

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 16th August 2016 rev.1

7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Agenda

1. Present and apologies

Present: Isobel Aitken (chair), Trevor Stack (secretary), Dewi Morgan, Jacinta Birchley, Richard Harwood, Teresa Harwood, Sam Forman, Resident A, Sarah McIntyre, Cllr. Michael Hutchison (ACC), Cllr. Ross Grant (ACC), Liam Kerr MSP, Ronald Leith (Old Aberdeen Heritage Association), William Thom (Police Scotland), Lewis Macleod (AUSA), Chubbe Anucha (AUSA), Alan Wight (UoA)

Apologies: Gordon Mutch, Lekky Shepherd, George Wood

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes: proposed and seconded with minor amendments

No matters arising

3. Police update (WT)

- 16 offences detected out of 33 in 2-month period, including some bike thefts – though fewer than in past.
- RH asks whether police has any strategy for controlling cyclists going through red lights or on pavement. WT replies to say that police has no particular strategy, but respond on case by case basis.

4. UoA update (AW)

- AW reports that discussions ongoing about new home for Law School, which continues to grow, and new accommodation for science teaching.
- After heavy rain in December it has been necessary to invest in repairing windows and roofs across campus, and this work will be ongoing.
- 15 High Street needs refurbishing but use not yet identified.

5. AUSA reps update

- CA reports that AUSA are moving into The Hub, while consideration given to future of Butchart, which is likely to take at least 3 years. A minor bar will be installed in The Hub.

- AUSA will be doing everything to ensure Freshers' Week goes successfully with minimal disturbance, keeping down sound and channelling freshers away from University Road/College Bounds junction toward Regent and Meston Walk.
 - LM reports will be continuing joint city-student initiative started by Genna Clark to make Aberdeen a safer and more successful city.
 - CA has written to object to inappropriate consultation period (short and during summer) for First Bus no. 20 change in service.
6. Seaton Park – update (by email from Lekky Shepherd)
- Wetland water level has dropped due to previously unknown drain being breached during works, but has now been capped and water expected to return.
 - Parkfest being held on Sunday 11 September at 1-4 with a variety of activities.
7. Wallace Tower
- Funding was provided for further surveys, including of proposed 'sensory adventure trail,' which seems very promising and is likely to make Wallace Tower more sustainable.
8. Mitchell Hospital
- Ronald Leith: OAHS has formed working group with Friends of Mitchell Hospital, and asked Chair of Trustees, Sir Ian Diamond, what power working group would have to make approaches to funders. However, Sir Ian replied to say that the Trustees had decided unanimously to sell the building and then decide how to use the funds, probably transferring them to a similar local charity, or pursuing similar activities, after meeting obligations like outstanding Council Tax.
9. Proposed new primary school site
- RG explains that informal consultation has taken place for existing proposals, and suggestions invited from parents and the public. A report will be submitted to the Education Committee for discussion in September, and preferred options will then be put out for public consultation.
10. Granite Fight Factory
- DM reports that still does not have change of use permission. Signage and dimensions of gate are legal without planning permission even in conservation area, but gate itself requires planning permission if on Council owned land – which is being confirmed. Building owners (who are distinct from Fight Club managers) complain about parking on pavement outside, though similarly unclear whether pavement belongs to them. Owners have told Council officers they will open gate but it remains locked at many times of day.

- MH will seek removal of gate when determined that land belongs to Council, and has already made clear to Estates officers there would be serious objections to selling the land to the owners, including issues of access rights.

11. Roads (King Street resurfacing and 3rd Don Crossing kerbs)

- Issue was raised by GW who sent apologies – RG asks for GW to get in touch with him.

12. Planning issues

- Reporter visited 17 University Road and King's Crescent St Peters St sites on Monday 15th August, and will take decision in days to come.
- Proposal to house Catholic Bishop and offices at 14 Chanonry. Resident A queries whether this will create further parking problems on Chanonry, as well as setting precedent for bringing business into residential area. No agreement to object as OACC.
- 66 Tillydrone Ave: change of use to HMO – OACC objected to original application and planning permission refused. New application does not involve increase in house size. No agreement to object as OACC.
- 177 Spital: architect asks OACC to withdraw objection to UPVC windows since proposing to change to wood windows - OACC is awaiting details of this.
- 27 King's Crescent: planning permission submitted for replacing older windows, prior to Conservation Area and unsuitable to it, by more suitable windows. OACC objected due to insufficient information; owner explains that Thistle Windows were at fault. RM explains that Council officer can ask Thistle Windows to supply missing information, and owner can encourage them to do this.
- BT Froghall site:

13. City Councillors' update

- RM reports changes to planning applications webpage. DM notes that the site has better functionality though still needs to be better populated with data.

14. MSP Liam Kerr (NE district) update

- Visiting community councils (of which he has personal experience) and, though there is good constituency MSP, he also welcomes approaches from community councillors and residents.

15. Treasurer's report

- Waiting for invoice for newsletter.

16. Reports of other meetings

17. Forthcoming meetings

- Community Council Forum pending.

18. Correspondence

- Already forwarded by email.

19. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 20 September at 7.30 in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

20. AOCB

- Resident A reports that neighbours had enquired about pink strip on Tillydrone Ave between pavement and main road, opposite cycle lane, and on which residents are currently parking, obstructing view of drivers exiting lane.