

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 9th December 2014 at 7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes *(Revision 1)*

A revised Agenda was presented.

1. **Present:** Isobel Aitken (chair), Gordon Mutch, George Wood, Dewi Morgan, Christine Burgess, Jacinta Birchley, a Resident, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Sgt. Allan Masson (Police Scotland), Emily Beever (AUSA), Jenny Waters (AUSA).
University of Aberdeen: - Margaret Ross (Vice-Principal), Theresa Merrick (Director of External Affairs), Richard Wells (College of Physical Science), Allan Wight (Estates).

Apologies: Cllr. Ross Grant, Trevor Stack, Simon Barker and Alexandra Shepherd.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

- Minutes approved, Proposed by GM, seconded by CB.
- Update on the "Bins in the Spital". When contacted, Environmental Health advised that the complainant should write to the individual landlords. When this was done, the landlords forwarded the letters to the tenants without redacting the name and address of the complainant, thus advising the tenants who was complaining. It was felt that this might be a breach of Data Protection and exposed the complainant to action by disgruntled tenants.
UoA had replied to a letter on the subject and the City Wardens had been contacted. Things have improved.

3. Police update

Insp. Bruce's responses, as previously circulated.

- Awaits a reply from Doug Ritchie (ACC) on the deployment of flashing signs on College Bounds.
 - Awaits a reply from ACC Events Team on the proposed "Digital Love" event in Seaton Park.
 - Detailed reply on the topic of cycling on pavements and actions which are taken.
- Sgt. Masson presented
- Statistics: - 4 thefts from motor vehicles. 4 assaults (all within properties), 6 breach of the peace, 5 possession, 1 robbery in Seaton Park (this has been detected and a person charged), 2 breach of bail conditions, 6 thefts of bicycles, 2 housebreaking (sheds and garages), 2 vandalism, etc.
 - A "Flexible Policing Unit", comprising 1 Sgt. and 6/8 Constables, has been created in the Aberdeen Police Area. Tillydrone area has applied to have this unit deployed in their area within the next two weeks, to create high profile policing aimed at reducing all crimes and anti-social behaviour in the area.
EB asked that Police Scotland liaise with AUSA in order that they were able to advise students of the rationale behind the deployment and when it might be expected.

- GW drew attention to an email received from the Civic Forum requesting responses to a survey by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary as part of an inspection being undertaken on local policing.
4. **Pre-Application Consultation (P1414787)** on the proposed Science Block on the corner of Bedford Road and St. Machar Drive.
- It is designed as a teaching and research unit for energy based programmes.
 - The UoA officials presented the proposals with a display of projections, layouts and artists impressions.
 - The Pre-Application is a new process in which, before any planning application can be submitted, the applicant consults with the public and planning officials. ACC Planning Committee will then meet as a "Forum" and decide on the merits of the application. As explained by RM.
 - A public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 10th December in the Hub and some disquiet was expressed about the lack of advance notice.
 - It was requested that a further consultation meeting should be scheduled for January to allow time to fully advertise the meeting locally and allow residents to fully participate, if they so wish.
 - The site for the new building is now defined and it was emphasised that the building would not be built to the kerbline, as previously suggested.
 - If and when the new building it is completed, the Meston Building will be demolished entirely and the area landscaped. There are no plans or proposals in the, now approved, UoA 10 year Plan to develop the site.
 - Architects have been appointed, but the final form of the building has not yet been defined. As seen it will be two storeys lower than the Library and will be a rectangular block, longer side along St. Machar Drive, with a lower block across the main block axis between the main block and The Hub. This is required to accommodate 40 to 50 metre flumes for Fluid Dynamics.
 - Service areas will be at the south east corner, hidden from both public roads, with access from Bedford Road.
 - There have been no decisions yet as to cladding.
 - The existing "hill" on the site will be removed and the building foot will be at or near the level of St. Machar Drive.
 - CB drew attention to possible interaction with the 3rd Don Crossing works, but it is to be hoped that this would be completed before work starts on the site.
 - UoA hope to encourage feedback on their plans and all submissions received will be recorded and considered.
 - **NOTE:** - During discussion of the UoA plans, the University Group stated that they had been informed by Roads that after the changes to St. Machar Drive resulting from the 3rd Don Crossing, there will be no right turn from St. Machar Drive into Elphinstone Road. Traffic from the north will be required to travel down St. Machar Drive to the King Street roundabout and do a U-turn there, returning up the length of St. Machar Drive to Elphinstone Road.

DUNBAR HALLS

GW asked for clarification of the recent Dunbar Halls press release.

- The various professional packages, including architecture, for such a development requires to be advertised under EU tender/competition rules and this process has now been started.
- No plans or decisions have yet been finalised or submitted.

- A Pre-Application consultation will be undertaken when outline plans are available

5. **UoA Representative**

- Dealt with under 4.

6. **AUSA Representative**

- **EB** The tour of the Butchart premises previously arranged had been cancelled.
- **A new date of Friday 16th January 2015 at 10.00 was arranged.**
- It was asked whether the tour was open to other than Community Councillors. It will be open to any local resident who wishes to attend.
- **JW** Gave the final sum raised by the Students' Rag Week as £7,815.35. A full list of the 37 local charities for 2014-15 is available on the AUSA website.

7. **City Councillors' update**

- **RM** advised the meeting that the Scottish Government Reporter, despite strenuous lobbying by ACC, has stated that the Local Development Plan is not acceptable in its present form and that all Supplementary Guidance will now have to be contained within the body of the report.
- The full implications of this are not yet clear, but it will involve a considerable amount of additional work by Planning, a department already understaffed and stretched.
- It is not know if the revised report will require to be resubmitted for public consultation.
- **RM** attended a public meeting at Tillydrone regarding the Balfour Beatty's conduct of the 3rd Don Crossing site. A specified BB appointment has been made to deal with all complaints.
- Many of the problems are related to the alteration and re-routing of Utilities, over the timing of which BB have no control.

8. **Planning**

- P141787 – dealt with under 4. above.
- P141744 – Cruickshank Trees No detailed schedule has been seen. It is available on request, but it not known where.
- P141700 University Signs (#166). GW visited Marischal College to see the plans, as they were not available on the website, despite a month having elapsed. They consist of 5 sheets of drawings, but no specification of what form the signs take. No Case Officer has yet been appointed. The date for objection has passed. It was resolved to object on the basis of lack of information and GW is to prepare a letter.
- GW again raised the lack of information on the Planning website. It is appreciated that the Department is understaffed and under pressure and that it is not a statutory duty to display information on the website, but when, after telephoning to check that the papers are available, a visit produces totally unacceptable levels of information, then it must be deemed that the Department is not satisfying its statutory duty in regard to consultation. This also appears to apply to the appointment of Case Officers.
- It was suggested that where an application is of strategic importance, such as UoA's Science Block, then it should be given priority for up-loading to the website immediately.

9. Treasurer's Report

- The bill for printing the Newsletter has not yet been received.
- A single outlay of £25 was made during the month.
- DM was encouraged to arrange an early purchase of the projector.

10. Reports of other meetings.

- DM reported on the recent meeting of the Community Council Forum when it was addressed by two speakers. DW has requested transcripts of both presentations for information to Community Council.
- **CB** Reported on the recent well attended meeting of Friends of Seaton Park where it was agreed to proceed with the process of gaining a "Green Flag" status for the Park with the support of AAC's Environmental Department.
- **GW** Reported on the very enlightening seminar on the maintenance of traditional buildings and tabled copies of the free literature from Historic Scotland.

11. Correspondence

- Recent information discussed from Karen Rennie regarding the removal of Community Councillors who do not attend meetings, or the granting of "leave of absence".
- This will not apply to OACC and it was felt that those who could not attend regularly still contributed to the Council's business.
- CB commented that people should be encouraged to attend as often as possible and not discouraged.
- GM advised that we should be looking for new members, especially the young, for the future.

12. Date and venue for next meeting

Tuesday 20th January 2015 at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse.

13. AOCB

None

The meeting closed with festive greetings to all.