

Old Aberdeen Community Council

7.30 pm on Tuesday 17th November via MS Teams

Minutes of Meeting Draft 1

1. Present and apologies

Present: Dewi Morgan (chair), Isobel Aitken (vice-chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Steven Berry, Gordon Mutch, Lekky Shepherd
Cllr Dell Henrickson (ACC), Cllr. Alex McLellan (ACC)
Ronald Leith (OAHS), Local resident, Elizabeth Hepburn, Phoenix Archer (St Machar), Rae Christie (Police Scotland), Serena Simonetti and Lily Delamare (UoA Secret Garden Society), Radeen Moncrieffe (AUSA VP Communities), Elaine Sinclair (UoA External Relations), Alan Wight (UoA Estates), Daniel Boal (P&J).

Apologies: Teresa Harwood, Eric Kiltie, David Craik

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

- Minutes approved
- No matters arising

3. Police update

- 18 crimes including one violent robbery, and 2 incidents of hate crime
- Operation carried out in response to social media reports of motorists exceeding speed limits: some speeding tickets issued, since when the number of drivers speeding appears to have decreased
- Operation will be carried out to detect and prevent bicycle theft. Will also advise cyclists on personal visibility, lights, safety including use of pavements

4. UoA update

- AW asks for any reports of issues regarding COVID and the University.
- Lily Delamare asks to meet with AW to discuss signage for the secret garden, and he agrees.
- AW mentions that resident had queried fencing around Hillhead tennis courts – he explains that this was due to students conducting an archaeological dig. Work on the courts to convert to multi-sports use will not be carried out in this financial year.
- AW explains that loss of Kings College clock striking will require an obsolete mercury switch device, which is currently being sourced.

5. UoA - Elaine Sinclair, Community and Regional Engagement Officer

- Explains that her role is to engage with local stakeholders, comparing to how other universities do this. This includes responding to any negative encounters with Uni staff or students, for example riding bicycles on the pavement or not putting out rubbish on time. Her office is putting together a guide for good neighbourly conduct, which has been circulated in draft form. The guide will include volunteering opportunities, including to minute community council meetings.
- LS reports that regularly she has to step down from pavement to avoid close contact with students. ES confirms that she will feed this back to the team.
- DM suggests that UoA consider how to get students to deal with landlords who make unreasonable demands on them, for example to cut hedges themselves.
- UoA has signed up to be a Civic University, which will entail having greater impact on doorstep. ES agrees to include OACC in mailing list of Civic News issues.

6. AUSA reps update
 - Radeen Moncrieffe reports that due to COVID only one society (Filmmaking) is fully operational, while a few others are undergoing risk assessment.
7. AUSA Secret Garden Society
 - Lily Delamare explains that Secret Garden, next to the Butchart exam centre, is a community garden for growing food. Facebook page has up-to-date information about activities.
 - Serena Simonetti regrets that in recent days it appears that other people have been using the garden, including for BBQs and lighting fires, and there has also been littering. She insists that the society is looking for a positive relationship with the community.
 - DM asks if it is possible to restrict access. SS says that they have asked the University to put signage indicating it is UoA property, but they (SGS) do not want to deny entry to people who want to sit and eat in the garden. DM suggests that lighting with a motion sensor might help?
 - SS says they intend to apply for funding in near future, though also hopes that UoA can help. AW asks to meet with Lily to discuss possible enhancements, though lighting would require not only funding but also planning applications.
 - SB points out that neighbouring residents and SG society have shared interest in security around this site. Radeen Moncrieffe confirms that residents have on occasion confused other students with society members.
8. Seaton Park update
 - Lekky reports that park has been especially important to public during lockdown, which vindicates decision to found Friends in order to ensure park's future.
9. Planning issues
 - Planning application for O'Dell Gardens: OACC has made submission. DM observes however that, despite claims to the contrary within the planning application, there was no prior consultation with OACC, only an informal presentation.
 - New planning application for re-cladding and re-roofing of the plant room, on top of the Regent Walk university building. Like-for-like replacement so no further action proposed.
10. 'Community Vision for Old Aberdeen' - progress update including:
 - Wayfinder maps: site visit conducted to consider how best to present the maps, and DM has developed the required planning applications and circulated these at draft status to interested parties – meeting to be held this week with ACC regarding location outside St Mary's.
11. Other local issues
 - Street lighting within the core conservation area: DM reminds that new LED lights are considered inappropriate for a conservation area. ACC has been asked to replace with pseudo-historical lights. DM also seeking to formalise with ACC which roads and lanes merit heritage consideration for lighting and other street furniture
 - Update on repair of Town House clock (mis-striking and light out): DM is trying to get progress from ACC.
 - Contra-flow cycling on Meston Walk & Elphinstone Rd: DM is in contact with ACC about new traffic orders on cycling, including potentially making Meston Walk between Elphinstone Road and Bedford Road cyclist-only.

12. City Councillors' update:

- College Bounds bus gate camera: AM continues to chase up, and reports this is scheduled to take place within this financial year, in spite of delays due to COVID.
- Some discussion of temporary COVID-related cycle and parking lanes along George Street and beach. DH reports that there will be a consultation on the future of cycling provision on these roads.

13. Treasurer's report

- GM reports that there may be a small excess at the end of the year.

14. Consultations

- DM directs to ACC page for consultations, including on Permitted Development Rights.

15. Date for next meeting

- 7.30 on Tuesday 15th December on MS Teams

16. Any representations from members of the public and AOB

- Lekky comments to Lily that Friends of Seaton Park wear high-vis waistcoats and badges to identify selves, and suggests Secret Garden Society considers the same.