

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 15th March 2016 at 7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (Chair), Lorraine Grant, Walter Elmslei (City Warden), Jason Bruce (Senior City Warden), Isobel Aitken (Vice Chair), Lekky Shepherd, Sheila Gordon (Friends of Seaton Park), Genna Clarke (AUSA), Holly Bruce (AUSA), Emie Harding, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Alan Wight (UoA), PC Darren Bruce (Police Scotland), Cllr. Michael Hutchison, Shona Mutch, Apologies: Dewi Morgan, Christine Burgess, Trevor Slack, George Wood, Ross Grant, Jim Noble.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising:

Minutes approved

Laura not Holly organizing fairtrade activities

No matters arising

3. Police update

- Good news, two persons apprehended in connection with shed break-ins, some property has been recovered.
- 9 recorded crimes this month, mainly traffic offenses
- Bogus workmen preying on elderly in area. Police have been investigating and have someone in mind
- Sneak thefts at University, police working with University on this matter.

4. Lighting in Seaton Park (AUSA)

- PC Bruce had been involved in 2007 discussions. Lighting needs to be all or nothing, not just the walk-way from Hillhead to the Chanonry. CCTV would also be required as no overlooking property.
- Low number of crimes in park at the moment, people not using park at night.
- Putting people at risk, lighting would attract more people to park.
- Police walked the route and there was a difference of 2 minutes between the routes. Through Seaton Park or by Don Street.
- Perhaps a sign at the Cathedral end to say don't use park during the dark. There is one at Hillhead
- AU students keep asking for improved lighting in park and the rest of Old Aberdeen.
- Lighting not been requested as part of Friends of Seaton Park survey.
- AU students to come to next meeting for further discussion.

5. City Wardens response to OACC query about fines

- FOI request, litter and penalty notices
- Statistics emailed were wrong
- 264 vehicle penalty notices last year.
- 2 Litter notices
- Walter Elmslie and Jason Bruce to email correct figures.
- A lot of wardens time is spent giving advice to people regarding parking, littering & policing support for issues such as bogus workmen.
- Area C OA, Froghall, Powis, Sunnybank Seaton . It is patrolled daily.
- Orchard Street 102 parking fines, more than others because there is more problem here.

6. Wallace Tower & Sensory Adventure Trail - update from Gordon Mutch

- Tillydrone Community Development Trust: Plans for refurbishment and development of building.
- Coffee shop, Community activities. Glass extension, costs £250,000 +.
- Applied for funding to Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Making progress but takes time.
- At present seeking funding to put together a business plan for the project.
- AUSA RAG disbursement applications open in July, need to contact Charities Committee.
- M&S been contacted to fund.

7. Mitchells Hospital

- Slow progress. Princes Regeneration Trust representative visited to discuss the restoration of the hospital. Supportive but no decision yet. Met with Trustees, Friends of Mitchells Hospital, Community Council,

8. HMO Overprovision (report and Council Meeting 15th March)

- Meeting of Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee
- Representative of OA Heritage Society & Gordon attended meeting this afternoon. Councilors had asked officials to come up with a plan. Officials had not produced the report they were asked to produce and their report was not discussed at the meeting. Instead the instruction to officials is to report back to the committee meeting on 25th August. Report to include
- The number and capacity of licensed HMO's in all 13 wards and broken down to proposed localities within each ward.
- The need for housing accommodation in each proposed locality and the extent to which HMO's are required to meet that need.
- A recommendation on whether or not the council ought to set a threshold for overprovision of HMO's in the relevant localities, including proposals for the levels of thresholds for each locality.
- AU suggested that it is not a problem with number of HMO's but landlords. Some landlords do not manage properties correctly.
- Not a simple problem, need a solution for each community, some streets no HMO's, some to many ie St Machar Place 4 out of 7 HMO's.
- Difficult as a planning authority.

- GM thanked all of our Councillors for listening to the local community, not the recommendation of council officials and for resolving this prior to today's committee meeting.

9. Seaton Park update

- Open meeting of Friends 23rd Feb. on wetlands and future plans. Gone to tender for work on wetlands and drainage.
- Green flag application in, judging will take place in May. Need to have all the paths in use and some repair work done prior to this.
- Gardeners spreading bark in walled garden.
- Seaton Park on Radio 4 RHS Britain in Bloom award for those recovering from flooding.
- Cakefest 10am. Saturday 19th March. AUSA going to advertise to students.

10. Planning issues

- Site visits - Kings Crescent, flats, refused as result of access.
- University Road new house at bottom of garden zinc and brick – refused.
- St Machar's Place plastic windows recommended for approval
- St Machar's Drive, extension recommended for approval.
- High Street, Bank of Scotland, replace ATM with window.
- Windows and doors supplementary documents consultation.
- Article 4 Directions in Conservation Areas being removed without consultation. Removing protections. Grounds for cancelling is laws have changed. Meeting is this Thursday. Gordon to send e-mail to Planning Committee asking for all Community Councils with Conservation Areas be consulted on this proposal. OA Heritage to help draft the objection.
- Fence at Chaplains Court, replacement fence proposed was it in keeping. Has this been resolved? Lorraine said every fence on Don Street was different.

11. UoA update

- Kings Pavilion application to floor over pool tank structure so can remove at later date. No plans at the moment for use.
- Appeal for Crombie & smoking shelters and this has been upheld. Tendering exercise for smoking shelters is going ahead.
- Butchart's Union plans on hold at the moment.

12. AUSA reps update

- Elections are taking place at present. Sean chalking on pavement! Posters will be taken down on Thursday. New reps will come to next meeting.
- Improving inclusivity held some no alcohol events which were well attended. Interim chief exec. Come to next meeting.
- Torcher parade has been cancelled. University calendar changed, dissertation deadlines, Easter, etc. so changed date to try and encourage everyone to get involved. Council staff put a number of barriers up to stop the process. Traffic management was a problem, AU looked at route change, Union street, still council could not support. Police and everyone else supportive. Next year is there actually a date that is suitable for both students and community? Torcher is a tradition but does the Aberdeen community actually want it/ should it be reinvented. Cllr Milne and Cllr Grant have offered to sit down with students as early as possible and ensure it happens next year. 18 members of staff required to shut

the roads, council didn't have enough. Holly Bruce really disappointed with situation, as a lot of time and effort had been sent trying to reach a compromise with council officials.

13. City Councillors' update

- Planning committee.
- Nigg Harbour application, predetermination hearing, landward planning of infrastructure – planner give outline, applicants agent will speak, questions and answers.
- 1st Bus annual changes in tariff, Number 25 additional journeys, 20 will revert to former route. X40 will have fewer stops. Fares will be increased for short stages 10p 1-2 stages, childrens fare reduced, adult first £18 frozen, £16 if use phone app. New family weekend unlimited ticket. 2 A, 3C £8.
- New school for Tillydrone passed at budget.
- Legal advice for disabled accessible taxis.

14. Treasurers Report

- £35 spent last month, £150 left so can't afford newsletter until annual funding comes through.
- 2015 annual accounts have been verified and accepted by OACC
- Lorraine Grant - Proposer,
- Lekky Shepherd - Seconder.
- Copy of accounts sent to ACC.

15. Reports of other meetings

- Forum AGM, Isobel had attended, lots of discussion about new harbour.
- Request for 1 person from each CC for planning subgroup.

16. Forthcoming meetings - None

17. Correspondence –None

18. Date and venue for next meeting - 19th April 2016, Town House

19. AOCB

- Broken glass in University Rd, needs to be reported. Roads not swept as often during the winter as takes away the salt.
- Bedford Road / St Machar Drive closed 24th-29th March.