

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 17th March 2015 @ 7.30 p.m.

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

MINUTES

1. **Present:** - Gordon Mutch (Deputy Chair), George Wood, Dewi Morgan, Christine Burgess, Cllr. Ramsey Milne, Cllr. Jim Noble, Alan Wight (UoA), Jenny Waters (A.U.S.A.), Emily Beever (A.U.S.A.), Paul Foy and a local resident.

Apologies: - Isobel Aitken, Trevor Stack, Lekky Shepherd, Cllr. Ross Grant.

2. **Previous Minutes:** - Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th February 2015 were reviewed.

Police The meeting noted that the perpetrators of the recent graffiti rash have been apprehended and wish to congratulate Police Scotland on a successful outcome.

Seaton Park update. Cllr. Noble gave the news that the play area is to be upgraded immediately, with any defective equipment being replaced. This is despite OACC being told recently that the area was not scheduled for upgrading in the current budget. Thanks are due to Steven Shaw and the Environmental Department. The meeting wished it noted that nothing should be done to the engine without prior consultation.

The “Wetlands” consultation has taken place. RSPB appeared to have had their membership submit an organised input to the public submissions.

The results are not available in the public domain.

North side of spine road – to be dried out to allow full use of the playing pitches.

The wetlands area will be developed as such, with probable extension.

The play area may be extended and might include an “Adult Gym”.

Barkathon A bark spreading event by the “Friends” has taken place.

“Cakefest” This will be held on Saturday 28th March from 10.00. £3 buys a cup of tea and up to 3 pieces of cake. You score the cakes to give a winning baker for the day.

Planning Website Issues - RM advised that three new staff have been appointed to address the shortfalls in keeping the website updated and that an external consultant has been engaged for web development. It is to be hoped that this will correct the current deficiencies in the service.

Discussion having been completed, the Minutes were proposed by DM and seconded by CB.

3. **Police update** There was no update available from Police Scotland.
4. **City Centre Masterplan** Moved to 11.
5. **Tillydrone Road Trees** The damage caused by the beech trees to the retaining wall along the north side of Tillydrone Road was discussed. The most westerly tree has caused the wall to collapse and it is mooted that the tree should be removed and the wall rebuilt. The meeting resolved to take no action in this matter.
During the discussion, it was suggested that there was not a requirement for ACC to give notice or apply for permission for work on trees sited on ACC ground, including “protected” trees. **Cllr. Milne** agreed to obtain clarification on this,

6. **Newsletter** Due to the expenditure on the projector, there will not be enough money available to print a newsletter before the end of April. It was noted that the student year ends on the 22nd May.

Suggested article topics: -

OACC Questionnaire – results.	DM
AUSA – What AUSA do and Butchart renovation news.	EB
HMOs	
UoA Energy Building, if there are any significant updates.	GW & AW
Seaton Park report – “Cakefest” – wetlands – play area upgrade.	
Police update – graffiti problem.	DB
Litter – refuse bins left on street – dog fouling.	
Wallace Tower report	GM

7. **Planning** There were no issues to report and only two applications remain undecided.

8. **AUSA and UoA**

AUSA

Butchart Centre AUSA has taken on board the comments and has set a provisional date for the next meeting on Thursday 30th April 2015. AUSA wish to address feedback received on the last meeting and allay the concerns of residents. An extended event is planned therefore, spanning most of a day, to better allow those with work or other commitments to attend at some point. There will be more information and project personnel available, in order that matters of concern can be discussed in depth. The project architects are unlikely to be available to this meeting.

Residents then spoke passionately, stating that they represented many residents. They expressed extreme concerns and quoted already prevalent noise, litter and the other anti-social behaviours, often late at night, as causing severe problems to residents in the area and making their lives unbearable.

One resident stated that the next meeting should be a fixed meeting and not an open day, as resident representation would be diluted if the meeting was held over several hours.

Residents do not want a licence to be applied for and will strongly oppose any application for any form of licence, as they foresee an uncontrolled increase in anti-social behaviour resulting from the serving of alcohol within Butchart.

Pleas were made for student social events to be relocated to other venues which could be made available by University of Aberdeen at economic rates, such as Elphinstone Hall or The Hub, or the relocation of the AUSA site to another location within the perimeter of the Campus, such as a purpose built unit on the site of the demolished Meston.

EB replied to residents’ complaints that the last meeting had been poorly advertised and gave assurances that the flyers for the next meeting would be on coloured A4 and would be delivered to as many residential premises in the area as was practicable. Other communication methods would be explored, such as the press, radio and social media, and used as far as is possible.

It was emphasised that AUSA want to consult and address concerns, but that a licence was seen as an essential part of the redevelopment and appealed for tolerance.

AW stated that UoA had settled on the redevelopment of the Butchart as being the only option available to address the students’ desires to be accommodated physically independent of the University.

JW drew attention to the Student “Torcher”, which will take place on the 28th March, leaving the Art Gallery at 18.30.

University of Aberdeen Estates – AW reported.

Energy Building The programme for collating comments from the public consultation is still ongoing and no date has yet been set for the third public meeting.

Signs Planning have come back to UoA for additional clarification and this is currently being progressed by Estates.

Refurbishment Project manager (Mace) and the architect have been appointed. Work is not expected to start within the next two months.

Rocking Horse Nursery Work progressing on site with the air-tight test having been successfully completed. It is hoped to have the building ready for occupation in August.

Dunbar Halls Site Nothing has advanced on this project yet.

9. **City Councillors Reports.**

RM Aberdeen City and Shire are in joint bid to have a £2.9bn “City Deal” approved. This would involve U.K. and Scottish Governments backing a Commercial/State 20 year finance deal to fund improved infrastructure in the North-East, including rail connections and line improvements, the new harbour at Bay of Nigg and the City Centre Masterplan.

JM Noted that there had been cross-party support for the bid in the City Council.

RM Drew attention to the developer at Chapelton of Elswick attempting to have their infrastructure contributions slashed, a section 42 amendment. This was refused, but it may be expected that other developers will also attempt this manoeuvre.

JM Reported on a meeting of the Mitchell Hospital Trustees. Professor Diamond, as Chairman of the Trustees, is now to speak to the residents in an attempt to find a way forward for the refurbishment on the building and the future of the Trust. Reports on the upgrade and on finance are to be shared with the residents.

10. **Treasurer’s Report.** The Treasurer reported expenditure on data protection, domain fees and the data projector. The Council was still solvent and expecting the payment by of the grant by ACC shortly.

11. **Reports of other meetings.**

GM reported that he had attended a meeting of the Tillydrone Development Trust and that he was hopeful for the Wallace Tower refurbishment being achievable. Detailed Planning and Listed Building consent have now been granted for the project.

Balfour Beatty now own the Alexander Hall archive of photographs and appear willing to permit TDT the use of the photographic record of the removal of the Tower to Tillydrone.

DM reported that he had attended the Community Council Forum

12. **Forthcoming Meetings.**

Aberdeen City Centre – Draft Masterplan. There are various public meetings taking place across Aberdeen and everyone urged to attend a meeting or study the draft on the website. Feedback is by completing a manual or electronic questionnaire before the 29th March.

The plan is then to be prepared and submitted to full Council, possibly in June.

GW commented that the draft contained some good material, but no hard facts on delivery. The pedestrianisation of part of Union Street will give rise to traffic problems elsewhere.

13. **Correspondence** Invitation from Communities and Housing to **DM**, inviting representation at a meeting on HMOs at the Town House on the 31st March. **DM** and **GM** to attend to represent OACC.

14. **Date and Venue for the next meeting.** Tuesday 21st April at 19.30 in Old Aberdeen Townhouse.

15. **A.O.C.B.** There have been complaints from residents in regard to the private ground behind the Lidl building and facing Lord Hays Grove. Litter and persons loitering there in the evening are reported. Police Scotland to be contacted in regard to the loitering and **GW** is to contact the landowner to ask for the area to be cleaned. If the latter is unsuccessful, then a litter clearance under OACC auspices could be attempted.

16. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.