

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 21st June 2016 rev.1

7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Isobel Aitken, Dewi Morgan, Lorraine Grant, Ramsay Milne (ACC), Michael Hutchison (ACC), Genna Clarke (AUSA), Chubbe Anucha (AUSA), Daniel McKay (P&J), Alan Grant (St Machars Cathedral), Barry Dunsmore (St Machars Cathedral), UoA Rector's Assessor on Court, Jo-Ann Martin (St Peter's RC School), George Wood, Jacinta Birchley, Ricky Harwood, Teresa Harwood, Resident A

Apologies: Ross Grant (ACC), Alan Wight (UoA)

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Approved with minor corrections. No matters arising.

3. Police update

- Only minor crimes reported.
- Many drivers are still driving up Bedford Road, despite the bus gate, though expected to be fewer once cameras are installed. DM notes difference in bus gate signs on Bedford Road and College Bounds. Police are able to ticket drivers on College Bounds but not on Bedford Road, which will be Council matter. DM also notes that Bedford Road residents have complained about length of detour in order to reach St Machar Drive and King Street.
- IA notes that graffiti on Meston Walk was promptly removed by University.
- City Wardens are conducting information sessions in and around schools.

4. St Machar's Cathedral refurbishment

- Minister explains that Cathedral congregation doesn't see itself as owners of cathedral but more like caretakers. Used by many groups from tourists to concert-goers.
- Fabric repairs needing done include roof and walls, ceiling, stained glass and organ. Will also improve pews, toilet, accessibility, meeting rooms and storage, as well as front door, café, shop and interpretation. Performance infrastructure will also be developed.

Plan to build green rooms as well as café and toilets in ruins of old tower, at east end of cathedral.

- Acknowledges parking would be issue, which is why already in consultation with UoA, prior to formal process.
- Will apply to Heritage Lottery Fund, since beyond resources of Cathedral congregation.
- Intending to complete for celebratory service on 22 November 2020.
- Kirk Session next week will be discussing ideas for development, and will continue to seek input, prior to beginning formal planning process.

5. Wallace Tower update

- Funds have been made available by Council for business plan, including topographical survey and plans for Sensory Garden around Wallace Tower.
- Resident A is concerned that if Sensory Garden will extend down to main entrance, it will require fencing especially around the motte. GM agrees to convey concern to officials responsible for Sensory Garden planning.

6. Pedestrian crossings and junctions (GW)

- GW notes that King Street crossings still have long delay, of at least 30 seconds, even when no vehicles on street. GM notes that Kevin Stewart MSP had referred to Pete Leonard of Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure, but his explanation was not satisfactory.

7. First Bus depot – noise complaint (JB)

- JB and TH report that bird scarer is being used again (even though there is also netting) and that this has been reported to Council officers, but to no avail. MH will raise with Council officers. TS will flag up with First Bus.

8. St Peter's Street development (JB)

- With regard to purple colour of outside wall, MH reports that Planning officers have said colour was part of original plans therefore could not oblige developers to change it, but if developers do agree, will only need to get approval from Planning officers, will not have to amend planning application. Resident A notes that objections were made in planning process but Scottish Government Reporter upheld it.

9. Seaton Park – update

- RM reports that further funding has been approved for paths.

10. Planning issues

- 17 University Road: proposing submission to Scottish Reporter, in response to changes in planning application, including that vehicular access is now onto unadopted back lane.

- Former public toilets on High Street: to include second storey, which DM sees as generally in keeping with gable end of surroundings, though Resident A disagrees.
- Orchard Cottage: application has been uploaded, opening 3 week period for comment, even though not complete since rationale has not been given for replacing all the windows.
- RM notes that Scottish government's Planning Review still in process, including recommendation of discarding Local Strategic Plans and having Development Plans only ever 10 years.

11. Proposed new primary school site

- GM was surprised that the consultation at St Peter's was phrased in terms of Tillydrone provision, but JM explains that budget has been agreed to address Tillydrone provision, but because many St Peter's pupils live in Tillydrone, ACC sees St Peter's as part of the strategy for Tillydrone provision.
- GM asks about consultation process. JM explains that report will be submitted to Education or Finance Committees, on back of survey responses, prior to 3-month period of formal public consultation.
- JM explains options being considered currently. One is former Dunbar Hall site, and others include sites on either side of the Tillydrone Roundabout.
- With regard to parent feedback in initial informal consultation, around 55/91 wanted separate St Peter's site and on former Dunbar Hall site.

12. UoA update

- AW reports by email that Court meeting is next week, after which he hopes to be able to report back to Council on plans.

13. AUSA reps update

- GC is about to hand over to incoming President. Fresher's Week leaflet will include section on being careful with noise in neighbourhood.

14. City Councillors' update

- RM updates on ACC court case reported at previous meeting.
- MH reports that residents have made complaints about rubbish overflowing on Sunnybank Road, which he is addressing. Ongoing discussion with Granite Fight Factory, including whether owners will buy Council-owned land where others are currently parking, since it appears this is causing water to leak into basement. MH confirms that residents would be able to comment.

15. Treasurer's report

- Grant now received.

12. Reports of other meetings

- *DM reported from the Community Council Forum, noting that SSE the electricity provider offered a priority services register scheme whereby vulnerable persons can be given priority service in the event of cuts to the service etc.. their web page gives more info: <https://www.sse.co.uk/help/accessibility/careline-and-priority-services-register#item1>*
- DM attended CCF Planning Subcommittee, which included discussion of HMOs.

13. Forthcoming meetings

- None.

14. Correspondence

- Already forwarded.

15. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 16 August at 7.30 in Old Aberdeen Townhouse.

16. AOCB

- Council is proposing to replace conifer trees opposite Mosque – although may not require permission since land is Council-owner.