

Old Aberdeen Community Council
Meeting 18th June 2013 7.30pm
Old Aberdeen Town House
(Revision 1 of minutes)

Present

Isobel Aitken (chair) Dewi Morgan, George Wood, James Martin, Hazel Christie, two representatives from Police Scotland, four members of the public.

Apologies

Christine Burgess, Gordon Mutch, Trevor Stack, Simon Barker, Lekky Shepherd, Abdul Latt

Agenda amendment As there were many prior apologies for this meeting, First Bus were asked to reschedule their attendance and will now come in Aug or Sept. Trevor to rearrange.

Minutes of 21st May meeting

Traffic signs in High St. OACC had requested Roads dept if they could reduce the number of one way repeater signs along the High Street but were advised that this number of signs is needed to enable enforcement action.

Police were asked if the signs could be smaller? – will investigate and let us know. They will continue to monitor cars going through the lights at the entrance to the High St.

Doug Ritchie (Roads ACC) replaced and realigned a no entry sign at High St exit onto St Machar Drive so traffic on St Machar Drive should more easily see the one way signs, irrespective of direction of travel.

Minutes 21st May passed. Dewi Morgan proposed, George Wood seconded.

Matters arising.

Third Don crossing: compulsory purchase orders are now out.

Change of use of the Old Aberdeen Town House. Prof Rogers emailed the OACC advising that the University have decided to look elsewhere for a suitable location of the Confucius Institute. The University will maintain public access for the Town House.

It was acknowledged that there is underuse of the Town House and perhaps the OACC has its own part to play in ensuring the building remains a public focal point. To be discussed another time though.

Request has been submitted under FOI to ACC to see the lease of Town House to University.

Police report Sgt Middler Inspr. D Forsyth introduced to the CC. In the last 28 days there were 16 crime records, (down on previous period). Half of the crimes have positive results. Handbag snatching attempt on Bedford Road. Attempted bicycle premises break-in at Be-Spoke in High St. Vandalism issues in Woodside and same group pulled vending machine off wall in Sir Duncan Rice library. If anyone sees a crime or suspicious activity they are to let police know. Vandalism is mostly in the evenings and at week-ends. Will bring report to next meeting in August.

Report to police from a local resident.

St Machar Drive public bench

People are sitting on the bench on St Machar Drive late at night, throwing bottles into gardens and being rowdy. A nuisance to residents. There are two benches on the stretch of road between Dunbar St and the Spar shop. One, which is no longer anchored to the ground due to corrosion, has once been placed in the middle of the road. Do we need the extra public bench or should it be removed? Happens in late evening, drunks and arguments. While the resident has reported these disturbances to the police, the individuals have normally moved on by the time the police arrive. Police offered the resident a visit from the ASBO team to give one to one advice. Suggested that the resident should email his local Councillors about it, suggesting the unanchored bench could disappear.

Dog issues

Concern at potentially dangerous dogs not on a lead or muzzled. Police noted that the Dangerous Dogs legislation was too rushed. To prove a dog is a Dangerous Dog under the meaning of the act, the dog must have a DNA test. Are these dogs out of control in a public place? Two people were attacked "under command" in Woodside. Caught dog, got DNA test and placed in kennels. Unfortunate conclusion is that a dog cannot be deemed to be dangerous until after it has actually attacked. What can I do if see someone allowing their dog poop? Do I take photo? Again very difficult to prosecute and taking a photo could cause a serious confrontation. The police can arrange crime reduction visit to people concerned.

Bins left on the streets

In Dunbar Street people are leaving black bins out all the time. Call the waste dept, they will issue notices reminding residents of their responsibility and can impose fines.

Zero Landfill City.

James Martin works for the ACC waste team. Recycling targets are currently not being achieved. Box and bags sorting does not work in the city centre and tenements, so these will go and there will be one wheelie bin for all recycling. A new recycling site will be on one site (17 acre), energy will be taken from waste bags. All composting goes to Turriff at the moment. The ACC sees "waste as a resource" not rubbish. £20 million spend for these new facilities. The Scotstown Rd dump may well be turned into a site for Travellers.

What about particles from incinerators e.g. AAA battery can't stop getting in?

Exhaust gasses will be scrubbed.

Fridge freezers have been abandoned at roadside with doors on. Is this against the law? The dumping at roadside is fly tipping and is against the law. Trouble catching fly tippers. Trying to empower community wardens.

Summer Survey.

How do we get our communities opinion? Understand where people are coming from? 1500 newsletters. 30 respondents. Knocking on doors is labour intensive. James will put together some questions for the next meetings.

Planning matters

26 Spital: change of use to HMO. Propose OACC object on over capacity in the immediate area. George to write

Lidle Flag. Change to increase height to 7m high, current 'flag' is perhaps 4m high, What is the point? The sign can be clearly seen. Application previously rejected. OACC Object again. George to write.

10 Dunbar Street. conservatory wall. Owner at meeting to answer q's but no objections,

39 Kings Crescent Retrospective planning for unauthorised wall refused. To write letter to ACC requesting update. George.

22-24 St Peter's Street. Application for 28 flats granted with strict conditions. To be commenced within 3 years.

164 Spital. Sign erected without planning permission? George to investigate University: Angus will come in August and discuss the 10 year and 50 year plans under consideration. Suggestion the OACC invite the university to provide regular input to the newsletter re forwards plans. Action Dewi

Treasurer Gordon gave update by email £1253.16.

Reports of other meetings.

Civic forum. Another talking shop!

Travellers sites proposal at Howes Rd, Cuter, or Scotstown.

Correspondence

Karen Riddoch, CC support officer, request for school to interview a number of community councils r.e. crime. Isabel to attend if required.

ATP funding available for stopping alcohol consumption. No takers.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 20th August 7.30 pm Old Town House.

AOCB

Tennis Courts: Ask University what is happening to the single tennis court that has been closed for some time and are they going to keep the other 3 courts? it was suggested that someone slipped and attempted to sue the University (it was in the newspapers). Will ask community liaison officer Prof Rogers. Isabel action.

Traveller sites. 14 weeks since Council met to gather info re new Travellers sites. Will meet with local CC of site chosen. Need both closed meeting and open meetings. Won't affect OACC directly as there are no sites proposed within our area.

Drainage Seaton park: going slowly. ACC say serious issue but serious money issue to fix (gravel costs a lot of money).

First Bus

Causing major disruption to residents, noise 24/7. Environment Dept not taking concerns on board re auditory bird scarer. It was felt that a letter to First Bus would get same answers already received, so will wait till the next OACC meeting they attend.

Meeting closed 9.18pm.