

Old Aberdeen Community Council

7.30 pm on Tuesday 21st January 2020 in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes (draft 1)

1. Present and apologies
Present: Dewi Morgan (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Gordon Mutch, Lekky Shepherd, Daniel Warren, Eric Kiltie, Isobel Aitken, Dell Henrickson (ACC), Alex McLellan (ACC), Michael Hutchison (ACC), Ross Grant (ACC), Elizabeth Hepburn, Steven Berry, Ian Leask, Local resident, Alan Wight (UoA), Sgt. Richard Arton (Police Scotland)
Apologies: David Craik, Erik Roslyayev
2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
Minutes approved with minor corrections
3. UoA update (AW)
 - Minor planning applications and ongoing work reported – no comments made
 - In connection to 525th anniversary, UoA is considering Nuart installations of kind that can be seen in city centre, and seeks views on the possibility: most present are in favour in principle, as long as doesn't encroach on historical area; Local resident is concerned that will affect timeless quality of Old Aberdeen (as it did St James Church) but similarly happy if in modern areas
 - AW asks for opinions about the possibility of repainting white the woodwork of the Townhouse (it was previously white but repainted brown): most present are in favour of repainting white
4. AUSA reps update – none attended
5. Planning issues (EK)
 - EK reports only 3 new planning applications, including 2 from the University, and on the status of recent applications - no issues raised
6. 'Community Vision for Old Aberdeen' - progress update (DM)
 - DM tabled the proposed agenda for next meeting on 27 January, to focus on tourism provision, with IA and Visit Aberdeen and representation from UoA and St Machar's
 - One of the items is OACC's proposed 'wayfinder map', which DM estimates (after seeking quotes) at £300 for artwork plus £400-£800 for each installation ; RG reports that ACC is developing somewhat similar signage across the city and was surprised that OACC had not been contacted. RG will ask Alan Simpson to contact DM
 - Other pending tasks include identifying streets with problems of bins being left on pavement, possible sites for public benches and bike racks, and developing a conservation area leaflet
 - OACC had proposed dog fouling signage but ACC informed this would require planning permission – though RG clarifies after speaking with Doug Ritchie that ACC remain supportive of the proposal, and RG believes that it will be possible to avoid going through the whole planning process; critical areas include Don Street along wall with St Machar Drive, Clark's Lane, Chanonry, University Road etc.

OACC will submit a written proposal to Doug Ritchie.

7. Seaton Park update (LS)

- Friends of SP are reviewing tree planting including Himalayan birch in memory of Christine Burgess
- Planning next Cakefest in March
- First Saturday of each month will be a work day

8. Police update – none attended

- RA crime figures remain below average for area
- Mentions theft of metals etc. from former OTC barracks after fire, and assault on UoA member of staff at bus stop outside Zoology Building
- DM asks about foot patrols: RA explains that they lack personnel for foot patrols, since instead focusing on targeted operations against speeding, domestic abuse, drug production and anti-social behaviour – if OACC identifies particular issue, it may be possible to deploy plain clothes patrols

9. Other local issues

- Chanonry road surface and possibility of adoption by ACC: DM visited Roads Department and examines GIS map, which was made up from older handwritten records, and it transpires that parts of Chanonry was adopted around 1897-1901, but stretch between St Machar's and Don Street appears unadopted – owners concerned about likely expense of improving road for adoption; Local resident proposes consulting St Machar's session records for debate on adoption
- Bedford Road bus gate consultation: whether private hire cars should be allowed to use the bus gate as taxis are – no objections raised; EK proposes challenging Bedford Road bus gate meanwhile, but GM and DM suggest better to wait for Berryden Corridor to be completed, though progress has been slow. DM voiced concerns that the category of 'authorised vehicles' was unhelpfully vague, though is permitted under the relevant UK legislation.

10. City Councillors' update, including:

- Missing College Bounds bus gate camera: AM reports that this is now being reviewed as part of next year's budget discussions, though DM responds that it was agreed for 2019 budget and AM had promised the camera would be installed – OACC expects that AM put a robust case to the officers, as well as investigating the reasons for the apparent change, and then report back to the next OACC meeting; RG adds that he was under the impression that budget was not an issue, but the situation may have changed
- DH reports that refuse in basement area of King's Crescent tenements has been cleared out, and issues with guttering are being addressed with owners
- In response to RG report of issues with street lighting, EK and DW report that it appears faults reported to ACC via website or phone are not being attended to, unless AC councillors themselves make the reports;
- RG reports that ACC strategy for updating streets with granite setts is being completed – RG will update in March; ACC officer Jennifer Quinn is willing to attend future OACC meeting to discuss fly-tipping, following online consultation and service updates – OACC agrees for March meeting.

11. Treasurer's report – not present
12. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meetings, opportunities etc.
 - DM provides list of consultations pending
13. Community Councillor training: Saturday 25 January – DM shows programme and encourages to participate
14. Date and venue for next meeting (18th February)
15. Any representations from members of the public and AOB
 - Ian Leask reports there are many 'keep left' bollards in the city are not lit or are out of place, and street lighting is missing, which makes it difficult to drive around the city
 - Local resident reports
 - issue of cars parking on pavement along King's Crescent opposite junction with Jute Street – MH reports that if cars completely obstruct the pavement, they can be fined by City Wardens or reported to 101
 - First Bus gave wrong information to ACC for no. 20 bus stops about start of UoA term, displaying RGU term dates instead, and this has not been fully corrected
 - Old Aberdeen Townhouse clock is ringing wrong time and light is out – AM is expected to report back on this
 - DW reports that communal recycling bins behind King's Crescent are not being emptied fast enough – MH asks him to identify bins and he will request ACC empty them.