healthy.

12. Reports of other meetings

- None.
- LS reports on Friends of Seaton Park meeting, which reports on spending of money. They are planning for information boards, and for Parkfest in September.

13. Forthcoming meetings

- CCF Planning Sub-Committee meeting (see item 7)

14. Correspondence

- None

15. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tues 17 May at 7.30 in Old Town House

16. AOCB

- GM commemorates passing of Christine Burgess, after many years of contributing to Old Aberdeen, including through Community Council and Friends of Seaton Park.