

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 16th June 2015 at 7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present: Isobel Aitken (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Dewi Morgan, Gordon Mutch, George Wood, Helen Leith, Jacinta Birchley, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Inspector Darren Bruce (Police Scotland), Alan Wight (UoA)

Apologies: Lekky Shepherd, Simon Barker, Christine Burgess, Cllr. Ross Grant, Genna Clarke (AUSA)

2. Minutes of previous meeting: approved with minor amendments.

Matters arising:

- OACC has now joined Suscomm.
- RM reports that AUSA has met with Councillors to propose developing Student Community Partnership Strategy, and this was well-received. OACC is supportive.
- AW clarifies that plans for Dunbar Halls are still on hold, pending approval of the UoA Strategic Plan.
- IA commits to attending the Disbursement Ceremony on Wed 24th June.

3. Police update

- Rise in recorded crimes to 26, including as a result of drug searches, thefts in Spar, and further graffiti in Seaton Park. RM asks whether possible for offenders to be obliged as community service to remove the graffiti.
- JB and a concerned resident complain that builders at St Peters St. were working after 10 pm. Inspector Bruce notes that this would not be ordinarily dealt with by the police or the ASBO team, but instead by Environmental Health. JB felt that the constructor was not responsive to her complaints. TS to contact constructor about this.

4. HMO update

- 7 St Machar Place: hearing will be on 30 June at 10 am. GM to attend.
- AW notes that 53 College Bounds is being converted to an HMO geared to temporary lecturers.

- TS notes that some universities adopt a policy of opposing the conversion of family housing into NGOs, preferring instead large purpose-built HMOs (as OACC does) in order to preserve a healthy mix of housing around their campuses, catering to staff and student families. AW will raise this with UoA colleagues.
5. Sunnybank Community Centre Information Fun Day
 - DM will attend to explain to residents that the new OACC boundaries run close to this area.
 6. Aberdeen Student Community Partnership Strategy - Stakeholder Meeting on 30th June
 - TS may be able to attend.
 7. Planning issues
 - 109 Spital: OACC will object to planning application to adapt house for HMO with 6 bedrooms, on grounds of overprovision.
 - 7 St Machar Place: OACC will object to proposals, on grounds that still considering UPVC and removal of door, as well as creating driveway, on grounds that in breach of conservation area norms.
 - 37/38 King's Crescent: GW to pursue issues with enforcement of planning permission.
 8. AUSA reps update
 - Genna Clarke (incoming AUSA President) unable to attend, but reports that Emily Beever has met and liaised with various stakeholders for the Student Community Partnership Strategy (ACC, RGU Union, NESColl etc.) and they are holding a meeting on the 30th. The Student Union Building project is still on hold, pending the Court meeting on 30th June.
 9. City Councillors' update
 - RM reports that substantial funding has been approved for Seaton Park improvements.
 - Next City Council meeting will discuss the City Centre plan, including part-pedestrianization of Union Street.
 - Council is also addressing ongoing issues with Broadford Works.
 10. Treasurer's report
 - GM reports that finances are healthy, though only enough funds left for one or two more newsletters.
 11. Reports of other meetings
 - GW attended Civic Forum meeting.
 - DM attended Community Council Forum.
 - GM attended meeting about Wallace Tower – plans are progressing.
 12. University

- AW awaiting steer from University Court on 30th June with regard to planning.
- GW reminds that OACC has objected to plan for smoking shelters. UoA is redoing application for signs, after OACC objection.

13. Correspondence

- TS reports complaint from resident about St Peters St. development (discussed under Police Update).

14. Date and venue for next meeting

- No meeting in July. Next meeting is Tuesday 18 August at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse.

15. AOCB

- DM reports that submissions are being invited to the Commission on Local Tax Reform, with a deadline of 22 June.
- GW reports overspill of refuse outside Spar. Will follow up with manager and if necessary Environmental Health.