

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on **Tuesday 15th March 2011** at the Old Aberdeen Town House.

Rev 1, 18 May

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Trevor Stack, Gordon Mutch, Clive Kempe.

Also Present

Cllr Jim Noble, Philip Sim, Kevin Guyan (Secretary).

Apologies

Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Dewi Morgan, Katja Brittain, Cllr Richard Robertson, Omran Al-Mahtot, Abdul Latif, Raymond Kelly.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Clive Kempe explained that he was unaware that he was actioned to contact First Bus for newsletter funding. Action point to be removed. It was also agreed that the discussion around approaching the Wood Group should also be removed. After changes, the minute was passed, proposed by Gordon Mutch, seconded by Isobel Aitken.

Christine Burgess expressed thanks to Philip Sim and Nicholas Forrest for producing videos on Sunnybank Park. They can be viewed at www.vimeo.com/search/videos/search:sunnybank%20park/d1d84042.

CB noted that, in relation to Shell Small Grant Funding, areas of community regeneration are now the main targets. OACC may consider writing an application with Tillydrone etc. later in the year. Future newsletter funding to be discussed at April meeting. **ACTION:** add newsletter funding to April agenda.

Jim Noble noted that after considering the documentation relating to Pupil Support Assistants, he is unable to find a method of avoiding problems without changing council regulations. JN added that, to his knowledge, there are no discussions around closing ACC's English Language Unit.

3. Police Update

As Grampian Police were unable to attend, no Police Update was available.

4. Planning

Third Don Crossing – GM explained that the project was passed at a recent meeting of ACC, with most councillors appearing to vote along party lines, with the exception of JN. GM stressed that the Third Don Crossing may still face problems as ACC are currently unable to fund the project and are in the process of attempting to get the Scottish Government to help cover the costs. Paradoxically, however, the Scottish Government are currently stating that they are unable to consider the planning aspects of the project as it's considered a local issue. GM noted that he personally feels the only method to fight the plan is through the Compulsory Purchase Orders and supporting local residents. JN explained that he believes the finances for the project

must be in place before the process of CPOs can commence. GM asked whether this funding could be sourced from potential developers. This was thought to be a complicated method, as the developers are not yet identified. JN added that ACC intend to suggest that the Third Don Crossing is a prerequisite of the Western Peripheral Route and Haudagain Roundabout project and must therefore be funded by national government. **ACTION:** GM to write a letter to the Scottish Government requesting explanation as to why they are unable to call the project in for further scrutiny.

New Applications – CB noted that Kilau Coffee Shop on the High Street have submitted plans to convert the rest of their building and garden area. The application includes OACC's original letter of support. CB has spoken with the owners of Kilau who believe ACC's Planning Department will view their plans favourably. It was agreed that the potential for increased noise was not of concern, as this venture would bring life back into the area.

5. Reports

Walkabout - CB explained that she recently attended a Walkabout with officers from ACC. Steven Shaw, ACC, shared with CB the possibility of community funding if one is aware of the correct places to investigate. **ACTION:** CB to contact Sinclair Laing about funding sources. CB highlighted Steven Shaw's enthusiasm to see the profile of the park raised but explained that money sourced from events does not remain with the park but goes into ACC's citywide events pot. CB noted that OACC has been contacted by Jayne Carmichael, Northern Lights Festival, who is planning a music event in the park this summer. **ACTION:** Jayne Carmichael to be invited to OACC's April meeting.

It was explained that summer bedding will be provided for 2011 and the gardeners will receive additional support from Young Offenders. It was agreed that would be a positive help. CB highlighted the gates adjacent to the Cathedral, requesting they be changed should any funding become available. It was also suggested that a map board be sited in that area to show the core paths network and how to access the beach, Old Aberdeen, the river etc. CB also noted the current sign for Grandholm Bridge in Seaton Park that leads to nowhere. Greenspace have responded stating that this sign is only temporary and will be soon corrected.

Noting the public toilet in Seaton Park falling into disrepair, the building is set to be removed and a new building provided for the park's groundsmen. CB requested a public toilet be added to this building, should funding be available. CB added that the public toilet near the park's carpark is statistically the city's most used public park toilet.

The BBQ area was also discussed and whether it is best to continue to turn a blind eye to the practice or create an area specifically for BBQs.

CB shared a map of Seaton Park highlighting the two potential routes the planned cable could follow. Depending on the route, improved drainage may also be added to the project. CK asked where the cable would cross the River Don. CB noted that Steven Shaw was unsure. **ACTION:** CB to email Steven Shaw asking to be fully informed of development relating to the cable.

Mediation Event – CB noted that she recently attended the pilot mediation project between community councils and ACC's planning process. The event outlined some potential answers to the problems challenging the relationship between the two. From this event, a small working party has been formed.

Civic Forum – It was explained that Katja Brittain attended the most recent meeting of the Civic Forum.

Community Council Forum – Have not recently met.

6. Treasurer's Report

IA explained that the Treasurer's Annual Report has now been signed by the auditor and submitted to Karen Riddoch, Community Council Liaison Officer, ACC. IA added that Karen Riddoch expressed her hopes to meet with OACC in the near future. CK asked where the Annual Treasurer's Report is published. IA explained that she will forward it to Dewi Morgan for inclusion on the OACC website.

IA explained that a cheque for £120.00 has been received from ACC's Festive Fund, with around £90.00 of the grant spent. OACC have been advised to keep the remaining £30.00.

It was explained that after 13 months ACC have cashed the cheque for £1800 to cover the cost of the repainting of Seaton Park.

IA noted that we are waiting to receive our grant for this year.

7. Newsletter

Nothing to report.

8. Correspondence

- Information from Shaunagh Kirby, University of Aberdeen, on the university's recent successes at architectural awards. Several of the buildings on the King's College campus were awarded at the ceremony.
- Shaunagh Kirby also highlighted the Hard Rain photographic exhibition currently taking place outside New Kings.

9. AOCB

- JN noted that he recently spoke with Karen Riddoch who is hoping to move the financial years of community councils from January-December to April-March. It was also highlighted that the price of insurance for community councils, deducted prior to the allocation of budgets, is likely to rise. **ACTION:** investigate issue of community council insurance further.
- CB circulated information by email on the proposed development plans for the Triple Kirks. Philip Sim offered to spread this story to the local press.
- IA noted compliments from Karen Riddoch on the high quality of the OACC website.

10. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

OACC will next meet on Tuesday 19th April at 7.30pm at Old Aberdeen Town House.