

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 18th August 2009** at Dunbar Street Hall, Old Aberdeen.

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Dewi Morgan, Katja Brittain, Trevor Stack, Gordon Mutch, Clive Kempe.

Also Present

Gordon Simpson (Grampian Police), Kenny Scott (Grampian Police), Robin Parker (Students' Association), Omran Al-Mahtot (Aberdeen Mosque), Graham Abraham, Cllr Jim Noble, Dauna Matheson, Abdul Latif, Hilda Meers, Kevin Guyan (Secretary).

Apologies

Shaunagh Kirby (University of Aberdeen), Abdul Latif, Cllr Richard Robertson, David Hutchison.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of OACC's June meeting were accepted, proposed by Simon Barker and seconded by Dewi Morgan.

Jim Noble informed the Council that the decision regarding the future of Sunnybank Park will be discussed at an ACC committee meeting on 17 September, with councillors set to receive the report very shortly. Christine Burgess explained that after June's discussion, a letter on behalf of OACC has been sent to Sue Bruce, ACC Chief Executive.

CB explained that due to First Bus's ongoing industrial action she has not asked for a representative to attend an OACC meeting. **ACTION:** CB to consider inviting a First representative to an OACC meeting later in the year.

JN highlighted the reinstatement of the bell at the Old Aberdeen Town House, with OACC expressing their thanks to Cllr Richard Robertson, David Robertson, University of Aberdeen's Student Charity Group and all other fundraisers.

Robin Parker highlighted the ongoing construction work at the new university library site, with SB adding that a right-hand turn up Elphinstone Road is a future planning idea that he has proposed to the University.

JN noted that the question of the bollards on the High Street is yet to be discussed by an ACC committee.

CB has received a letter informing her that the Scottish Government's Structure Plan has now been approved.

CB also explained that Seaton Park's Head Gardener has purchased £300 of plants from Ben Reid and the newly repainted train in the park looks great.

JN added that the Sports Village Open Day is now set for 22 August from 11am.

3. University Update

No attendants from the university were present.

RP introduced himself as the newly elected President of the Students' Association and provided an outline of policies he hopes to pursue over the next year, notably problems associated with transport.

Trevor Stack asked whether the development of cycle lanes would be an issue the Students' Association would be happy to support. RP expressed his enthusiasm for the extension of current

provisions for cycling, including the construction of more bays to secure bicycles. **ACTION:** OACC to take issue forward.

4. Police Update

Graham Simpson distributed police figures for June 2009. He noted that in this period there was only one incident of youth disorder in Old Aberdeen and one attempted break-in to a garage. There was, however, a spate of vandalisms to cars. GS stressed the importance of parking cars in well-lit areas, not leaving valuables in parked vehicles and ensuring they are properly secured. DM asked what is meant by the term “motorcycle” call. GS explained that the term refers to crimes involving motorcycles; this can include nuisance noise, underage drivers and reports of riders wearing inappropriate safety gear.

CB asked whether there will be increased police presence during the university’s Freshers’ Week. GS explained that there would be an increased police presence and a distribution of information relating to safety etc. RP added that this year’s Freshers’ Week starts on 22 September. JN also noted that during the first few days of Freshers’ Week the traffic regulations relating to the High Street bollards are relaxed, helping parents avoid confusion when dropping-off students at Crombie-Johnston accommodation.

5. St Machar Outdoor Centre / Sunnybank Park

DM and Clive Kempe shared their work on a questionnaire for local residents on current usage and future hopes for the Sunnybank Park. Alexander Mess, Sunnybank Key Contacts Group, has also been involved in the creation of the questionnaire.

Hilda Meers explained that the Sunnybank Key Contacts Group is meeting on 31 August, with an agenda item on the future of Sunnybank Park.

JN suggested that the questionnaire would be most effective if the results can be presented to Councillors prior to their Group meetings before the committee meet on 17 September. Although time is short, it was agreed that this is the best idea. The content and design of the questionnaire was finalised by OACC, with the printed copies hopefully ready by 1 September. CB agreed to collect the questionnaires from the printer, with both CK and Katja Brittain offering to help coordinate the distribution process.

CK asked JN whether he had been able to source more information on the deeds of Sunnybank Park. JN explained that he is yet to hear anything further. **ACTION:** JN to investigate.

6. Planning Applications and CPZ Update

CK notified the Council that an application has been submitted for non-luminated car parking spaces in the university campus. It was felt by OACC that the location “university campus” is too vague and may set a precedent for future planning submissions. **ACTION:** CK to investigate.

CK explained that there has been some tree felling on Regent Walk.

CK added that there has been an application for the construction of a pond at a property on the Chanory. **ACTION:** CK to investigate.

CPZ Update – JN explained that ACC have almost finished the process of mapping the CPZ for each street. Councillors, local groups etc. will then be presented with this information before a process of public consultation, most likely at the end of September. **ACTION:** DM to include this information in the newsletter.

KB stressed the importance of having a representative from ACC regarding the CPZ who has the authority to act on the points raised. It was agreed that it is pointless raising issues with a representative who has no power. JN suggested inviting Doug Ritchie, Head of Roads, or David

Wymsses, of Roads Legislation, to an OACC meeting.

SB asked whether the question of residents' charges has been resolved. JN explained that he believes the university is finished with the financial aspects of the process and any potential subsidies from ACC towards charges would only come from planning gains. As it stands, ACC will not subsidise residents' charges.

JN added that there is, however, no regulation that sets uniformity across all of the city's CPZs; there is the possibility of fitting the CPZ to fit the local needs.

7. Access from the North / 3rd Don crossing Consultation Update

CB explained that the question of the Third Don Crossing has been included in the Structure Plan and approved by the Scottish Government. There is currently no set location for the proposed bridge, with many elements of the Plan still very unclear.

8. Treasurer's Mid-year Report

IA explained that there is currently £510 remaining for the Small Improvements Grant, after deductions for the painting of the train in Seaton Park and a grant to Seaton's Head Gardener.

IA explained that there is around £800 remaining to fund OACC's running costs. **ACTION:** IA to double-check finances for September's meeting.

9. Newsletter

DM explained that content for the next edition of the newsletter must be submitted by 1 September. The newsletter should be ready for distribution by 9 September.

DM briefly ran through articles that will be included in the next edition and who have agreed to write them. He highlighted that there is still currently space for more content, should anyone have any further ideas.

CB asked whether Shell offered any funding to assist with community newsletters. **ACTION:** Kevin Guyan to ask the editor of Bucksburn and Newhills community magazine.

10. New Website

DM shared with the Council his new version of OACC's website. Everyone agreed that the new design looks good and clearly communicates the desired information. **ACTION:** DM to upload changes.

11. Elections – Dates and Process

DM explained that nominations for the Community Council must be received by 24 September at 4pm. Should more than 12 nominations be received for OACC, an election will be required. It was agreed that OACC should aim to source 12 nominations and publicise the election as much as possible through the newsletter.

12. Correspondence

- Invites to a Civic Reception at the Beach Ballroom on 24 September.
- Information on the Aberdeen Local Licensing Forum. **ACTION:** KG to contact and ask for OACC to be kept informed.

- Information on sessions on the modernisation of the planning procedure held in July.
ACTION: CB to contact asking for further training sessions.
- Consultation on city woodlands.
- Information on ACC's possible adoption of the Community Council Code of Conduct.
- Letter asking for volunteers for Children's Panels.
- Invitation to the Goodapple Housing Open Day on 5 September.

13. AOCB

- TS asked for clarification on volunteers for the distribution of the Sunnybank Park questionnaire. RP raised the possibility of student volunteers. **ACTION:** CK and RP to contact.
- Graham Abraham asked whether there were any plans to host a fair for Saint Luke on the High Street. Due to time constraints it is unlikely OACC could be involved in any project.
ACTION: KG to forward information on the fair to RP.
- GA asked whether there had been any progress relating to Mark Ellington and a potential bid for World Heritage Status. **ACTION:** CB to contact Mark Ellington.
- CB explained that Hamish Mackay is continuing with his Seaton Park initiative and is now working with other community groups, hopefully increasing the chance of receiving funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of OACC will be on Tuesday 15 September at the Old Aberdeen Town House. OACC will then meet on 20 October, 17 November and 15 December. OACC are no longer charged for their use of Dunbar Hall; it was agreed, however, for the moment that OACC should continue to meet 3 out of 4 sessions at the Old Aberdeen Town House.