

Old Aberdeen Community Council

7.30 pm on Tuesday 21st November 2017

in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present and apologies
 - Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Isobel Aitken, Lekky Shepherd, Eric Kiltie, Local resident, Alan Wight (UoA), Cllrs. Jim Noble, Alex McLellan, Michael Hutchison, Andy Duncan (Police Scotland), Emma Morice (Evening Express)
 - Apologies: Dewi Morgan, Teresa Harwood, Simon Barker, Cllrs. Ross Grant, Ryan Houghton, Dell Henrickson, Lewis Macleod (AUSA)
2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
 - Approved with minor amendments
3. First Bus update
 - Route has been changed and will be monitored.
4. Police update
 - Relatively low crime figures this month
5. UoA update
 - Eric Kiltie reports neighbours weren't warned about construction-related noise at 69 Don Street, which is UoA property. AW advises that he'll report back to his office, though he notes it's always possible to phone Estates with any concerns.
 - Sign at 110 High Street – planners have requested a timber sign.
 - Possible application on behalf of Cruickshank Gardens for a new gate.
 - Plans for new Science Building were displayed and discussed. Feedback was requested via the Public Consultation Feedback Sheets, which were available at the consultation events.
6. AUSA reps update (not available)
7. Seaton Park update
 - LS reports number of achievements during year, including renewal of Green Flag and helping city to win important awards, including for wetlands. Now looking at area around fountain, wildflower strip down to kayak pier, and damage from plants to brick wall.
8. St Machar's Cathedral headstones
 - EK reports that some headstones have been in broken state for 2 or more years. GM reports that some work was done this week by Council. Cllr. AM promises to ask Council officers to follow up.

9. Garden area at corner of Don Street and Cheyne Street, including ACC response to complaint

- EK shows photo of muddy tyre tracks across area that “replaced” after Great Aberdeen Run. Agreed to call on Council to reinstate trees and bollards, and in event of future runs on the route, to find alternative route for leading car.
- In response to EK’s query about trees being felled, Council officer responded that officers proceeded in good faith whether or not legal process was followed, and that if legal process had been followed the end result would have been the same. EK will submit complaint.

10. Future of St Peter’s Primary

- GM notes the disappointment of St. Peter’s parents at handling of Education Committee meeting last week, as well as last year’s consultation process. St Peter’s parents had rejected a move to Riverbank a year ago during consultation. They are now being offered only one option – a move to Riverbank. The letter from the parent council that was to be presented at the Education & Children’s Committee was shown to the meeting. The feeling of the parents is that consultation to date has been tokenistic rather than collaborative.
- Cllrs. AM and JN report that at the Committee meeting an amendment was tabled to upgrade Riverbank site to Grade A status. Committee agreed that the Riverbank upgrade would be costed prior to the January meeting of the Committee prior to any decision on moving the school.

11. Planning issues

- 15 High Street: reopened to comments now without beer garden, but OACC will continue to object because this anyway is only likely to mean smokers coming out onto the street. Resident reports that Principal had explained that Estates had taken the decision to lease the property for this purpose, and confirms it had not been discussed by any University committees or Court. Resident finds it shocking that University would take such a decision without any consultation in neighbourhood. AW agrees to enquire whether it would be possible to table an objection at Court, or similar measure.

12. City Councillors’ update

- GM complains about the decision to withdraw ACC funding for Aberdeen International Youth Festival & the fact that the decision was made behind closed doors. Cllrs. believe this is a temporary suspension. Decision will be confirmed at the Finance Committee meeting next week. EK points out outrage across city at withdrawal of support from prestigious event that has been running for years.
- Cllr. AM has asked parking officers to step up policing of parking in area.

13. Treasurer’s report

- Nothing to report.

14. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meetings

- DM and IA attended Community Council Forum.
- TS to attend Community Council policy meeting next week.

15. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 19th December at 7.30 in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

16. AOCB