

Old Aberdeen Community Council Meeting

7.30 pm on Tuesday 15th January

in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

MINUTES

1. Present and apologies
 - Present: Dewi Morgan (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Gordon Mutch, Daniel Warren, Isobel Aitken, Lekky Shepherd, Eric Kiltie, Erik Rosljajev, Lina Nass (AUSA), Harry Chalkin (AUSA), Cllrs. Dell Henrickson (ACC), Michael Hutchison (ACC), Alex McLellan (ACC), Maria Thies (Education, ACC), Alan Wight (UoA), Ronald Leith (OAHs), Local resident, Bruce Adams, Ben Hendry (P&J)
 - Apologies: Iina Jaara, Teresa Harwood, David Craik
2. Minutes of previous meeting (attached) and matters arising
 - Minutes approved with no matters arising
3. Police update
 - Sgt. Robertson: 16 recorded crimes of which 9 detected, all minor
 - DM reports that cars are cutting corner on Bedford Road at bus gate, driving onto pavement – Sgt. Robertson will look into this
 - DW reports that car continue to drive past fire station even when fire engines are driving out. Sgt. Robertson will raise with Kittybrewster colleagues.
4. Maria Thies, ACC Estates Programme Manager to discuss consultation regarding St Peter's school move
 - Explains that ACC committee instructed officer to report on feasibility of move of St Peter's school to site of Riverbank school, and now officers have reported that move is feasible, recommending maximum investment to upgrade site to Riverbank. Committee has asked officers to conduct statutory consultation, to start on 4 Feb for 7 weeks, and is preparing proposal document for consultation. Process will include 3 public meetings, including one geared to the wider diocese. Difference to previous consultation is that this will focus on investments to be made. Given need to upgrade Riverbank building, St Peter's will not move before 2021.
 - GM regrets that St Peter's would be moving out of Old Aberdeen and away from the University, with which it has long been associated. MT replies that St Peter's as Catholic school actually serves quite broad area.
 - Local resident asks if St Peter's roll has gone down. MT replies that it has, and agrees uncertainty around Brexit, but school remains over capacity.
 - MT clarifies, in response to questions from TS, that the consultation document will be based on the Council officers' report, proposing that St Peter's moves to Riverbank once the Riverbank building has been modified, giving details of the upgrade deemed necessary to the building. Unlike the previous consultation, there will not be different options to choose among, but instead general comments will be invited from the public on the proposal. DH, who is on the Education Committee, confirms that the report recommends Riverbank should be upgraded from the current Grade B to Grade A, and includes details of the proposed upgrading. The Committee has already agreed that the proposal will be referred to budgeting after the consultation.

5. UoA update

- AW gives further detail of proposed accessible route across campus, discussed at previous meeting. Local resident regrets that the lane, which is the last remnant of medieval Aberdeen, is to be modified. AW explains that UoA did discuss with conservation planners the option of removing the stones and planing them offsite, since this could not be done in situ, but was informed that the cost would be £100Ks. Local resident will investigate whether there's a cheaper way of planing the existing stones, and AW will get a costing for planing and report back next month. AW passes around possible styles of granite for the accessible route.
- Construction expected to start on Science Hub by March.

6. AUSA reps update

- LJ reports 24-hour hockey at Hillhead currently, and on 25 Feb will hold 24-hour tennis at University Road courts, raising funds for Children's Hospital.

7. Seaton Park update

- FSP will be organizing collection of fallen branches and invites public to gather sticks in piles by pathways.

8. Planning issues

- 6 St Machar Place: RL and local resident explain that OAHS will be objecting to the proposed addition of French windows, even though these will not be visible from the street, since it is considered that the whole property is covered by the revised Conservation Area regulations, and that this will affect the character of the property, as was indicated in the Government reporter's decision on an earlier proposal.

9. Other local issues

- Police attendance at OACC meetings: discussed with Sgt. Robertson earlier
- Drainage issue at corner St Machar Drive / Dunbar Street (south): Cllr. AM will investigate
- UoA Rigid Marquee at Church Walk: AW explains this was additional space provided for 3 weeks for any overspill from the Infocub handling registration of new students
- Vehicles ignoring College Bounds lights: EK reports that suppliers of businesses on High Street seemed to be ignoring College Bounds lights, and proposes that ACC or police raise the issue with business owners
- Litter and fly-tipping Dunbar Street (north) and Don Street (by Bede House): EK reports chronic problem of litter and fly-tipping, especially when people moving into or out of tenement flats on Dunbar Street. DM proposes EK writes article for next newsletter on fly-tipping, and AM will speak to officers about the issue. DM shows slide of refuse on College Bounds on Christmas Day.

10. City Councillors' update

- King's Crescent: Estates Surveyor has asked to meet with DM
- College Bounds bus gate: AM reports this will be voted by committee
- DW notes that several streetlights are out at Mounthooly Roundabout. DH says to report on Council's electronic portal – if more than 3 lights in row reported, this is considered emergency.
- AM responds to question about EK that there is ambiguity about ownership of road from Chanonry to Don Street. ACC would only adopt if the road meets the required standards. For now, it only repairs if the condition is judged to be dangerous.

11. Treasurer's report: nothing to report
12. Proposal to develop Local Place Plan for Old Aberdeen, using Place Standard tool
 - DM explains that preparations are under way for public meetings in March in Dunbar Hall to evaluate Old Aberdeen using Place Standard tool: agreed to hold on Sat 23 March 10-12 and Tues 26 Mar from 7-9 pm, with a follow-up meeting on Sat 6 April from 10-12
13. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meetings
 - DM attended Community Council Forum
 - DW to attend next Civic Forum
 - Vattenfall announces Unlock Our Future fund
 - Art Roots funding for artwork along proposed National Cycle Network, which is to go down High Street
 - Climate Week North East on 15-24 March
14. Date and venue for next meeting
 - Tues 19 February at 7.30 in Old Aberdeen Townhouse
15. Representations from members of the public and AOB
 - Local resident reports that after receiving complaints from residents, she discovered from driver that First Bus have just changed no. 20 timetable without informing public, and will change again on 28 Jan when route returns to Hillhead. It appears the website has now been updated, but there is no information on the bus stops.