

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 20th January 2014 at 7.30 pm
Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present: Isobel Aitken (chair), Trevor Stack, George Wood, Gordon Mutch, Christine Burgess, Dewi Morgan, Lekky Shepherd, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Inspector Darren Bruce (Police Scotland), Jenny Waters (AUSA), Emily Beever (AUSA), Tamsin Morris (Walking the Talk)
Apologies: Jacinta Birchley, Theresa Merrick, Shaunagh Kirby
2. Minutes of previous meeting: approved with minor changes
Matters arising: Inspector Bruce reports that Doug Ritchie has said it would not be possible to put in a flashing speed alert on College Bounds, due to norms; and the Festival which had applied for a license for Seaton Park has now gone elsewhere.
3. Police update
DB: 14 incidents reported since last meeting, including graffiti at Brig of Balgownie, which are still investigating; DM advises to email cleanaberdeen@aberdeencity.gov.uk to get graffiti cleaned.
DM asks about proposal to merge Aberdeen City and Shire policing—DB explains this will largely affect senior management, and is unlikely to affect structure of local policing areas, e.g. Tillydrone and Seaton.
4. Seaton Park Wetlands (Tasmin Morris, Walking the Talk)
 - TM: Walking the Talk in partnership with CBEC have been contracted by ACC to draw up proposals for flooded area in Seaton Park, with local consultation, prior to ACC applying in March for Aberdeen Greenspace funding. Reports on previous project for East Tullow Burn.
 - TM: need for community to decide priorities—for example, whether path around north side must be restored (LS points out this would help park to obtain Green Flag status). TM expects to narrow down to around 4 options, to include leaving it as it is.
 - Not clear reason for flooding—this was original course of river but many centuries ago. May be caused by blocked drains or increased rain. GM argues that most likely caused by blocked drains, since happens so quickly, though GW points out that 20% increase in annual rainfall since 1961—he would like to see whether water level matches high tide in estuary; CB asks whether construction of Lord Hays Grove may have affected, though DW notes that LHG will have permeable foundations.
 - TM proposes to post notices calling for input in Brig of Don, Lidl; EB proposes in Butchart, too. TM can be contacted at tamsin@walking-the-talk.co.uk or 07796 892937.
 - GW hopes that TM will return at next meeting to give preliminary report.
5. Seaton Park paths and play area (GW)
Steven Shaw replies promptly and fully to GW's query about why Seaton Park play area isn't being refurbished—it isn't a priority this year—but CB reminds that walkabout group in November.

6. Dumping on Spital (JB)

JB reports (by email) continued dumping of large items by bins on Spital. RM believes that Mark Reilly is the Council officer to approach, and will confirm.

7. Don Street vicinity (GW)

- GW will pursue roads issues around Liberty student residence, as well as where Don Street meets Cheyne Road.

8. Old Aberdeen Character Appraisal (DM)

- DM: still many factual and grammatical errors in Old Aberdeen Appraisal, despite input from OAHS and OACC, which worries DM—will the final document be reliable? RM believes it will, but will remind Council officers.

9. Community Council Forum issues with Planning Department (GW)

With regard to the draft Planning agreement between CCF and ACC, which CCF is proposing to draw up, CB notes that Planning Department is clearly under severe strain (RM confirms)—which suggests that this might not a good time to be trying to reach an agreement. GW notes, for example, that the Planning Department is failing in its statutory duty to provide information to Community Councils. DM asks OACC members to let him know whether OACC wishes to continue participating in the drafting of the agreement.

10. Invitation to Queen's Garden Party (TS)

Agreed that Helen Leith should be nominated.

11. AUSA reps update

In response to EB's presentation, OACC will support AUSA's call for input from the community with regard to the proposed refurbishment of the Butchart Centre.

12. City Councillors' update

RM reports concerns about drastic cuts expected to Council funding. Council is also looking for ways to improve affordable housing stock. Looking at proposals for new Exhibition Centre, as well as trying to develop proposal for improved rail connections to Aberdeen area.

13. Planning issues

- Proposal for 166 University signs—GW has been unable to get a response.
- Pre-application for Science Building: meeting will be on Monday 5 Feb.
- Proposed extension to Lidl—decided that not major concern.

14. Treasurer's report

Finances remain healthy. Agreed to offer support for Cakefest.

15. Reports of other meetings

GM attended Tillydrone Community Development Trust meeting—reports that planning continues for Wallace Tower.

16. Correspondence

None (other than above).

17. Date and venue for next meeting

Old Aberdeen Townhouse, 17 February at 7.30 pm.

18. AOCB