

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 20th May 2014 at 7.30 pm Rev.1

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present: Isobel Aitken (Chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), George Wood, Gordon Mutch, Dewi Morgan, Jacinta Birchley, Lekky Shepherd, Cllr. Ross Grant, George Douglas, Darren Bruce (Police Scotland), Teresa Harwood Apologies: Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Abdul Latif
2. Minute of April Meeting and Matters Arising
 - a. Minutes approved (with minor changes) and seconded
 - b. Matters arising: None
3. Police Update
 - Several thefts being investigated in area.
 - Continuing Operation Rowan to detect cars going through red light on High Street.
4. Wallace Tower – presentation of project (Cllr. Ross Grant, George Douglas)
 - Tillydrone Development Trust set up in 2011 to identify projects with potential for regeneration, and after consultation determined that Wallace Tower to be converted to multi-purpose and flexible community space. After tendering process, appointed architect George Douglas who is also local resident to conduct feasibility report.
 - Modified original plans recently following review by Historic Scotland, who proposed avoiding anything that affects the integrity of historic building, which poses practical difficulties because the rooms in the tower are very small, but Historic Scotland concurred with creating a minimalist extension to building. Intend to house café on ground and 1st floors, as well as gallery on 1st floor overlooking Don Valley and office space on 1st and 2nd floors. Hoped that visitors to St Machar's Cathedral and other areas of Seaton Park will visit the Tower. To be staffed mainly by volunteers although Trust would consider hiring staff if necessary.
 - Some concern was expressed about parking since there will no parking along the road once the Third Don Crossing is built, but some customer parking is likely to be available opposite the Tower, according to Regeneration plans for housing on the Tillydrone side.
 - Will consult with Old Aberdeen Community Council since within Old Aberdeen boundaries, and Cllr. Grant proposes that OACC members sit on Development Trust.
5. Mobile food retail outlet ("Burger Van") proposed by University (CB)
 - University has withdrawn its application for a license, after numerous residents objected. OA councillors noted they only found out about the licensing application because a local resident chanced upon an item in *The Citizen*, which has no distribution

in Old Aberdeen. Professor Rodger has said he is unable to attend OACC meetings this month or in June, but hopes to attend a meeting in the months to come.

6. Proposed letter to ACC about communication (DM)

- Draft of a letter has been agreed on, raising a number of issues about communication with ACC.

7. Draft Old Aberdeen Character Appraisal (DM)

- DM noted that the document is poorly edited and, despite significant omissions. OACC proposed withdrawing the document in order to rewrite it.

8. HMOs (CB)

- Cllr. Milne has reported that he is still waiting for a response from the relevant Council officer to OACC's request for information about HMOs in Old Aberdeen. Cllr. Grant promises to assist Cllr. Milne in this and, if the information is forthcoming, to invite relevant Council officers for the 17 June meeting.

9. Roads and paths (GW)

- GW will pursue condition of roads and paths in and around Seaton Park with Roads Department.

10. Seaton Park (GW)

- OACC is still awaiting information promised in February by Cllr. Milne.

11. Review of CPZ (GW)

- OACC is still awaiting information promised in February by Cllr. Milne.

12. Planning Matters (GW)

- GW notes that planning applications have not been placed online in due time.
- 39 King's Crescent - adjacent property-owner Teresa Harwood notes that she has not yet received notification of the planning application.
- Chaplain's Court - noted that gateposts are being faced with brick, albeit old brick. OACC agrees to express concern and will seek views of Planning and Conservation Departments.

13. Treasurer's Report (GM)

- Only minor expenses

14. Reports of Other Meetings

- None attended

15. Correspondence

- None

16. Date and Venue for June meeting

- Tuesday 17 June at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

17. AOCB

- Hazel Christie has asked to resign from the Council due to other commitments – accepted.
- Jacinta Birchley is concerned about possible cracks due to construction of student flats next door. GW advises that Disrepair Survey should have been conducted prior to construction – JB should pursue with developer and contractor.