

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 18th March 2014 at **7.15 pm** (*revision 2*)

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

AGM (earlier start time of 7.15 pm)

1. Present: Isobel Macleod (Chair), Trevor Stack (Secretary), Gordon Mutch, George Wood, Lekky Shepherd, Christine Burgess, Jacinta Birchley, Lidia Revello de Toro, Cllr. Jim Noble, Cllr. Ross Grant

Apologies: Dewi Morgan, Ramsay Milne

2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM approved (GW) and seconded (GM)
3. Chairman's Report
 - OACC has held meetings monthly, and has been accompanied from time to time by City Councillors.
 - Other guests have included Bridget Turnbull of ACC Masterplanning Design and Conservation Department.
 - Professor Albert Rodger has also kept us informed of developments in UoA, and we engaged with UoA on the siting of the Confucius Institute, which was resolved satisfactorily.
 - OACC published two issues of our newsletter this year.
 - HMOs have been an issue of debate, due to the rise in applications during the year.
 - Police Scotland officers have attended meetings regularly, and are continuing to implement Operation Rowan on the High Street.
 - ACC supported the creation of Friends of Seaton Park, and there has been ongoing discussion about flooding in Seaton Park.
 - Tom Rogers of Aberdeen City Council responded to questions about the Third Don Crossing.
 - First Bus sent representatives to our October meeting.
4. Treasurer's Report
 - OACC has a positive balance, in part since we have the use of Old Aberdeen Townhouse without charge – for which OACC thanked the University.
5. Confirmation of Auditor
 - Robin Keymer has agreed to audit the accounts.
6. AOCB
 - OACC offered particular thanks to Dewi Walton for his extraordinary efforts on our behalf, especially in planning matters and in the newsletter and website.

Regular meeting (will follow immediately)

1. Present and Apologies
2. Minute of February Meeting – approved (GM) and seconded (GW)
 - Apologies to be added for Lekky Shepherd.

Matters Arising:

- Re. Seaton Park: CB notes that Stephen Shaw has said there may indeed be money in the Common Good fund to address the flooding issues in the park. GM suggests the University might consider playing a role. GW notes that it's essential to start with a survey, and regrets that we have yet to see the survey that was done reportedly in recent years. JN mentions that Stephen Shaw is well aware that Seaton has not been funded as well as other parks, and he promises to ask him whether a survey has indeed been done recently.
 - Re. bird-scarer: JB reports that has not been turned on since she complained.
3. Police Update – Inspector Darren Bruce
 - Has returned to Tillydrone after other postings.
 - 16 crimes in Old Aberdeen, following 18 last month, both of which unusually high, but very few violent crimes - mainly theft.
 4. HMOs (CB)
 - CB held meeting with DM and GW. Reports that Scottish government has given City Councils permission to adopt local policies, but ACC has not yet made much progress. St Andrews has declared a moratorium on HMOs in its centre, which is arguably the most similar zone in Scotland to Old Aberdeen. Other cities have drawn up detailed plans.
 - CB proposes that OACC submit a letter in response to the consultation for the Main Issues Report of the Local Development Plan, asking for a city-wide policy on HMOs. The MIR reports, for example, that family accommodation is being turned over to HMOs, mainly for student accommodation.
 5. Planning Matters (GW)
 - 11 Cheyne Road: GW proposes that no reasonable grounds for objection, even though it looks designed to convert to HMO.
 - No other objections to make.
 6. Treasurer's Report (GM)
 - Healthy balance.
 7. Reports of Other Meetings
 - None.

8. Correspondence (TS)

- Invitation to presentation of Student Housing project at Causewayend by UNITE group at Gerrard Street Baptist Church on 25 March at 2.30-7 pm.

9. Date and Venue for April meeting

- Tues 15 April at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse.

10. AOCB

- Friends of Seaton Park are holding a Cakefest on Saturday 29th March at 10 am in Dunbar Street Hall. £3 entrance fee which includes a drink and 3 pieces of cake. Residents are invited to bake a cake and vote for their favourite one.
- RG reports that trees are being felled on Bedford Road and he will be meeting with Tom Rogers to discuss planting new trees as soon as possible. He invites community councillors to advise him of other concerns that they have.
- OACC agrees to RG and group coming to make presentation at next meeting on plans for Wallace Tower.
- Proposed that Prof Rodger be invited before summer recess to give update about University activities.