

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 7.30 pm *Revision 1*

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Christine Burgess, George Wood, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Emily Beever (AUSA), Jenny Waters (AUSA), Genna Clarke (AUSA)

Apologies: Dewi Morgan, Lekky Shepherd, Simon Barker, Cllr. Jim Noble, Cllr. Ross Grant, Insp. Darren Bruce, Alan Wight (UoA)

2. Minutes of previous meeting: passed

Matters arising: None

3. Police update (by email)

- Dealing with graffiti in Seaton Park
- 18 crimes reported

4. HMOs

- RM has made progress toward getting framework drawn up by Council officers for identifying HMO overprovision, using Dundee model which would establish acceptable % HMOs, to report in August.

The exact wording of the motion put forward by Councillor Neil Cooney at the committee of the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure was as follows:

1. Note the contents of the Report
2. Instruct officers to investigate an over-provision scheme for Aberdeen based on the Dundee model of a cut-off percentage per locality (other than in the exempt city centre), and using a traffic-light system of differentiation.
3. Instruct officers to report back to the August committee on the feasibility of such a scheme and on the process of consultation required to enable such a scheme to be operational as quickly as possible.

- CB expresses satisfaction, because attended recent meeting of Licensing committee to decide on 8 St. Machar Place which ruled in favour on grounds that there is “no overprovisioning policy”.
- Several large new student residences are being built, which would appear to make HMOs in family houses redundant.
- EB says that AUSA still has concerns about capping HMOs, but prepared to work together with ACC in drawing up framework.

5. SUSCOMS (Sustainable Communities) subscription

- OACC agreed to join SUSCOMS, which is Scottish association that is concerned about “studentification” of neighbours around universities, given that Scottish government policy is weak.

6. Old Aberdeen newsletter delivery

- Agreed.

7. Planning issues

- Agreed to send letter asking to retain roof character of 6 Thoms Place.
- UoA has proposed 4 smoking shelters on campus, but details of planning proposal have not yet been placed online.
- Agreed to send letter objecting to building of 2-story extension with 11 bedrooms at 66 Tillydrone Ave. (and with limited parking).
- CB concerned that cherry trees on west side of Tillydrone Ave. will be unnecessarily pruned, and that this will affect not only landscaping but also pollution. RM points out that there are plans for extensive planting along avenue, though it appears to be primarily on west side.

8. AUSA reps update

- EB asks for input on city-wide Student Community Partnership Strategy, following model of York Student Community Partnership Strategy, as mentioned in April minutes.
- EB has conducted litter pick-up in neighbourhood and reports large amount of litter, though much of it appears to come from King Street. RM says if appears to be shortage of bins, he recommends talking to Steven Shaw at ACC. EB would want to include litter in Partnership Strategy.
- EB and CB reports improvement in punctuality of bus service, as well as comfort, though cost of tickets remains an issue.
- As reported by Alan Wight via email, future of capital plan (currently on hold) including Butchart should be decided at next Court meeting on 30 June.
- Re. Butchart, GM stresses that main objection from residents is to drinks license. EB clarifies that building could go ahead without drinks license, although students have been asking for a bar. EB invites input from OACC into planning process, once it resumes, and adds that building would be used to host a range of cultural and other social events, including for non-students.

9. City Councillors' update

- RM reports on Council business, including by-elections, City Centre Masterplan, and possibility of commuter trains.

10. Treasurer's report

- Finances are healthy, despite much-reduced Council grant (which appears largely due to students not having registered under new system). RM is looking into how to offset reduction.

11. Reports of other meetings

- CB attended Friends of Seaton Park meeting: new play equipment being installed; Aberdeen Harbour Board will fund repair of inspection and repair of locomotive; wetlands report is in and will be presented to ACC committees; progress made with northern path; also looking to involve local primary schools in drawing up information boards.

12. Forthcoming meetings

- Civic Forum on Wed 20th

13. Correspondence

- None

14. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 17th June, 7.30 pm, in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

15. AOCB

- UoA was reported to be planning a large development on Dunbar Halls site, mainly student family residence.
- AUSA invites OACC to come to Disbursement Ceremony on Wed 24th June at 6 pm on 7th floor of library.