

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 20th December 2016
7.30pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch, Dewi Morgan, Isobel Aitken, Michael Hutchison, PC Grieg Manley, Alan Wight, Lewis MacLeod, Resident A

Apologies: Teresa Harwood, George Wood, Lekky Shepherd

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising:

Minutes were approved: proposed Gordon Mutch, seconded Dewi Morgan.

Matters arising: None

3. Police update:

25 reported crimes in area over last month.

Shoplifting

Bicycle thefts – reminder issued to students to use locks and remove all attachments.

Assaults – no suspects. This happened during day 6pm-ish rather than later in evening.

Seaton park assaults are being investigated by CID, general patrols have been increased in the Seaton Park and University area.

4. UoA update:

Kings College clock chimes – University Estates are working on them. It has been discovered that the chiming mechanism is out of sync with the clock. Specialist repairers will attend to the clock in the New Year.

St Mary's - scaffold has been erected for repairs.

Town house repairs – clock remains the responsibility of the city council, light not working, AW will contact them. Street lighting on pavement is not working this is University responsibility so AW will report.

Planning applications – Court approved progression for science teaching block, on corner of St Machar Drive. April /May before can bring brief to Community Council.

IA wishes to commend the University on behalf of the community; the Christmas tree on the lawn is exceptionally beautiful this year.

5. AUSA reps update:

Preparing for refreshers week 16th January 2017. Cheese and wine night, 24hr hockey match are a couple of the events.

Application has been submitted to Scot Gov climate change fund. This is for funding for allotments in secret garden next to Butchart. These allotments will be available to students to grow vegetables and will link to food waste awareness and cooking on a budget. Project relies on funding.

Priority campaign at present – prevention of compulsory redundancy amongst staff, AUSA is working with unions on this.

Schools project still being worked on – encouraging school children to come to see what University is all about.

6. Seaton Park update:

Mr Therm is getting close to being returned to the park.

Seven fruit trees to be planted near play area.

Vandalism in play area, this was discovered Monday 19th, some of play equipment has been broken – Stephen Shaw ACC has been notified.

Lilies (the variety see in the Old Aberdeen coat of arms) planted in walled garden last month as a memorial to Christine Burgess, a long term leading member of the Old Aberdeen Community Council.

7. Primary schools provision plans for Tillydrone / St. Peters':

Consultation finished, 2 proposals from councils, neither popular with parents.

Force fit and do not suit either Riverbank and St Peter's.

MH has asked what the impact of St Peters move will have on Sunnybank and Seaton as both are almost at capacity.

GM sent letter on behalf of Community Council regarding consultation. GM also sent in letter complaining about the consultation process and a lack of clarity on how the council went from pre-consultation to giving two options for a new primary school in Old Aberdeen/Tillydrone.

8. Planning issues:

- Mission Hall gateway – Approved; removed 1 car parking space and SUDs drainage since original application.
- Café in former High St toilet– Refused – ‘The materials proposed to be used for the building would be inappropriate for the historical context of the site’.
- 44 Kings Crescent, fight club – approved conditionally 10am to 8pm opening hours. MH was asked about putting the side lane on open market, he suggested no, but evidently not yet fully resolved within the City Council. The question was asked if pressure is being put on council to sell. Various residents in this area use the lane for access to their properties. Steven Booth from the assets management department is dealing with this.

The following question was asked at the meeting: If an official within the council is looking into selling any asset, who makes the final decision and who is consulted? One official can't decide that the sale is in the best interest of the public.

- 6 Cheyne Rd – small extension/ big garage – still pending
- 18 Chanonry – widening of entrance and new gates. Approved
- 8 Cheyne Road – 5 to 8 bedroom HMO Refused.
- 113 High Street – replacement of 3 attic windows. Pending
- Hillhead playing fields – new lights, surfacing, fencing. Comments until 4 Jan but possibly now withdrawn. AW confirmed that planning application has been withdrawn by University and will be resubmitted in January/ February. Rugby and football synthetic pitches, new floodlights will be more efficient and can be more easily controlled. Notification didn't go to all nearby houses, scrubland belongs to University so houses in Lord Hays Grove did not receive notification. Residents have concerns regarding the floodlights and light pollution. AW to feed information on plans to DW, including spec for lighting.

9. City Councillors' update: MH

Sunnybank school – parking restriction lines being repainted and safety barriers being put in place at entrances to school.

Sunnybank Road - bins on pavement narrowing path and causing an obstruction so this is going to be investigated. Hedges also grown over pavement.

Graffiti has been removed in Jute street area.

10. Treasurer's report: No change; £443.88

11. Reports of other meetings and forthcoming meetings:

Union Terrace Gardens – DM attended stakeholders meeting.

Practicable solution to improve the garden but they still don't seem to have blend right, mature trees in South then community garden in a heavily shaded - where nothing will grow?

Planning Democracy workshop 3rd December; DM attended

Community Council Forum – planning subgroup – 14th Dec DM stated OA main issues. HMO

- key priority is to manage density. Recommend council ward to big. Census output area 50 households. 10% absolute max density
- process of obtaining permission needs to be co-ordinated. Planning application and HMO application need to be combined so that applicant gets all decisions at same time. Dundee has an integrated process, so it is possible.
- Notification of new HMO applications and renewals. Posters on lampposts don't work as they can be removed or missed. Need weekly notification to CC's

Community Council Forum – boundaries Sub group

This group was established some time ago and work undertaken to develop an action plan and to look at the maps for each of the CC's areas. No meeting arranged so far.

St Peter's GM

AWPR -GM. Balmedie section delayed by a year. But everything coming together and looks like it will come in on time. Not much earth movement waste as moved from area to area on the project, very little land fill.

Future meetings:

Planning Aid Scotland event Beach Ballroom 14th January 10-4. One place per CC, DW or GM will attend.

Community Council forum – planning subgroup: Meeting with Neil Carnegie, Communities and housing area manager, either 9th or 10th January prior to HMO report presentation.

12. Date and venue for next meeting:

Tuesday 17th January

13. AOCB

Scottish Government "barriers to community engagement in the Scottish planning system" online survey, notification of this consultation was sent to OACC on 20th December, replies by 23rd December.

Isobel Aitken is doing the reading on behalf of OACC at St Machar's Cathedral service on Christmas Eve.

Gordon Mutch closed the meeting by wishes everyone a Merry Xmas and all the best for 2017.