

Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council

Wednesday, 3rd. June, 2020 at 7pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Minutes

Attendees: Community Councillors Stephen Clarke. Geoff Goolnik, Linda Presslie

Also, in attendance: Aberdeen City Councillors Michael Hutchison, Dell Henrickson, Sandra Macdonald, Alexander McLellan

1. Welcome and apologies:

Geoff Goolnik took the chair, being the host for this virtual meeting. He stated that Zoom had not imposed its usual 40 minutes' time limit tonight.

Apologies received from Community Councillors Alexander Mess, Ann Pirie (Treasurer), Victoria Pirie and John Singer (Vice-Chair).

2. Election of New Chairperson

On 3rd. May, Albert Craig had sent an email to Community Councillors stating that he was – with immediate effect - resigning as Chairperson, feeling constrained in the execution of his duties by the prevailing pandemic. As a goodwill gesture, he indicated that he would remain as a Community Councillor but didn't wish to receive further official communications from the Community Council.

As this present meeting was inquorate, it had no power to decide if Albert's offer to remain as a Community Councillor was useful nor did it have the authority to elect a new Chairperson. It was agreed to return to the matter at the next meeting, provided that the Community Council was quorate.

Albert's decision unofficially reduced the number of Community Councillors to seven, a number which – as on tonight – risked causing our proceedings to become inquorate when four of that number weren't able to attend. After some discussion, It was agreed to approach some residents who were known to be interested in the Community Council to see if they might be willing to be co-opted onto it.

3 Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting (4th. March 2020)

Banners: Linda Presslie reported that adopting the Council design and Integrating the logo were matters still in hand

Berryden Corridor. Linda also reported that inviting someone to talk was necessarily delayed because of the difficulties imposed by the pandemic.

Sunnybank Walk: Events have overtaken this matter.

Former BT Yard (Froghall): No Further information available on what is happening here.

Traffic calming measures on Sunnyside Road and Bedford Place. Sunnyside Road successfully completed before the Lockdown. Bedford Place to be progressed as soon as post- Lockdown progress allows. No definite start date yet. Possibility of refreshing the 20mph speed restriction surface markers was raised. AC Councillor Sandra Macdonald agreed to investigate.

4. Police/City Wardens' reports

None

5. Aberdeen City Councillors' reports

Councillor Sandra Macdonald highlighted useful information relating to Council services in relation to the Pandemic that is available on Aberdeen City Council's website. Grass cutting has commenced again but some areas will be left to grow wild to encourage natural habitats within the City. There followed some discussion about striking the right balance here.

The question of refuse collection was raised. Is the present pattern going to continue until November? Councillor Macdonald said that at present there has been no definite fixed as to when it will change back. This is because the Council didn't have a full complement of staff back in place because of the Pandemic. Workers also now to socially distance and the trucks have to negotiate renewed level of traffic. Recycling centres have however now partially reopened. It's all going to take longer to get back to normal than when the lockdown happened.

6. Representations from received from members of the public

None

7. Planning matters

No new applications relating to CC area have been forwarded. Apparently planning applications have gone down in general because of the Pandemic. Linda had just received a late and long letter from the Minister of Housing & Local Government (Kevin Stewart MSP) in relation to Planning & Covid-19 but hadn't had time to read it and report back.

Apparently, planning approval had gone through for the proposed flats in Bedford Place. The Community Council hadn't raised any objection to it.

8. Secretary's report (including correspondence)

Stephen confirmed a copy of the above letter from Kevin Stewart. He felt that an executive summary might have been useful here

9. Treasurer's report

None

10. Reports from other Community Councillors

None

11. AOCB

Community Council's website: Geoff Goolnik said that he was trying to update the Community Council's website in relation to advice from the City council with regards to the Pandemic. More people seem to have been visiting the site recently.

Free food distribution from Froghall Community Centre: Linda Presslie was desperate to get back into centre but Aberdeen City Council unwilling to give permission. The problem was complicated because the Centre is officially a learning as well as a community centre. She is now helping 46 families out of the back of her car. Meanwhile the building is just empty. She thought of trying to rent a space and see if the Council would pay for it. Discussion followed. According to Councillor Sandra Macdonald the Council is elsewhere providing free food through official hubs but both she and subsequently Councillor Michael Hutchison promised to look into whether and when Linda could be allowed back into Froghall Community Centre.

Refuse at Froghall: Councillor Sandra Macdonald reported that a lot of mess had been left around the bins at Froghall. Councillor Dell Hendrikson wondered how often a check was conducted by the Council on these bins and also on the wall enclosures nearby. He would be approaching the Council to see how often they were cleared and to get operatives to check them more frequently.

12. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 1st. July at 7 p.m.