

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 21st October 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes, Rev 1

1. Present and apologies
 - Present: Isobel Aitken (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), George Wood, Dewi Morgan, Christine Burgess, Gordon Mutch, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Jenny Waters (AUSA Charities & Communities), Emily Beever (AUSA President), Jerry Muhonen (RGU), Sierra Peters Buckland (RGU)
 - Apologies: Cllr. Ross Grant
2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
 - Approved minutes of June, August and September meetings
 - Matters arising:
 - Doug Ritchie explained in an email that the traffic order for Bedford Road has already gone through the relevant Committee, but OACC will have an opportunity to contribute at the following 2 stages - statutory bodies' consultation and public consultation.
 - We anticipate an update from Douglas Ritchie about cleaning the signs on College Bounds, testing speeds down College Bounds, and the timing of the pedestrian crossing at Regent Walk (near the Aquatics Centre).
3. Police update (if able to attend)
 - Didn't attend
4. Contributions to next Newsletter
 - Possible items discussed
5. Feed-back on Dewi Morgan's visit to Holyrood (Community Empowerment bill)
 - DM explains that invited after raising issue of lack of communication with Aberdeen City Council, in connection with UoA's application for mobile vendor. DM had written letter to ACC, drawing their attention to a number of issues. ACC did not reply (a further lack of communication) but Kevin Stewart MSP invited DM to submit the letter in response to Holyrood's consultation on the Community Empowerment, as an example of a local authority violating the principle of subsidiarity. DM explains that under the Bill local authorities will, for example, be required to give a rationale for rejecting requests and petitions by community bodies, for example to be more directly involved in planning processes.
6. Seaton Park and Britain in Bloom award
 - A draft project is being prepared for the park. As part of this, Seaton Park will receive another site inspection in November, including with regard to the wetlands, and this is likely to include the Drainage expert who ACC has recently appointed. Friends of Seaton Park and/or OACC will be invited—RM will inform OACC of the date of the site visit.
 - RM reports that Aberdeen awarded Gold status in most or all of the Britain in Bloom categories.
7. HMO report to committee - OACC review of draft

- Report suggests that problem is minor, since only 4% rise year on year, but DM argues that this is significant when sustained over time.
- TS notes that report fails to distinguish adequately between small and large HMOs, and thus fails to identify the key problem that OACC has addressed, which is family housing being turned over to HMOs because there is insufficient provision of large HMOs, i.e. halls of residence. RM proposes a meeting with the principal stakeholders: OACC, OA Heritage Society, Students Association and the University.

8. Old Aberdeen Appraisal – update

- CB reports on the recent site visit, with regard to the Old Aberdeen Character Appraisal, at which a number of issues were raised, including the failure to advise of changes in planning applications.

9. RGU Students' project

- Sierra explains that they are conducting a project concerning how OACC was established as a community group, and how it relates to other community groups.

10. Planning matters

- In the case of 6 Cheyne Road, the applicant has appealed to ACC for failing to reach a decision in the required time. RM explains that due to under-staffing, it has been hard for Planning to keep up with the paperwork.

11. Treasurer's report

- No expenditure. Agreed to buy projector.

12. Reports of other meetings

- DM and IA attended Community Council Forum, and GW attended Civic Forum.

13. Correspondence

- Already covered under other items.

14. Date and venue for next meeting

- Old Aberdeen Townhouse, 7.30 pm on 18th November

15. AOCB

- Emily Beever says that AUSA is interested in closer relationship with OACC, and invites to visit Butchart Centre facilities in December. EB accepts DM's proposal to include a slot for Student Issues in the monthly agenda, as well as giving AUSA the opportunity to contribute to the newsletter.
- GW informs that the CPZ Review has finally been conducted, though OACC was not informed and he has several concerns about the report.