

# Old Aberdeen Community Council

7.30 pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018

in Old Aberdeen Town House

## Minutes

### Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Isobel Aitken, Dewi Morgan, Teresa Harwood, Cllr. Michael Hutchison, Cllr. Alex McLean (p/t)  
Alan Wight (UoA), PC Allan, Ben Reid (P&J), Eric Kiltie, David Craik, Shona Mutch (minutes)

Apologies: Lekky Shepherd, Lewis MacLeod (AUSA), Cllr. Henrickson, Cllr Houghton

### Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes approved by Gordon Mutch and seconded by Isobel Aitken.

### Police update

No serious assaults reported for May. 1 report of antisocial behaviour, 5 incidents of theft, 1 house breaking and 2 shoplifting cases.

PC Allan was asked about the serious assault that took place in Dunbar Street at the end of April, as it was not mentioned in the crime report. This was mentioned by a resident at OACC May meeting and the police reported then that it would be included in report to Junes meeting. PC Allan reported that a man had been charged and there was no risk to the community.

Operation Armour commenced in April, this is aimed at reducing antisocial use of off-road motorcycles. PC Allan was asked how do members of the public report these instances? If there is a risk to the public you should dial 999. For other instances, members of the public should collect as much information as they can, descriptions of people and motorcycles, even photographic evidence and contact the local station at Tillydrone.

Although no reports of bogus callers or rough traders operating in the Old Aberdeen area, people should remain vigilant.

### UoA update

#### 91 High Street:

The University have had discussions with the owners of the flat above the former bank, they are quite happy with the proposals. Planning application has been submitted to ACC

#### Science teaching hub:

The University are working with the planning department on amendments to submitted plans.

### Pedestrian route from King Street to Library:

Discussions taking place between University and conservation planner at ACC on walkway and pillow crossing of High Street. Discussions have also taken place with North East Sensory Services with regards to surface to aid those with visual difficulties. Improvements to lighting in the area could be progressed before the winter.

University budgets will be approved in July so more information will be available for August meeting.

DM asked about work being carried out at number 100 High Street which is University owned. AW to report back to next meeting.

AUSA reps: no report

### Seaton Park:

1. The AGM of Friends of Seaton Park took place Tues 19th June at Dunbar Halls 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
2. For the Friends, the main update is our sad decision to reluctantly cancel this year's Parkfest. A number of factors have forced this decision: there has been an exponential increase in the regulations and concomitant extra paperwork for such events coupled with ACC's withdrawal from supplying gazebos and furniture together with the necessary manpower for erection. These last could be sourced and financed separately but this would entail creating a whole new model for the funding, organisation and production of the event for this year, placing even greater - and frankly unacceptable - demands on the small core management committee upon whom the work depends. Additionally this year the core committee is seriously depleted, as close to 50% of the group cannot be available for the event, for some due to other pressing commitments and for others due to the demands of serious health issues. In sum, the committee was faced with insurmountable challenges which forced the decision to cancel.  
It is to be hoped that next year we will be able to deal with these challenges and a find a new model - possibly involving new partners - to produce the event. In the meantime, our thanks to ACC for all their help and to the volunteers for their sterling work on the days all of which has enabled the running of the event over the past three years.
3. On a more positive note the base for the permanent ping-pong table is due to be put in place in July, the resurfacing of the sloping path down from the St Machar's entrance towards the river will shortly be taking place and the triangular areas inside and immediately outside the St Machar's entrance gate will also shortly be upgraded.

## Planning issues

### 91 High Street:

Three planning applications for conversion of the former bank to the University 'InfoHub' which is currently located in the Hub building.

Application to install sign on front of building, traditional wooden style. (The sign on 110 is also to be replaced with same traditional style).

Ramp access to rear of building is proposed.

Sun pipes to be installed in flat roof at rear to give extra light to rear of building.

Discussion regarding proposed soundproofing of ceiling DM felt the proposal was not adequate. AW indicated that holes in present ceiling were to be filled in addition to insulation.

### 39 University Road:

HMO property currently being extended is applying to erect solar panels to rear of property. No grounds to object.

### 49 University Road:

Replace UPVC front door with new wooden door. Conditional approval granted – door must be painted burgundy and frame white in perpetuity. The colour specification in perpetuity is surprising.

## Land behind Lidl:

Chronic litter problem has not been dealt with yet. Friends of Seaton Park thought they would have manpower to deal with this but that didn't materialise. Trees and grass are in full growth so this issue will be addressed in the Spring when access to the area is easier.

## Councillors' update

### Kings Crescent:

Illicit gate to be removed; ACC confirmed there is no intention to sell this land.

### Bedford Road Bus Gate:

Proposal to give local residents access through bus gate went to committee and was rejected.

### College Bounds Bus Gate:

Survey has been completed and figures analysed. The figures are high and ACC questioning if pedestrians are triggering the counter so will do a manual check. If figures are correct there is a high likelihood of a bus gate being installed.

### Tar Repair on High Street:

There has been no report forthcoming from the Council officials. Doug Ritchie had been asked to supply a report or send someone to June meeting once an investigation had been carried out. Cllr MacLean reported that the capital budget had been approved for

this year so there is no intention to repair until next financial year. The road will have to be closed for this work to take place and requires 12 weeks statutory notice. (AW suggested that University could raise the road for the pedestrian route at the same time?).

GM – highly unsatisfactory, Old Aberdeen is a tourist location and this week hundreds of parents are visiting the university for graduation. GM will write to Doug Ritchie.

### Treasurers report:

ACC grant in account only expenditure is newsletter.

Council Grant £849.38.

Balance after paying for Newsletter £865.92

### Reports of other meetings attended

Community Council Forum:

FirstBus; more changes and cancelling of routes expected.

Stagecoach; proposing to publish a map showing all their routes.

GDPR – presentation 4<sup>th</sup> June on GDPR. DM has written privacy policy for OACC which he sent to ACC for checking. Once approved it will be posted on the website.

### Date and Venue for next meeting

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, Old Aberdeen Town House, 7.30pm

### Representations from members of the public and AOB

A letter has been received advising city-wide fibre to house project is to be rolled out.

Open day at new Mosque on Nelson Street, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 10-3pm, all welcome.

St Machar drive Tillydrone Avenue junction left filter. The signs have stayed the same with the straight ahead arrow spray painted out. This sign is obscured by another sign advising of new road layout ahead making it difficult for motorists to select the correct lane.

Don Street Trees: EK still not satisfied with response from ACC. Community expectations have not yet been met. The trees need to be replaced properly after the second year of the Great Aberdeen Run.

Great Aberdeen Run 2018: Will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August