

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 16th August 2011** at Dunbar Street Hall, Dunbar Street, Old Aberdeen.

1. Present

Christine Burgess, Dewi Morgan, Gordon Mutch, Hilda Meers, Clive Kempe, Isobel Aitken, Trevor Stack.

Cllr Jim Noble, PC Alex West, Ashleigh Barbour (Press & Journal), Tessa Birley (Aberdeen University Students' Association).

Apologies

Simon Barker, Richard Robertson, Abdul Latif, Omran Al-Mahtot.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising

May minutes were reviewed and accepted by all. Proposed by GM, seconded by DM

June minutes were reviewed and minor corrections made, proposed by IA, seconded by DM

3. Police Update

PC AW, a constable at the Tillydrone office, introduced himself and distributed copies of the most recent Police Report and a copy of the map of the police area boundaries.

When questioned by CB he confirmed that Old Aberdeen mostly came under the Tillydrone area though Sunnybank was in the Kittybrewster area. He will report back to the Inspector about OACC's request for both reports.

He explained that figures for the last period were low, with only 3 fires and 2 public nuisances. One of the fires was on Harrow Road where a fence was set on fire, resulting in very little damage. There was also a theft by break-in by Balgownie Hall – enquiries still on-going. He says they have teams of officers who deal with these types of break-ins. Also a theft from a vehicle. He says he unfortunately does not have the location of where the car was but if OACC would like that information, he can find out.

CB also asked if there had been any movement with the police station on High Street. PC AW responded that "it is definitely closed" and no officers are stationed there anymore. They are now based in Tillydrone and Seaton.

OACC had no comments or questions, and PC AW provided his email address for future correspondence.

A point regarding cyclists are travelling in both directions along the High Street was also raised. PC AW said he had spoken to his inspector about it, who had then been in touch with the road safety department as it is not a police matter. It is for that department to make any changes. The inspector suggested that OACC write a letter to the council.

Action: OACC to write to the roads department regarding cyclists using the one way High Street in both directions.

4. Planning

CPZ – the process of marking out the roads and installing ticket machines and signage has started. Pay and Display and revised residents parking comes into operation on 1st September.

HK noted that people in Sunnybank Road are petitioning to get their roads excluded. She said such petitioning seemed pointless and "possibly counterproductive". Clive noted that CPZ's were "total overkill" on Sunnyside Terrace and that they were very obvious.

IA said it would be interesting to see how long it will take to put up the meters, to which Clive responded that work continued for 6 to 8 weeks on his street.

While some residents have claimed not to have known anything about the CPZ until marking started, DM commented that residents have been kept informed through the process by ACC Councillors and OACC. He said there would be an opportunity to comment at the end of 6 months and residents will have this opportunity to put their concerns to the ACC Roads dept at this time.

Third Don Crossing – GM advised that there were no specific developments to report, but understands that in the region of 300 compulsory purchase orders have been issued. The situation has been taken on board by Scottish Government.

CK noted that the CPOs will have to be approved by the government and he asked who will be paying for the land and property purchased. Councillor Noble said the money for purchases would be part of a financial package for the crossing and that the council is in talks with the Scottish Government.

HK asked if it would help those threatened by CPOs to write to the Scottish Government, saying the house shouldn't be compulsory purchased. GM noted that the consultation process will give the residents the opportunity to object.

HK remarked that she would like to see OACC expressing their support for those affected. OACC discussed writing a letter to the Scottish Government, but concluded that this was not the appropriate time.

Current planning applications

The proposal for billboard signage at 605a King Street was objected to by the OACC. The proposal has since been rejected.

CCTV at the university: three applications have been approved but with conditions applied to the one on 15/17 High Street. OACC had initially objected to this proposal, but the council have come back proposing to put it between the two buildings nos. 13 and 15, providing a level of continuity between the street lights.

The OACC had also expressed concern over the number of modern fittings on the front of No. 15 and the university has undertaken to review and if possible 'de-clutter' the frontage.

Bike racks and shelters in various places around the University.

- Cycle shelter and CCTV alongside Kings College application pending (OACC objected)
- Cycle shelter and Argon Tank, Cruickshank: approved
- Cycle Shelter at St. Mary's: approved

Construction of bus turning circle off Bedford Road: pending

Construction of 2 parking bays off Elphinstone Road: pending

Proposal for a base station on roof of the MacRobert building for mobile phones. Purpose will be to provide third generation coverage in the area. There is already a station on top of the building. OACC has 14 days starting from August 11 to object, however OACC raised no objections.

CB asked JN if the ACC had received compensation money for installation of cable across Seaton Park.

Action: JN to investigate.

5. Reports of Other meetings

The Community Council forum. DM, IA and CB attended a meeting where Valerie Watt, the new ACC Chief Executive was introduced and talked about her background, the

challenges of her new position and future plans. She felt the council workers were very demoralised, but that the financial situation was manageable. She had noticed there were a large number of separate bodies each with their own vision of how the city should develop
CB noted she seemed "very open and accessible".

River Don Community Network: GM attended meeting. Nothing much to report but will continue to attend to keep up to date. Not clear what the community council can get from the meetings, but he will continue to go along.

University Communication

CB noted that Chris Gane had left the University and we had not heard who his successor will be in terms of community engagement. Tessa, the new student president, suggested contacting the Principal as he is now an Old Aberdeen resident.

Action Contact CB to contact Principal to ask who will be our contact.

6. Treasurer's Report

IA has received an up-to-date statement from the bank and advised that the current balance was £974.83. This sum is to last the community council until the end of the year.

However, she received an invoice this evening for £277 for the last newsletter. DM advised that the figure seemed too high and this should not be paid until he had checked it out.

7. Newsletter

For potential inclusion - museum information, CPZ, results of the survey, search for a minutes secretary. Potentially something on the Third River Don Crossing too.
Possible date for next issue – November?

8. Correspondence

Letter received about local government ward boundary changes. The wards of Tillydrone, Seaton, Old Aberdeen will remain as-is.

9. AOCB

Seaton Park

DM said he was disappointed about the Northern Lights festival not going ahead, and that it would be beneficial if something similar could be achieved in the future.

Children's playpark – it was noted that one piece of play park equipment is broken. There is also only one swing. CB to write to ACC about the broken 'springer'.

DM noted how the park receives little funding, unlike Duthie Park.

Tessa noted that university students are still keen to see the park lit up at night. CB noted that Police, University and OACC have always been against this for the safety of students. Tessa said that during a meeting with new council leader, Calum McCaig, he did not seem averse to the idea.

Appeal for secretary

The OACC is still appealing for a minutes secretary. Suggestions to make an appeal for another student.

Action Tessa will circulate a request within the university.

Street lighting

DM brought up the installation of number of new street lights on Elphinstone Road and Meston Walk. He identified that there are now four different types of modern lighting in this short distance.

He noted that that there is never any communication between the ACC and OACC about issues such as this and suggested putting a letter together about the lighting issue and this was agreed.

Action OACC to write to ACC about street lighting.

Global Exchange

Jenny Oldman, programme supervisor for Global Exchange, was also in attendance and explained her role in the programme. She asked if there were any projects in the community that her exchange students could help with, and if OACC had any contacts with which she could get in touch.

She also advised they were looking for families with spare rooms to take in students. DM offered to put details on the web site.

10. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Old Aberdeen Community Council will take place on Tuesday 20th September in the Old Aberdeen Town House.

Action CB to book Town House for next three months.