

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 16th September 2014 at 7.30 pm Rev.1

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present and apologies

Present: Isobel Aitken (chair), Trevor Stack (secretary), Christine Burgess, Jacinta Birchley, Simon Barker, Gordon Mutch, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Inspector Darren Bruce, Douglas Ritchie (ACC officer), N. Cassie, Moira Board, Betty Brown, S Laws, Betty Deakin (residents)

Apologies: George Wood, Lekky Shepherd, Dewi Morgan

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

To be approved at October meeting.

3. Police update

- With regard to police car on High Street, reported in June minutes, Inspector Bruce has asked other Inspectors to refrain where possible from using exemption.
- Similar crime rates to last year. Number of sneak-in thefts and bogus house-callers is of concern.
- Jacinta Birchley reports Yes painted on her house. Inspector Bruce says would probably not be treated as vandalism if can be removed, and unlikely to be pursued unless personally insulting.

4. Bede Court issues

- Bede House Court residents explain they have parking spaces which have signs that say exclusive to Bede House Court, which need for relatives as well as doctors and nurses, but spaces being claimed by neighbour who says that her house has deeds for spaces. Neighbour who uses the space has dogs which allows off lead, even though BHC residents complain and find intimidating. Another resident with dog has insulted residents who complain that off lead. One BHC resident has received letter from SACRO, which appears to be tasked with mediating. BHC-assigned housing officer has not been of assistance.
- Inspector Bruce offers to intervene with regard to insults and dogs off lead.
- Douglas Ritchie explains that signs on parking spaces are only intended as deterrent and are not legally enforceable. To make them enforceable, they would have to be made part of CPZ, which would then result in parking charges.
- Ramsay Milne notes that first need to establish ownership of parking space, which it seemed is being loaned to resident.

5. Traffic light on College Bounds

- Council members have noted dissatisfaction with use of traffic lights on College Bounds to deter through traffic. Douglas Ritchie (Roads) responds that this traffic light system had been put in place because previously light had been going to green, which was encouraging cars to go through it. Now only buses are given a green light. Police traffic team at Nelson St. says that there has been significant improvement with this system. Simon Barker notes there should be “No Entry Except for Buses” sign, as there is at Foresterhill and across Scotland. DR says that this is not legal because some vehicles have to go through it, though SB points out he believe there is currently no access even for residents. DR says that this may be because this is cycle route, and may be illegal to give access for cycles and buses together. He will look into reasons given for choosing the sign that is there, but notes that this was done in consultation with police and other bodies. DR admits, though, that signs are very dirty and will be cleaned or replaced.
- DR also addresses question of chicanes on College Bounds, which had been raised previously by OACC. He agrees to test speeds down College Bounds, before looking into alternatives.
- With regard to bus-gate on Bedford Road, OACC will be able to make representations as statutory body during second stage of planning process, once Committee has approved plans initially. CB objects that it should be consulted in first stage of process, as local residents with local knowledge, alongside evidence from traffic modelling. SB notes that reversing flow on Meston Walk would give better access to High Street residents – DR agrees that good proposal and OACC will have two opportunities in process to make representations, first as statutory body and then when goes out to public consultation. It will also be possible to have input before Committee meeting on 26 October, so can discuss at OACC meeting on 21 October.
- JB notes that pedestrian crossing on traffic light to Aquatics Centre is very slow – DR will look into it.

6. Communication between OACC and ACC

Dewi Morgan to make presentation on topic on 8 October to Scottish Government event.

7. Planning

SB reports that ACC Roads required him to cut back trees, but Conservation team then inspects and says that cannot, because listed. Has made application to cut saplings since these are growing over wall, but tree itself will remain intact.

8. Treasurer’s report

Healthy balance of £1123.70.

9. Reports of other meetings

- CB attended Friends of Seaton Park. Reports that rugby tournament may use area of Seaton Park, which would then need to be drained.
- GM attended Licensing Committee, putting OACC case against HMO license for 2 The Chanonry, though this is upheld. Report on HMO provision in Old Aberdeen will be presented to Committee on 28 October – CB asks to review in time for 21 October OACC meeting. GM laments that University is no longer taking responsibility for student accommodation, but is relying instead on private providers, although this is proving inadequate for numbers of students being taken in, which in turn has effect on numbers of HMOs.

10. Correspondence

None.

11. Date and venue for next meeting

Tuesday, 21 October at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse.

12. AOCB