

Old Aberdeen Community Council

7.30 pm on Tuesday 18th August via Webex

Minutes of Meeting (draft 1)

1. Present and apologies
 - Present: Dewi Morgan (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Isobel Aitken, Eric Kiltie, David Craik, Steven Berry, Lekky Shepherd, Cllr. Ross Grant, Cllr. Michael Hutchison, Elizabeth Hepburn (resident)
 - Apologies: Daniel Warren, Teresa Harwood, Cllr. Alex McLellan
2. Minutes of previous meetings
 - June minutes approved
 - July minutes – agreed to ask Alan Wight to submit UoA slides for inclusion in minutes, prior to approving
3. Police update (provided by email)
 - Crime report shared – no discussion
4. Seaton Park update
 - Green Flag likely to be retained
 - Friends continuing with activities within household bubbles
 - DM reports some storm damage to pathway down from St Machar toward river: Friends of Seaton Park have secured some funding but this has apparently been withheld because of issues around ownership of the patch of land outside the park gate, though path has been identified for some time as potentially dangerous to pedestrians
5. Planning issues
 - No new planning issues since June meeting
 - UoA and conservation area tree works (EK): EK had earlier asked ACC about removal of 4 trees which reported by UoA to June meeting, but had not been registered on ACC website, even though this is required in Conservation Area: ACC recognized that it did not register all applications due to “human error” and undertook to remind UoA of need to apply for tree removal
6. ‘Community Vision for Old Aberdeen’
 - Submitted pre-application request to ACC for Wayfinder maps and public benches and received appropriate advice. Meeting of Old Aberdeen tourism group now planned for Thursday 20th at which possible sources of funding will be discussed.
 - Dog mess: Roads and Planning departments have given guidance on how to respond, e.g. approves use of spray chalk.
 - Cycle routes and cycling on pavements: DM is raising these issues with ACC, which were flagged up in Community Vision consultation in 2019
11. Other local issues
 - Proposed Local Development Plan and proposed HMO comments: DM explains that the Proposed Local Development Plan includes a proposal to limit localised density of HMOs and with an HMO limit of 12%, but using Small Data Zone rather than the smaller

Census Output Areas, since some streets have very high percentage of HMOs. Cllrs. MH and RG are asked to support proposal, but they are reluctant to do so – MH clarifies that he is hesitant about HMO caps. EK asks others to make individual representations by 30 August, though DM observes that at this stage only objections on legal grounds are likely to be heard, unlike previous consultations on HMOs. DC and EK object that OACC should not be dissuading individuals from making representations, and they intend to make their representations.

- Next newsletter: Agreed that next newsletter should go ahead.
- The mysterious case of the missing litter bin (SB): SB reports that a litter bin has gone missing opposite the Don Street entrance to Seaton Park, and this has been reported to ACC.
- Don Street flooding: EK reports nearly 0.5m flooding at bottom of Don Street, suggesting significant drain blockages in Don Street and The Chanonry and clarified that this is not a one-off due to the recent extreme weather – Cllr. RG agrees to pursue matter.

12. City Councillors' update, hopefully including:

- Any update on missing College Bounds bus gate camera? Cllr. MH reports that money has been assigned for it.
- Any update on repair of Town House clock (miss-striking and light out)? Cllr. MH reports that Cllr McLellan is following up on this.
- Any update on status of ACC strategy for streets laid with granite setts – report originally due in March? Cllr. RG has not been able to follow up due to COVID business which has forced Roads to prioritise essential works.
- Cllr. RG reports that schools have now gone back and many urban services are now being restored, e.g. upgrading of street lights.

13. Treasurer's report: no issues – annual accounts accepted and annual grant for 2020 now approved and paid.

14. Date for next meeting: Tuesday 15th September at 7.30 – likely to be via MS Teams.

MS Teams is approved for use of Councillors and will permit police to join.

Cost will be approximately £82 per annum, this includes an additional £36 to include a telephone dial-in facility. Note that an equivalent package from WebEx would cost £135 and from GoToMeeting would cost around £137 per annum.

15. Any representations from members of the public and AOB

- EK notes unusual amount of parking on Don Street, which appears to be overflow parking from Seaton Park, and may pose a safety issue. EK will raise the issue with the City Wardens.