

Old Aberdeen community council – AGM

Tuesday 21st March 2017 at 7:00

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes of meetings

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (Chair), Dewi Morgan, Iona Taylor (AUSA)

Apologies: Teresa Harwood, Isobel Aitken, (Lekky) Alexandra Shepard

2. Minutes of last years' AGM

Passed.

3. Chairperson's Report

Distributed

4. Treasurer's Report/Annual Accounts

Signed off by accountant and agreed at last month's meeting on 21st Feb.

5. Confirmation of Office Bearers & tasks.

1. Chairperson - Gordon Mutch will remain as chair
2. Vice Chairperson – Isobel Aitken
3. Treasurer – Gordon Mutch
4. Secretary – Trevor Stack
5. Web Admin – Dewi Morgan
6. Planning – Dewi Morgan
7. Representative at Community Council Forum – Dewi Morgan and Isobel Aitken
8. Representative at Civic Forum – Vacant

6. AOCB

No other business

Old Aberdeen Community Council - monthly meeting

Tuesday 21st March 2017 at 7:30

1. Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (Chair), Dewi Morgan, Alan Wright (UoA), David Adam (First Aberdeen), Resident A (Local resident), PC Calum Spence (Police Scotland), Alec Author (green party candidate), Iona Taylor (AUSA/minutes).

Apologies:

Michael Hutchison (councillor)

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Cheyne Street changed to Cheyne Road.

Proposed by Dewi Morgan.

Seconded by Gordon Mutch.

3. Police update

Mr Therm been damaged - hole melted in Perspex cab window. 28 reported crimes - 10 solved and 18 undetected. Road traffic, shoplifting and theft. Indecent exposure in Seaton Park (approx. 2 weeks ago). Suspect in Duthie Park incident was ruled out of Seaton park incident. No contact with victims, no one at risk. Number of crimes slightly higher than last update. GM asked about Seaton park patrols, encourage them to continue. Liaising with university security. Plain clothes patrols because of the exposure. Used as short cut and unfortunately it is difficult as usually busy on Friday and Saturday anyway. Noted and police aware.

With the new bridge over the Don there have been some concerns about speeding, few houses looking on so no feedback has been received by OACC.

GM passed on Old Aberdeen Community Council's best wishes to Inspector Daren Bruce who has now moved on to another posting and tabled an invitation for the new inspector to visit when able.

4. UoA update

Science teaching Hub – major application. Program looks like May for consultation, they will run two or three events for this depending on interest. Will be located on the grass corner behind the Hub.

69 Don street concern on property – scaffolding to stabilise and investigate. Will possibly need a lot of work. Will need consultation as property is B listed.

Work and roof repairs will progress on a variety of University buildings as we move into better weather. Will start with worst property, time and cost will depend on level of damage found.

Hillhead Activity Centre – We have run into some issues regarding the size of the existing changing rooms – too small for current guidelines. Taking more time but a new planning application shouldn't be too far off.

Pedestrian – Safety projects at Powis gate/Crombie, 4 reported incidents. Taking down fence at old nurse and putting walkway through the garden. LR – would that impact on the gardens? AW - in the 70's was just grass areas.

Regent walk – need to control access from university car park through to Taylor arches – near misses reported. Will need to look at practical considerations – service vans and weddings. Will have to go back to university with proposal.

Cruickshank Gardens – proposal for new entrance to improve access and profile. Using gate post from St. Machar Drive. In Carpark to set some visitor spaces. LR -will include knocking down part of old wall. AW- it is not original as it was moved. LR- removing part of wall. AW- no relocation, to swap with gate. GM - would be nice to see garden used more.

LR - what are the plans for conference and events office and nursery? AW – nothing. LR expresses concerns that the buildings will lie empty when could be used as housing. AW- Unlikely as 7 figure repair needed – many university properties standing empty. LR - had a friend who left Aberdeen because he could not find housing. GM - market has changed massively. LR - possibly if university lowered rents that would not be a problem.

GM – new science building. Are there any drawings that will come out to give an idea of the structure? AW - will look into it but normally kept until public consultation. Smaller than previously considered development on this spot – only 6000 square meters, 4 stories max. LR - what department will it hold? AW- teaching Lab for variety of science subjects. LR Physics? AW - not really, do not have the same needs. Labs with space for 100 -150 students with variety of uses. AW - will look into plans for next meeting.

DM – Market Lane Street light off again. AW - will report. DM - Alley next to Key Store newsagent, uneven cobbles. AW- will report those issues. If you have any issues report to university on 273333 or email estates.

5. AUSA reps update

New sabbatical team- elected. Lewis Macleod will continue as the community officer.

RAG Week -Next week is Rag week and a number of charity events will be taking place.

Granite City Challenge - UoA won 24-9 against RGU.

The cut the rent protest- is going on just now, students are camping on Elphinstone lawn in protest of the high rents.

DM – what is the university opinion on the students concerns? AW - needs to consider the market value but needs to take in to account the costs. Not sure when the decision will be made.

GM – This month was the first rise in Aberdeen housing market price in a couple of years.

DM- lots of large housing in suburbs not selling.

6. St Peter's School

GM; St Peter's is going to stay where it is. There is still overcrowding at school. Call to attend school meeting and meeting with council. They want to stay in this area. GM going to meeting on 24th with St Peters PTA and headmistress. Will support the school. LR - they should know how many children are enrolled for next year. GM - I do not know but may find out at the meeting on the 24th. Riverbank is not at capacity but they are getting a new school. Considering present facilities Riverbank is much better than St Peters. However, the decision from council is a new primary school at Tillydrone. I think a new primary school in

Tillydrone is good. One wonders why no council support was given to St Peters. The OACC will continue to support St Peters in its efforts to upgrade facilities at the school.

8. First Bus

Broad street closure will cause congestion. Not using double deckers on route 20 due to number of overhanging trees. No problem with single deckers. Buses are only full in fresher's week. Route 20 used to be very busy when teaching was in town.

GM- Broad Street closure - why? Working on new building for 2 weeks then start of pedestalisation, only buses will be allowed through. DW - and taxis?

Buses to beach not very frequent, possibly more in summer time when the weather is nice. Not worthwhile to do it the rest of the time. There is a lot of parking at beach.

Looking at touch pay from 9th April. Working with new company. First few weeks will be slow because of new system but after that should be more efficient. Many students use the app, 14%.

9. Seaton Park update

£1000 at cake fest - busier than ever. Very busy from the beginning. More trees to be planted. 70th anniversary crocus carpet coming into its own. Park fest is the next thing.

10. Planning issues

University alterations to William Guild Lobby- Just an issue of getting better flow into building. If two full classes are swapping over it can get very congested with over 1000 students.

487 king street – HMO licence for 7 bedrooms. An issue from before HMO licencing was established. Tidying up, last one to catch up. DM – apparently a good HMO with necessary provisions and proactive landlord. LR – I don't understand, has it been operating illegally.

DM - Just catching up from old system. LR - don't they have to apply for planning permission? DM – no - can do this instead, they had the old style of HMO permission.

44 King's Crescent – No resolution of ownership of lane and private gate issue.

DM looked back to see if ownership of Baillie's Place was mentioned in a meeting in 2009 – a similar situation where a minor lane appears to have changed from council to private ownership. Has submitted a FOI request for more information.

6 Cheyne Road – Small extension- no objection, but large garage - objection. Pending.

Froghall major student accommodation planning appeal pending and site visit conducted.

LR- What percentage are lying empty? AW no idea. AA- University cannot predict uptake on the accommodation situation accurately. Brexit is already having an influence on applications and the confidence of the university to make financial decisions. LR - new block at Hillhead? AW – it is not going ahead

11. City Councillors' update

AA – Green party not well resourced in Aberdeen and this is not a target seat but still want to try. Long connection with university. Lived in area for 20 years, stays in Bedford place. LR- how many councillors in this area? GM – no increase from 3 councillors for north end of Old Aberdeen however south end is increasing to 4 councillors - more people in the area.

12. Treasurer's report

Just paid one cheque to DM for web hosting. Get council grant in April so come newsletter time will have more money.

13. Next newsletter

Explain HMO in newsletter. DM- will include section on new bin system. GM- what local issues worth discussing? All to think about it.

14. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meeting

Friday 10th March: BT Froghall Planning. Reporter site visit
Monday 13th March: Planning democracy (DM)
Tuesday 14th March: City centre strategy workshops (GM) – quite interesting, looking at moving people into middle of town. Input saying it needs to be a mix of people not just youngsters. City centre goes out substantially to Woolmanhill. Asked to input but might not see the report. Broadford works going ahead. LR is that a mix of houses?
Saturday 18th March: Seaton Park Cakefest – discussed
Monday 6th March: Community council forum (DM, IA)
Monday 20th March: Community council forum planning subcommittee (DM)

Forthcoming meetings:

24th March St Peters/ACC
28th March: Civic Forum
4th April: Council forum on Scottish Government consultation paper.

15. Date and venue for next meeting

18th April 7:30pm, in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

16. AOCB

GM – E-mail to Steven Shaw about St. Machar graveyard. SS sent round stonemasons to make the graves safe. The big area to the right has all been stabilised and they will be back to do further maintenance. Excellent service from Steven and his team.

Graffiti on walk way at the back of cathedral will be dealt with in next few weeks.

DM- council has process whereby you can volunteer a council official who has done well.

LR- playing field for sale in King's Crescent. The pitches were put in when the fire station was built on the condition that the council provided the football pitches and green space. GM - news to me. LR- that ward had the least open space in the city before the fire station was built. DM – the fields are outwith the OACC boundary. LR – affects a lot of people in the area. GM – what would you like done? LR – Just wanted to raise attention. GM – will ask our councillors.