

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Revision 1

7.30 pm on Tuesday 18th September 2018

in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

1. Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Isobel Aitken OACC, Dewi Morgan OACC, Teresa Harwood OACC, Cllr. Ross Grant, Cllr. Jim Noble, Vicky Ritson ACC Traffic Management, Alan Wight (UoA), Lina Nass (AUSA), Harry Chalklin (AUSA), PC Lewis, PC Chan, Eric Kiltie, 'Local Resident', Daniel Warren, David Craik, Iina Jaara

Apologies: Alexandra Shepherd, Trevor Stack

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

- Minutes approved and seconded (D. Morgan and I. Aitken)

3. Police update

- No issues to report
- Police have taken part in freshers week, provided advice on keeping phones, laptops, bicycles secure.
- The issue of aggressive leafletting and fly-posting was discussed; a number of night clubs, plus there are dozens of stickers advertising the café 'Grub' stuck all over central Old Aberdeen.
- Discussed cars continuing to pass across Mounthooly Way fire station exit even when fire engine exit lights flashing.

4. Great Aberdeen Run

- The reinstatement of the 'island garden' at the junction of Don Street and Cheyne Road was discussed with Ms Ritson, ACC Traffic Management. As the Great Aberdeen Run management group had now accepted that there was not a requirement for the island to be removed, it has been accepted by ACC that the 'island garden' should be reinstated, while ensuring that there will continue to be space for the race to pass through. Suggestions were made and the inclusion of indigenous trees agreed and design should maximise ability for rainwater to soak away into the planted area. Ms Ritson will develop draft plans with Roads dept and revert with their proposals for OACC review before finalisation.
- It was noted that the Brig o'Balgownie bollards were not removed this time, this demonstrating that minor restrictions are not a problem for the runners.

5. UoA update (Alan Wight)
 - Conversion of 91 High Street into UoA Infohub will be completed by 21st September and will open for business on the 24th. New 'conservation grade' signage now in place.
 - No. 110 High St – International Centre – will also be re-signed in same style.
 - The Confucious Institute is to be refurbished and extended by bringing the first floor into use to permit more teaching and staff space.
 - The UoA plans to create a designated East-West route suitable for disabled users will shortly be discussed with ACC Planning and Heritage.
 - Work has started on clearing topsoil in the area allocated for the new Science Teaching Hub (planning application ongoing).
 - UoA will be changing colour of floodlights on Kings College to mark various 'awareness days'.

6. AUSA reps update
 - Freshers went well
 - Safe Zone phone app introduced to all
 - Student Union bar licence extended to 10pm. Actual opening hours subject to demand.
 - Planting carried out in the new community garden

7. Seaton Park update (by email)
 - No Parkfest this year and many people have expressed disappointment at this; the Friends are exploring ways to ensure it can happen again next year.
 - The Park has just received 3 stars from the Scottish Tourist Board
 - FoSP has been awarded an "Outstanding" grade again by *It's Your Neighbourhood* for 2018.
 - Crocus and daffodil bulbs will be available for planting shortly - advertising for volunteer help with planting will go out on the usual platforms
 - Himalyan Balsam continues to be an issue and should be tackled soon.

8. Planning issues
 - UoA Kings College; Lecture theatres on south side of quad to be completely renovated. No impact on exterior, internal features to be retained.
 - Planning appeal r.e. 15 High Street – process ongoing. DM noted that while the Council and 'interested parties' had one opportunity to submit a comment, the appellant has two opportunities; all in accordance with current legislation.

9. Other local issues
 - DM had earlier circulated a draft proposal that OACC should apply for funding for the development of a local 'place plan'. Meeting agreed this was a good idea and DM asked to progress this issue.
 - It was noted that Fife County were consulting on a draft decision to limit HMOs to 3% or less in a given area (St Andrews is becoming de-populated of long term residents and school numbers are dropping).
 - Two consultations presently ongoing and available for OACC comment. Both regarding alcohol licencing. No volunteers to take this on.

- Community festive fund – applications possible to 19 October. No interest in this.
- Voting for the People’s Choice award for parks is open until 30 September. All present were encouraged to vote. Especially for Seaton Park!

11. City Councillors’ update

- Celebration to be organised for 700th anniversary of the Common Good fund which originated from a gift of the Forest of Stocket to the City by Robert the Bruce. Structure of the celebration not yet finalised.
- Illicit gate closing off the lane between 42-44 Kings Crescent has (at last) been removed, but they have left the posts! As these create an obstruction and could also be used to lock off the lane, ACC has been asked to continue with pressure on the person responsible.

12. Forthcoming Community Council elections

- Nominations must be submitted into the Town House by 4pm , Thursday 27th. All encouraged to join!

13. Treasurer’s report

- Finances healthy. £841.94 in the account.

14. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meetings

- Community Council Forum; a transport and road hierarchy study is to commence to consider how to lock in gains achieved by imminent opening of the AWPR.
- Community Council Forum - Planning subcommittee; DM wrote to Scottish Govt Planning Bill Committee and MSP K Stewart with our concerns.

15. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 18th September at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse

16. Representations from members of the public and AOB

Meeting closed at 2115hrs.