

## **Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council**

**Wednesday, 3rd February 2021 at 7pm Online (Zoom)**

### **Minutes**

**In attendance:** Geoffrey Goolnik (Chair/Host and Website Manager), John Singer (Vice Chair), Stephen Clarke (Secretary), Linda Presslie (Planning Officer), Alexander Mess (Community Councillor) and Daniel Warren (Community Councillor)

**Also in attendance:** Michael Hutchison (Aberdeen City Councillor) and Dell Henrickson (Aberdeen City Councillor)

#### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair (Geoff) opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Apologies received from Sergeant Michael Stobie (Police Scotland), Anne Pirie (Treasurer), Alex McLellan (Aberdeen City Councillor) and Sandra Macdonald (Aberdeen City Councillor).

#### **2 Minutes of the previous meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020)**

Proposed by Alex; and seconded by Daniel.

#### **3 Matters arising from 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020**

Hedge and pavement on Sunnyside Road- No update on the matter, Alex will have a look and report back for the next meeting.

Graffiti on the junction of Bedford Avenue- There is still graffiti as last seen by Geoff. Not much can be done as it is not owned by the Council.

#### **4 Police & City Wardens' reports**

Sergeant Michael Stobie (by email) submitted a written report. He reported that a check was ran on the abandoned vehicle (WX02WYA) outside the Community Centre and is subject to a statutory off-road notice and attempts are being made to locate the owner. Linda and Alex raised the point that the police could contact the City Council to get the vehicle removed as it has been there for almost 6 months. Linda agreed to follow up with Sergeant Stobie about the matter.

Alex raised the point to ask Sergeant Stobie whether more checks will be run on cycling on pavements and provide a report on how successful the cycling campaign was. It was agreed that questions on this will be asked when Sergeant Stobie is present at the next meeting.

#### **5 Aberdeen City Councillors' Reports**

Cllr. Hutchison reported nothing specific related to the area.

Geoff asked what was the intention for the remaining tree stumps on Sunnyside Road and whether new trees could be planted. It was asked whether the Community Council could be notified about what the short- or long-term

intentions are for the stumps. Cllr. Hutchison mentioned that some of the stumps were to be replaced with trees but will follow up to see if they are on the waiting list. Cllr. Hendricks to follow up on this as well and pass this on to Cllr. McLellan.

## 6 **Members of the Public**

No members of the public were present.

## 7 **Planning matters**

Linda reported that the Community Council has no input on the work being carried out on the flats on Bedford Place.

Planning application was received for an extension on one of the Sunnyside bungalows.

On Causewayend there are antennas, possibly for fibre upgrade, being set up. Linda has left messages about it and has not received a response. Agreed not to follow up on the matter as it would be beneficial for area.

## 8 **Chairperson's reports**

Concern over Old Aberdeen Medical Centre - Formal complaint has been lodged by a campaign under the Charter of Patient's Rights and Responsibilities. It was found that there was no patient consultation in the decision for Old Aberdeen Medical Centre to be taken over by a private practice. IJB never carried out public consultations as it was stated that it was a management concern.

Geoff noted that there will be an online discussion as a form of public consultation with members of the IJB which Geoff (Chair), John (Vice Chair) and Stephen (Secretary) have been invited to attend on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

John noted that there is an external investigation being conducted on a number of points concerning Old Aberdeen Medical Centre. This includes a possible conflict of interest with a member involved in the decision-making process, who as of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 from a recent IJB meeting has recused herself. Other points include the register of interests not being made immediately public, the lack of patient consultation and ignoring the staff consultation. Another point was that there is uncertainty as to whether the Equality Impact Assessment and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment have been conducted. John submitted freedom of information requests on the matter and the IJB have five more days to respond.

After attending a locality meeting Linda raised concerns of possible misrepresentation of the reason for doctors leaving the practice. Geoff raised a similar concern. Daniel noted that the most recent January meeting of the IJB was accessible online.

John further stated that Old Aberdeen Medical Practice is no longer accepting new student patients. Alex raised concern on the impact on students in the area as well as patients of Old Aberdeen Medical Practice and other practices around Aberdeen.

Agreed to wait for the result of the ongoing investigation and the freedom of information requests before taking action. Suggested by John that Alex and Linda attend the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 being key members of the community. Geoff agreed to email Karen Finch on this. Cllr. Hendricks will be attending the meeting and will also ask questions.

Update on Two Bridges Redecoration Project proposal - A Reply was received from The National Lottery who stated that they could not support the application as they felt it was purely redecoration and for the Council to undertake.

One of the muralists suggested using a local street artist who could take on the work which would reduce costs. Geoff also approached Mark Henderson, Senior Community Engagement Manager at Network Railway in Glasgow, suggested approaching the Scottish Route Panel who might consider funding for Canal Road Bridge and possibly the "Bedford Road" footbridge. Geoff has accordingly submitted a funding appeal to them setting out the background and benefits of the project.

The cost for work on Canal Road Bridge comes to £2,970, of which £2,500 is for the creation of the removable aluminium panels (to fit in with Network Rail's access needs) and £450 to paint the mural. The cost for both bridges stands at £6,390 but this could be reduced if the colourful thermo plastics envisaged for the walkway of "Bedford Road" footbridge were not used.

Further, one of the two muralist concerns estimating for the work – both of which are based outside of the City - had kindly suggested that we could lower the cost if we instead used a Aberdeen based street artist who they knew of and in their opinion they could highly recommend. Using this individual would then bring the cost of the footbridge's redecoration down further and which the community council might just possibly pay for: The upright murals for the footbridge were then cost between £600 – 800 in total. The main cost challenge for the other, Canal Road, bridge was the panelling. Geoff asked for opinions on whether to go ahead with this. Alex suggested concentrating on the "Bedford Road" footbridge. Stephan suggested possibly going to Rotary Club for some help with fundraising. Geoff also suggested speaking to local businesses in the area. Agreed to wait for further developments next month.

Aberdeen University's Internship Programme (ABDNConnect)- Geoff asked if there are any suggestions. One potential project could be the electronic newsletter. Alex suggested possibly creating a newsletter similar to The Gaudie. Daniel agreed that the newsletter could be updated monthly and have more of a community feel than information on the website. Daniel is open to taking a student on to do this. Agreed that this matter be left until the pandemic passed.

## 9 **Secretary's report**

Stephen attended the Aberdeen Community Council Forum meeting and announced that there is a new Directive from Scottish Government that Community Council must ensure that their websites are accessibility friendly. An email will be sent out later in the year and recommendations implemented by June 2021.

Stephen also reported that TSO, the website hosting service that we use, has been hacked and many accounts have been receiving fraudulent emails. TSO are looking into it and resolving the issue.

10 **Treasurer's report**

Alex reported that the balance remains the same.

Geoff put in a request for payment of the Zoom subscription and the Minutes Assistant.

Stephen also noted that it was confirmed by Karen from the Community Council Forum meeting that Community Councils will still receive a grant this year irrespective of how much they have.

11 **Reports from other Community Councillors**

Stephen noted that Karen will start organising elections for Community Councils from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and the election date is 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021.

12 **AOCB**

Linda asked about a leaflet she received inviting her to join the Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank group on the app Nextdoor. Daniel pointed out that the app is similar to a social network platform for people in the local area to post different things. Cllr. Henrickson suggested using the app to ask for new members. Daniel agreed to set up an account for the Community Council. Alex suggested using the app to broadcast news and generating interest.

13 **Date of next meeting**

Agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 3rd March 2021, 7pm (Online via Zoom)