

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

7.30 pm on Tuesday 21st August 2018

in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

1. Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Isobel Aitken, Dewi Morgan, Lekky Shepherd, Cllr. Michael Hutchison, Cllr. Ross Grant, Cllr. Dell Henrickson, Doug Ritchie (ACC), Ross Wilson (ACC), Cllr. Dell Henrickson, Ronald Leith (OAHS), Alan Wight (UoA), Ben Reid (P&J), Lina Nass (AUSA), Lawson Ogubie (AUSA), Eric Kiltie, Local Resident, Joanne Saripanidis, Daniel Warren, Derek Gardener
Apologies: David Craik, City Wardens

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

- Minutes approved with minor changes

3. Ross Wilson, Senior Planner – Conservation. Open discussion on the role of planning within a conservation area.

- RW asked OACC and residents for suggestions on thoughts on how best to manage conservation area, since now looking to prepare Conservation Area Management document, once the Appraisals have been completed for the various conservation areas in the city.
- DM presented series of issues for discussion, for example whether it is realistic to police the replacement of windows by uPVC ones, as well as how to better advertise that this is a Conservation Area. RW proposed flagging up in OACC newsletter that this is a Conservation Area, and responded when questioned that ACC printing leaflets for all Conservation Areas would exceed budget. LS suggested that estate agents could also be provided with leaflets with information, and a local resident pointed out that ACC agreed to a leaflet when OAHS proposed it 30 years ago but it has not been forthcoming. RW noted that it might be possible to secure community engagement funds if a leaflet was part of a broader strategy. RL pointed out that a high proportion of properties in OA are owned by people living elsewhere, and it would be complicated to reach them.
- DM also observed that it is seldom evident what input the Historic Environment Officer has had into a planning application and it would be very useful to have this information during the period available for public comment. RW notes that ACC is supposed to speak with one voice in the planning report, and it should not necessarily be possible to identify different opinions of those involved in the planning process.
- DM noted that street lights were replaced recently by Roads with what OACC consider to be inappropriate lights, without any warning or consultation. Doug Ritchie thanked OACC for comment and agrees that it may be possible to use more appropriate lights instead. On signage, however, he notes they are bound by laws that give little leeway.

- RW committed to writing to OACC to explain his role in the planning process and responding to the queries about making available his own comments on applications.

4. College Bounds (Doug Ritchie, Roads)

- With regard to the use of tarmac as a temporary repair to the cobbled stones on High Street, DR explained that a member of the public tripped and put in a claim against the Council. Since the inspector classified it as a Category 2 Defect, which requires mitigating within a week. Hence the decision to use bitumen as a temporary repair, which has been identified as the most effective temporary repair for a cobbled street – one that doesn't damage the underlying cobbles. A permanent repair will take 6-8 weeks followed by 4 weeks to cure, but all this would require 3 months statutory notice allowing utilities companies to plan work, thus it was not possible to undertake a permanent repair immediately. There was in addition no budget for conducting this work, but a budget has now been identified – it is hoped the work will be carried out in the spring.
- RL asked if there has been any further discussion of the bus gate. DR explained that retractable bollards are no longer considered an option, but they are looking into the possibility of a Bedford Road-style bus gate.

5. UoA update (Alan Wight)

- AW detailed work done on restoration of property at 100 High St about which OACC had complained to Historic Environment Officer, suggesting that in future OACC addresses queries to Estates in the first instance.
- UoA has been awarded funding to refurbish Confucius Institute – work to be carried out in next few months.
- Work is ongoing on 91 High Street.
- Developing proposal for level access across High Street to accommodate disabled student who will be starting in September.
- Approval of planning application for Science Teaching Hub is pending from Council.
- No plans for ex-Rocking Horse Nursery.

6. AUSA reps update

- Lina Nass announced funding from Climate Challenge Fund for community garden project in garden next to Butchart.
- New AUSA bar will open in Fresher's Week.

7. Seaton Park update

- LS reported that ping-pong table has been success, among other activities. Asked for volunteers to steward Great Aberdeen Race through park.

8. Planning issues

- Only minor issues. No formal objections.

9. Great Aberdeen Run
 - DM reported follow-up on complaints made last year, and asked for residents to check that stewards are provided with water as well as access to toilets, and a safety phone number.

10. Request for pedestrian crossing on King Street
 - Resident had enquired whether an additional traffic light or zebra crossing could be provided on King Street. Doug Ritchie responded to say the current 3 crossings were already the maximum number of permitted crossings on this length of road.

11. City Councillors' update
 - RG: will keep updated on repair of cobbles on High Street
 - MH: no update yet on gate off Kings Crescent – Resident queried why it has taken so long to enforce the removal of gate

12. Forthcoming Community Council elections
 - Newsletter will be used to advertise opportunity to stand for election
 - ACC are holding sessions for prospective councillors on Wed 22 Aug at 7 and Mon 27 Aug at 7, both in Townhouse in Broad Street

13. Treasurer's report
 - Finances healthy

14. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meetings
 - DM reported on recent Civic Forum meeting

15. Date and venue for next meeting
 - Tuesday 18th September at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

16. Representations from members of the public and AOB
 - Local resident complained there is now no number 20 bus after 7.30 pm on Sundays, and that the bus is still not returning via Broad Street. GM to write to First Bus and AUSA may also complain about change in route.