

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 21st January 2014 at 7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present and Apologies:

Present: Jacinta Birchley, George Wood, Gordon Mutch, Dewi Morgan, Andrea Salvona, Cllr Ramsay Milne, Christine Burgess, Mark Harrison (Police Scotland), Sumon Hoque, Lekky Shepherd, resident

Apologies: James Martin, Simon Barker, Abdul Latif, Cllr Ross Grant

2. Minute of December Meeting (attached) and Matters Arising

- Minor change to minutes and then approved, pending approval of Prof. Rodger.
- Item 6 HMO Update: agreed to hold separate meeting to discuss Council HMO policy.
- Item 7 34-36 St Peter Street: now approved by Scottish Government, though community councillors queried why the Scottish Government was overturning the decision of the City Council on an entirely local matter. They also queried why Cllr. Milne had originally voted in favour of the proposal (as well as that of 39-41 University Road). He explained that he felt it met the planning criteria, though councillors proposed that his role was not merely to apply planning criteria but instead to represent local interests.

3. Police Update: Sgt. Mark Harrison

- Have been incidents of housebreaking which are under investigation.
 - SH proposes that need for more surveillance, including CCTV on King's Crescent. MH doesn't know if there is budget for CCTV but suggests setting up Neighbourhood Watch, though other resident notes that setting up Neighbourhood Watch is difficult because there are increasing number of HMOs which means now relatively few permanent residents and little civic spirit.
- Appreciates that community concerns about traffic offences on High Street, which trying to address but delayed due to staff shortage and other commitments.

4. Update from City Councillors (RM)

- New communications policy has been decided for Third Don Crossing. Pre-contact works have started and CPO process nearly completed. Clarifies that Berryden Corridor will be completed long after the Third Don Crossing, probably by 2019, and acknowledges that this is likely to cause traffic problems around Old Aberdeen.

5. University Planning (in absence of UoA representatives, IM reads out statement from Angus Donaldson)

- UoA 10-year old Strategic Plan is on UoA website – comments are invited for next month's meeting, which AD will attend at 8.30 pm.
- Highlights plans to improve student experience, including the new nursery, changes to the functioning of the chaplaincy, and the development of Butchart Building, Elphinstone Pavillion and other properties. Negotiations are ongoing with ACC about the future of UoA's holdings in Marischal College.

6. King's Museum Update (Dr. Neil Curtis, Curator)

- NC explains he is Head of Museums and not just King's Museum, and that he has increasing role to play in the other museums that previously the sole responsibility of Schools. He wants the collections to be concentrated around King's College.

- Notes that UoA holds significant collections that National Audit 2002 ranked as the 5th largest collection in Scotland, and this is reflected in the substantial funding that the UoA has brought in for museums in recent years.
- Museums are involved in both research and also teaching, including the MLitt in Museum Studies which was launched this year.
- King's Museum is to host temporary exhibitions that showcase particular collections, though will also include small permanent display on history of the building. Zoology Museum has been refurbished.
- As discussed in previous meeting, there may be plans afoot to house collections in St Mary's.
- Marischal College facilities need to be renovated, access given to disabled etc. In the long term might be best for ACC to take over building, perhaps for Museum of Aberdeen.

7. OACC Constitution

- Draft discussed in previous meetings - signed and approved.

8. LDP Main Issues Report Consultation (TS)

- Consultation ongoing until 24 March, so can discuss at the February meeting.

9. Planning Matters (GW)

- Dismay expressed at precedent set by approval of 39-41 University Road.
- Discussion of proposed sculptures outside University Library, especially the very bright lights on the main sculpture that are a problem for passer-bys and nearby residents. Planning Department has said that this is not a planning issue, so the meeting decides to address this instead with Angus Donaldson at the February meeting.
- 516 Chaplains Court: Council has accepted a revised version of the proposal to which OACC had objected in May 2012. Most councillors are not averse to the final proposal, but object that they were not informed of the significantly revised plan submitted in February 2013.

10. Treasurer's Report (GM)

- Given account balance, it was agreed to commit funds to Friends of Seaton if they come forward with a suitable proposal in this fiscal year.

11. Nominations for Royal Garden Party

- Agreed to nominate owners of Kilau Cafe.

12. Reports of Other Meetings

- Postponed to February meeting.

13. Correspondence (TS)

- Reported under other items.

14. Date and Venue for February meeting

- 7.30 pm on 18 February in the Townhouse

15. AOCB

- LS asks how often OACC's objections to planning applications have been upheld in the past 5 years. Councillors agree that around 5% of our objections have been upheld.