

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 17th May 2016 rev1

7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Agenda

1. Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Isobel Aitken, Dewi Morgan, Lekky Shepherd, Cllr. Michael Hutchison, George Wood, Jacinta Birchley, Resident A, Teresa Harwood, Ricky Harwood, Ronald Leith (Chair, OAHS), Alan Wight (UoA), Genna Clarke (AUSA), Laura Cristea (AUSA), Lewis Macleod (AUSA), PC Kevin Simpson

Apologies: Lorraine Grant, Cllr. James Noble, Cllr Jean Morrison

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes approved and seconded, with minor corrections.

Matters arising:

- Parking stats were correct, after all (see item 6).
- LS reports that though rubbish and some glass was picked up from street, when reported, glass was still left. GW reports that rubbish by his home was picked up, but not on rest of street.

3. Police update

- Recent operations to check speeding on St Machar Drive, and to counter sneak-in thefts including stop-and-search and by trying door handles.
- Crime stats down from same quarter last year.
- GM commends Inspector Bruce for article in Evening Express, including recognition of Christine Burgess.

4. Lighting in Seaton Park (AUSA Environment Officer)

- Laura Cristea reports that student conducted social media campaign for lighting in Seaton Park, and this was very well-received by students.
- GM notes that police are ambivalent about park lighting because only lighting up a corridor and easy to hide in shadows, while can also attract undesirables into the park. DM notes that according to Google Maps, difference in walk time is only 3 minutes. LC responds that in reality students continue to walk through the park, and likely to

continue to do so. GW observes that will damage environment and create unnecessary expense. LS regrets that Gaudie reports the park as being part of campus, when it is in fact a public park, and not right to expect public spend if there is alternative route.

- TS asks city councillors whether, given there are as many arguments against as for, and the expense would be significant, they envisage that Council might realistically authorise the spend. RM responds that in the past councillors have tended to oppose, because of the arguments against, and there are in any case little resources to spend.
- LC and GC thank for comments, which will feed back to students.

5. AUSA reps update

- Genna Clarke reports that Torcher parade should go ahead next year, possibly in October. This year Fun Show was successful, and raised record-breaking amount during week.
- Continuing plans for Freshers' Week, building in feedback from residents and OACC that were received last year, this includes encouraging the use of Regent Walk after events on Elph lawn rather than University Road, including a message in the Freshers' guide about being a good neighbour.

6. Penalty Notices (GW)

- GW asks for Council officers to explain why we were told that penalty notice figures supplied under FOI request were incorrect.

7. Seaton Park – update and other issues

- LS notes that drainage works have started, though held up by swans nest. Mr Therm (train) will be taken to Kilmarnock for maintenance. Barkathon will be held tomorrow, in preparation for Green Flag judging on 26 May. Planning continues for 2nd Parkfest in September.

8. OACC Constitution

- No comments received so model constitution is approved.

9. Treasurer role

- Paul Foy unable to take role. GM agrees to continue, with DM as second signatory.

10. Mitchells Hospital

- Chair of Trustees (Sir Ian Diamond) wrote to say interested in restoring Mitchells Hospital, and proposes working group with representation from OAHS, OACC and Friends of Mitchells Hospital to meet with Principal to discuss options for fund-raising.

- DM notes that letter does not imply formal role for working group, thus would not be able to act in the name of the Trustees, though Resident A responds that this might be discussed at meeting.
- GM responds that he would prefer to complete plans for Wallace Tower first, and DM also doubts that would have time to play active role in what would be substantial task.
- RM notes that Trustees would have to look at terms of Trust deed before proceeding with fund-raising, and GM insists would need to be sustainable, for example through charging affordable rent. RM will speak with architect who should be able to advise on a number of issues.

11. Third Don Crossing update

- GM reports that now expected to be completed on 17 June, though not clear what reasons were for delay. RM reports there have been technical issues with bridge.

12. Pedestrian crossings

- LG had reported and GW confirms that timings of traffic lights and pedestrian crossings on King Street are inappropriate. RM will follow up with Council officer.

13. Planning issues, including appeal by First Bus

- Proposal to replace timber with uPVC windows at 6 Orchard Lane and 177 Spital. Agreed to oppose in interest of consistency across conservation area, as is happening in Rosemount.
- By contrast, approved proposal for 113 High Street to replace all windows with hand-built timber frames, though double glazing. Will comment not object on proposal for new windows.
- 635 King Street: HMO application opposed on grounds of over-provision of HMOs in area. RM notes there is also noise complaint about this residence.
- Ardmuir planning appeal for student accommodation at FirstBus - Council has reiterated opposition. Resident A notes that lowering of height of residence does not mitigate objections to original application. JB complains that Environment Officer said in previous hearing that no complaints had been received, but she and others have made several complaints in the past about noise, including bird scarers, as well as lighting. Ricky Harwood adds that First Bus have said that building would shield residents of Spital from depot noise, which implies they recognize that noise is an issue.

14. UoA update

- AW reports that still waiting for approval of plans at Court meeting in June.

15. City Councillors' update

- RM reports on forthcoming planning applications.
- MH reports that is following up Granite Fight Factory issues, including removal of barrier, and Resident A raises further issues including permission for change of use. In addition, extra lighting will be provided on Orchard Street and Sunnybank, funding permitted, in response to resident complaints.

16. Treasurer's report

- Finances healthy.

17. Reports of other meetings

- DM attended Community Council Forum, and Planning Democracy meeting, which proposes that community councils should have right to appeal just as applicant (third party appeal).

18. Forthcoming meetings

- Planning Sub-Group

19. Correspondence

- Forwarded by email

20. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tues 21 June at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

21. AOCB

- Sunnybank Fun Day, Saturday 25 June
- GW notes that several important consultations are open, including about Provost Skene's house.