

Old Aberdeen Community Council

7.30 pm on Tuesday 16th April 2017

in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present and apologies

Present: Dewi Morgan (chair), Gordon Mutch (minutes), Isobel Aitken (OACC), Daniel Warren (OACC), Jim Noble (Cllr), Alex McLellan (Cllr), Ben Hendry (Press & Journal), Ronald Leith (OAHs), Stephanie Brock, Ian Leask, Alan Wight (Aberdeen University), Lina Nass (AUSA).

Apologies: Lekky Shepherd, Teresa Harwood, Eric Kiltie, David Craik, Trevor Stack, Eric Roslaev, Dell Henrickson (Cllr), Michael Hutchison (Cllr).

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising – proposed GM and seconded IA.

3. Police update (unavailable).

4. Aberdeen University Update:

- OTC & Dunbar Hall's sites up for sale.
- EK and AW met to discuss the many small university work ongoing – signage etc. Not contentious.

5. AUSA reps update:

- Students are back to lectures next week after a 3-week break.

6. Seaton Park: no update but noted the park is looking great with the spring flowers.

7. Planning

- Tree work on the Chanonry & Don street. All straightforward.
- 66 Tillydrone Avenue – replacement of front door. Has been recommended for approval. Retrospective planning is always a difficult issue for ACC planning department. Maybe at times they should be firmer with applicants who flout planning rules.

8. Other local issues:

- Three Place Standard meetings were held at Dunbar Street Hall over the past month. These were very successful in attracting 81 responses to the consultation. The first 2 meetings were to collect thoughts on the positive and negative aspects of the Old Aberdeen Community Council area. The third meeting was to discuss the findings. The next phase is to plan the way forward to improve our local community and area. Dewi will confirm a date and time for the next public meeting at Dunbar Hall.
- Garden Island – Don Street. The refurbishment of this area should be completed by ACC on the 31st July 2019. However, there is some doubt in the community that ACC will meet this completion date as promised.
- St Peter's Cemetery – explanation was given as to why the trees were cut down due to Dutch Elm disease however ACC missed the point that once again the city council did not follow due process. To date this has not been acknowledged by the city council officials and we are left with a lingering doubt whether ACC will follow due process in the future.

For these tree's they had to come down and the council had known this for a good while but no planning process was initiated ahead of time. This was not an imminent safety issue so there was no reason not to follow planning.

9. Councillors Updates: Alex McLellan & Jim Noble.

- Bus gate at the S. end of the High Street will be installed this summer.
- Fly tipping on Don Street and Dunbar Street. Fliers will be printed & distributed to residents of this area on good practice in waste disposal.
- Bedford Place traffic calming consultation. There has been an objection to implementation of this. However, the intent is still to progress with closing down this "rat run".
- No plans from ACC to net trees to prevent bird droppings.
- Lights have been fixed that were reported last month but the blockages to gullies reported have not been addressed.
- IL reported to councillors an abandoned motorbike and 2 abandoned bikes. Councillor Alex McLennan noted the streets these were located on and the drain gullies that still required cleanout. IL stated it was a great shame that our street sweepers didn't sweep streets these days and appeared to only use mechanised sweepers for the sides of roads and picked up litter with tongs.

10. Treasurers Update:

- GM – OACC has £3,320.38 in its bank account. Monies received recently have been the ACC Annual Grant of £876.04 and reimbursement for the expenses involved in the Place Standard Consultation £2076.46. GM advised DM to please get the invoices for these meeting to him asap.
- GM advised that he would handover the treasurer role to ER as soon as he had made these payments to DM & for the Dunbar Street Hall.

11. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meetings

- Main Issues Report: DM - All members of the Community Council should read this report so we can collectively co-ordinate a response to this report. Responses are due back to ACC by end of business on the 13th May 2019.
- DW has recently attended a number of meetings on behalf of OACC. In future if appropriate he will send a note round the other members of OACC asking if there are specific questions or queries, they want brought up at the meetings or if we wish to state a point of view as a Community Council.

12. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 21st May 2019 at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

13. AOCB

- GM stated that the Students Show was on this coming weekend at HMT. This year it is the Glaiokit Showman. It is almost a sell out already as there are only tickets for the "Gods" left for Friday night's performance.

The meeting finished around 8:30pm. The earliest the scribe can ever remember. The low number of OACC members present due to Easter holidays was certainly a factor.