

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 15th September 2009** at the Town House, Old Aberdeen.

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Trevor Stack, Clive Kempe.

Also Present

Tracy McGorin (Grampian Police), Kenny Scott (Grampian Police), Alan Mulvie (Aberdeen City Council), Hamish Mackay, Robin Parker (Students' Association), Eileen Grassick (Tillydrone Community Council), Ross Grant (Tillydrone Community Council), Marc Ellington, Angus Donaldson (University of Aberdeen), Valerie Morgan, Graham Abraham, Cllr Jim Noble, Hilda Meers, Kevin Guyan (Secretary).

Apologies

Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Gordon Simpson (Grampian Police), Cllr Norman Collie, Dewi Morgan, Abdul Latif, Cllr Richard Robertson, David Hutchison, Katja Brittain.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Christine Burgess noted that Abdul Latif is listed under "Also Present", although he did not attend. It was also agreed that that under item seven "Access from the North / 3rd Don crossing Consultation Update" the final sentence "no set location for the proposed bridge" should be removed. After changes, August's minutes were passed, proposed by Trevor Stack and seconded by Clive Kempe.

CB explained that she has written to Sue Bruce, Aberdeen City Council Chief Executive, regarding the bollards on the High Street. ACC have replied stating that the four options are still being considered, with the preferred option a bus lane with a camera. This option would, however, require the removal of a camera from another location in the city.

CB also updated the Council on her communications regarding the training on the changes to ACC planning guidelines. She has received copies of the presentation materials and has been informed that further training courses will be run if time permits.

3. University Update

Angus Donaldson informed the Council that the work on the new library has commenced.

AD added that the Sports Village is now open, operational and very well received. OACC echoed AD's praise for the new facilities.

Robin Parker explained that Freshers' Week starts on Saturday 19 September, with the Freshers' marquee now erected on King's lawn. CB asked whether there was any link between the university's Freshers' Week and the Fresh 09 event in Seaton Park. RP explained that there is no link between the university's events and the proposed music event in Seaton Park.

AD shared news on reports of a number of items being stolen from the campus.

Graham Abraham asked whether there was any news on Dunbar Hall. AD explained that he has heard nothing further.

CB asked about the progress of the High Street café. AD explained that he has heard nothing further.

4. Police Update

Kenny Scott introduced himself and his colleague, Tracy McGorrin.

KS briefly updated the Council on the crime figures for August.

KS also highlighted the recent fire at the pavilion in Sunnybank Park, with three people currently detained in connection with the crime. KS added that on previous visits to the site he noted the ongoing vandalism and signs of alcohol consumption. CK asked about the condition of the pavilion. TM explained that they have not personally visited the site but is sure that photographs have been taken. CB emphasised the impact of this crime on the future of the Outdoor Centre and park.

ACTION: TM to forward any further information on the condition of the site to CB.

CK asked whether media reports that Union Street is the worst street in Scotland for crime were true. TM explained that the high figures of crime on Union Street are representative of wide CCTV coverage, communication between door staff and a high level of police presence. Alan Mulvie added that the figures could be misleading as Union Street is classed as a single area for reporting, where as some other city centres do not make this distinction.

5. St Machar Outdoor Centre / Sunnybank Park

CB expressed her thanks on behalf of the Council for the efforts of Dewi Morgan and CK in relation to the Sunnybank Park questionnaire. 85 replies have so far been received, with copies still being handed in. All feedback expressed the community's desire to retain the park, with many good suggestions on how to use the site with little further costs required from ACC. The results of the questionnaire have since been forwarded to the relevant councilors. AM suggested also forwarding the results to the ACC Officers involved in the issue. **ACTION:** CB to forward results to Steve Booth, AM, AD etc.

Hilda Meers shared with the Council feedback received from Sue Bruce to the Sunnybank Key Contacts Group. The Group next meet on 21 September at Sunnybank Primary School, with those interested in the issue welcome to attend.

AD clarified points raised at June's OACC meeting regarding the university's potential interest in the site. AD explained that should the site become surplus to ACC's requirements, the university may consider the site as a potential location for childcare facilities.

AM emphasised that it is only the sports facilities that have been declared surplus to requirement and the site continues to be designated as green space, a designation that requires great effort and time to change. AM added that the general consensus seems to be keeping the park as green space. AM also explained that he believes the site to currently be under the control of Education, Culture and Sports, with the possibility of it being moved to Environment and Infrastructure should the sports facilities be removed.

HM identified the need for those involved to consider the social benefits of sports facilities, with the long-term social gains often justifying the economic costs.

Jim Noble clarified the differences between Sunnybank Park and St Machar Outdoor Centre, with the sports facilities (Outdoor Centre) sited within Sunnybank Park.

CB concluded by stating that the proposals for the site must be clear before the community can be expected to comment on the issue.

6. Planning Applications and CPZ Update

CK explained that he has seen the plans for the proposed pend on the Chanory and can't see any issue worth raising.

CB looked at the proposed signage across the university campus and was told that signage does not go through the usual planning application process.

CPZ Update – CB explained that the design for the CPZ has been finalised. Community representatives are now invited to view the plans with officials at St Nicholas House the week beginning 28 September. This will be followed the formal consultation, which should run for four to five weeks in October. CB added that concerns regarding signage on the High Street do seem to have been taken into consideration, although a couple of parking metres are still planned for the High Street.

Hamish Mackay asked that community representatives viewing the plans at St Nicholas House also take into consideration the views of residents in Seaton and Linksfield, who may be overlooked as they currently have no community councils.

7. Treasurer's Mid-year Report

IA was unable to attend the meeting. In her absence, Kevin Guyan gave a brief update on OACC's current finances.

8. Newsletter

CB expressed thanks on behalf of OACC for Dewi Morgan's work on the latest edition of Auld Toon News. She also thanked those who contributed articles.

9. Elections – Dates and Process

CB reminded everyone that the deadline for community council nominations is 24 September.

10. Correspondence

- Information on the restructuring of the ward boundaries for Aberdeen Central.
- Report on ACC's Nature Conservation Strategy.
- Information on a meeting regarding the Local Development Plan on 28 September.
ACTION: CB to speak to the relevant planning officer about the possibility of attending a future OACC meeting.

11. AOCB

- Marc Ellington provided an update on possibility of Old Aberdeen applying for UNESCO World Heritage status.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of OACC will be on Tuesday 20 October at the Old Aberdeen Town House.