

# Old Aberdeen Community Council Meeting

7.30 pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August [Rev.1]

in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

## Minutes

### 1. Present and apologies

- Present: Dewi Morgan (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Isobel Aitken, Gordon Mutch, David Craik, Eric Kiltie, Erik Rosljajev, Alan Wright (UoA), Isla Scott (AUSA), Louise Henrard (AUSA), Alexander Acheampoy (AUSA), Derek Gardiner, Elizabeth Hepburn, Bruce Adams, Jacinta Birchley, Alex McLellan (City Councillor), Michael Hutchison (City Councillor), Ross Grant (City Councillor), Police Officer (name & rank mislaid)
- Apologies: Lekky Shepherd, Teresa Harwood

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

- Minutes approved and seconded
- Matters arising – none

### 3. Police update

- 22 recorded crimes since June meeting and main ones detected, with no reported house breakings
- Officers will be using new handheld devices rather than notebooks
- To report crimes, recommended to call 101 (unless emergency) or to speak to officer on street or at Tillydrone station

### 4. Local issues and City Councillor updates

- Refurbishment of streets laid with granite setts: Eric Kiltie asks whether ACC has strategy to address maintenance of granite setts. Cllr. Ross Grant replies that he is in discussion with Roads officers and will be in touch with EK, as well as reporting back to September meeting.
- Don Street / Cheyne Road “garden island”: EK reports that work has begun and looks very promising.
- Fly-tipping in Dunbar/Don Street: EK reports that leaflet was distributed causing change in people’s behaviour, but unfortunately there is renewed fly-tipping, and large items are still not being uplifted. RG responds that he had called meeting including garbage collection crews and wardens, finding that on occasion items are not being reported by crews because they believe wardens have reported, and vice versa, therefore red labels are to be attached to items when reported, and wardens will be tasked with reporting. EK has also proposed possibility of automated system for uploading images taken on tablet of items needing uplifting.
- College Bounds re-laying of setts: DM notes that stones are being laid with large gaps, considerably more than the 20-25 mm standard gap, leaving considerable amount of stones left over, which may make for instability of setts. Excessive spacing has been suggested as a reason for the setts tipping over. He also queried whether a compacted base will be adequate if a strong mortar is to be used in place of the tar used elsewhere. RG refers to Cllr. Alex McLellan, who will report back to next meeting.
- Stretch of Chanonry leading to Don Street: AM has met with Doug Ritchie (Roads Manager) noting that ownership has not yet been established. DR asks whether OACC could write to 4

residents and other owners (Cathedral and UoA) asking about ownership of road, to avoid spending money on establishing ownership. DR had also suggested that community might provide labour and ACC material, but EK insists that ACC should adopt the road. RG proposed that it would still be necessary to attempt to establish ownership of road prior to adoption. UoA has confirmed that it is not liable for the road.

EK volunteered to make enquiries at the 4 adjoining domestic properties as to whether their title deeds mentioned liability for the road.

RG notes that ACC is reluctant to establish precedent for doing maintenance on unadopted road, or adopting road which is not in fit state. GM observes that in past ACC had enforced parking restrictions on road, though AM responds that this is public highway even though not adopted. EK doubts this would set precedent since this road is more than 300 years old, and arguably unique, but RG says will continue to explore the options.

- HMO licensing application for 39 King's Crescent: MH responds that application has been granted, but has been pursuing queries raised about planning enforcement, following queries from residents.

#### 5. UoA update

- Alan Wright reports that application for multi-use sports facilities at Hillhead and King's College has been resubmitted. UoA is in conversation with King's College Tennis Club, pending results of external consultation about site.
- Jacinta Birchley reports that Aberdeen Sports Village pricing structure has changed and is no longer user friendly for residents, especially for older ones. AW explains that ASV is independent of Council and UoA.

#### 6. AUSA reps update

- Freshers' Week will include events in student gardens beside Butchart. AUSA is trying to make gardens more accessible to residents.
- Louise Henrard asks what input would OACC like from AUSA in future. EK emphasizes that OACC is willing to help AUSA if approached, and hopes that vice versa.
- With regard to litter arising from nightclubs advertising during Freshers' Week, including at Hillhead, Isla Scott replies that she will speak with Security to ensure they are preventing this where possible.

#### 7. Seaton Park update

- DM reports there is plan for a van based temporary café in car park area, prior to considering possibility of a permanent café.
- Funding has been secured to repair the pathway down from St Machar Cathedral.

#### 8. Planning issues

- EK reports that, after receiving correspondence on Shelter Café and other matters, he would ask residents to stick to the facts, be brief and avoid hyperbole, they should assume that correspondence will be shared with OACC, avoid judging needs of others, and respect the fact that community councillors are volunteers.
- 1 Mounthooly Way: developers have submitted application for 2-unit Food and Drink unit – EK has yet to review it.
- External seating at Shelter Café: EK reports that after online survey it has been decided to support the application, though recognized that residents had raised some legitimate concerns, which need to be addressed.
- AW reports that little interest in old Dunbar Halls and OTC sites. EK reiterates that OACC is willing to discuss plans with any interested parties.

#### 9. Other local issues

- Main Issues Report consultation: DM reports results of public submissions on HMO, noting that most submissions appear concerned by HMO density, but observes that the question about the area used to determine HMO density appears to have been poorly understood, presumably because the terms 'ward', 'intermediate area' and 'small area' were not explained.
- Old Aberdeen Vision: DM reports that issues have been drawn up in the form of a spreadsheet, and are being systematically addressed, for example through meetings with UoA Principal. All Old Aberdeen Community Councillors have received a copy and are encouraged to identify issues that they would be willing to investigate. The autumn issue of The Auld Toon News will provide residents of an update on each of the key issues raised.

#### 10. Treasurer's report

- Role of treasurer now formally handed over by GM to ER. ER reports that finances are healthy.

#### 11. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meetings

- None reported

#### 12. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

#### 13. Representations from members of the public and AOB

- DC asks whether UoA is in discussion about lack of space in bicycle cooperative on High Street, which causes them to spill out onto street. AW replies that UoA is in conversation with them.