

Old Aberdeen Community Council

7.30 pm on Tuesday 17th October 2017

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Local resident, Teresa Harwood, Ricky Harwood, Mel Booth (ACC), Calvin Cameron (ACC), Dell Erickson (Cllr), Ryan Houghton (Cllr), Michael Hutchison (Cllr), Ross Grant (Cllr), Emma Morice (Evening Express), Ronald Leith (OAHs), Andy Duncan (Police Scotland)

Apologies: Dewi Morgan, Lekky Shepherd, Sandra Macdonald

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

3. Police update (if available)

- Male arrested for 17 robbery-related crimes on campus.

4. Local Housing Strategy (Mel Booth, ACC Officer)

- MB is responsible for developing new housing strategy 2018-23. Priorities are ensuring sufficient supply of adequate housing including Council, preventing homelessness, support to live independently within community, improve standards of private rental sector, reducing fuel poverty and meeting climate change targets, and improving quality of housing across city. Actions will be developed toward these strategies. MB asks for suggestions of other possible strategies to be emailed to kkelly@aberdeencity.gov.uk in the next 2 weeks.
- Resident notes that private landlords are concerned about new legislation for private tenancy, since landlords will lose much of hold over tenants which will deter from renting. MB notes she was previously responsible for private tenancies in Aberdeenshire and doubts that many landlords will leave the sector.
- Housing Need and Demand Assessment (across city and shire) is currently under review by Scottish government.
- With regard to support for independent living, new legislation is under review by Scottish government to address shortage of carers.

5. First Bus update (if available)

- GM has asked on 3 occasions for statistics on punctuality of no. 2 but so far none is forthcoming. Anecdotally there is dissatisfaction with punctuality. Cllr. Grant will be meeting with First Aberdeen and will ask.

6. UoA update

- No UoA representative present.

GM and TS attended the proposed Science building consultation event, reporting that the building at 4 stories will not be larger than others in the area. The external appearance is likely to be functional although the architects are still open for suggestions.

7. AUSA reps update

- None present

8. Seaton Park update

- Area along river bank toward new bridge is under discussion. Some landscaping is proposed as well as possible new flat development. It is hoped that a path will be completed up to Grandholm Bridge.

9. HMO issues

- No update but GM hopes that councillors will prove supportive in the future of OACC.

10. Planning issues

- Complained that proposed signage for 110 High Street is inappropriate – guidance indicates signage should be timber. OAHS will object.
- With regard to illuminated sign on purple block of flats on St Peter's Street, Cllr. Hutchison reports that Planning Officer has given conditional approval in spite of letters received by OACC members. Resident asks why Planning Officer is able to ignore such complaints without it going to committee. Cllr. Grant suggests that advertising consent in conservation areas should go to officers with special remit for conservation areas. Resident suggests that ACC change procedure such that advertising consent in conservation areas needs to go to committee.

11. City Councillors' update

- Cllr. reports that Fight Factory gate has been left temporarily until bollards are put in to prevent vehicles parking on pavement. Residents also complain about number of cars parking around the property as well as bins being left all week outside in the lane.
- Cllr. reports on sale of Nelson Street - proposal is to turn into playing fields. Council has veto since it owns a strip of land around it.
- Cllr. Grant says there is a review pending on Third Don Crossing as well as of Bedford Road bus gate – both taking into account residents' views. Ground investigation continuing into Berryden corridor. Educational Committee has decided for a 3-stream non-denominational school in Tillydrone – yet to be decided whether or not this would incorporate St Peters.

12. Treasurer's report

- No expenditure.

13. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meetings

- GM attended Boundaries Commission, which decided that no change to OACC boundaries.
- TS to attend Scotland-wide Community Council policy workshop on 27 November.

14. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 21st November at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

15. AOCB

- Resident reports that no update on felling of trees on Don Street for Great Aberdeen Run, even though this has been brought to the attention of Chief Executive. Resident insists that 2 similar trees should be planted elsewhere and that ACC should explain when this was authorised and by whom.