

## Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council

Wednesday, 7th April 2021 at 7pm

### Online (Zoom)

### Minutes

**In attendance:** Geoffrey Goolnik (Chair/Host and Website Manager), Stephen Clarke (Secretary), Linda Presslie (Planning Officer), Alexander Mess (Community Councillor), Daniel Warren (Community Councillor), Albert Craig (Community Councillor) and Rachel Smith (Community Councillor).

**Also in attendance:** Alex McLellan (Aberdeen City Councillor), Dell Henrickson (Aberdeen City Councillor), Michael Hutchison (Aberdeen City Councillor) and Sandra Macdonald (Aberdeen City Councillor)

**Members of the Public:** Fredrick Bayer (subsequently Associate Member)

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

Apologies received from John Singer (Vice Chair), Sergeant Michael Stobie (Police Scotland) and Anne Pirie (Treasurer).

#### 2 **Minutes of the previous meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021)**

Alex made a correction on page 4 that what he had actually criticised was that Councillor Sarah Duncan (who chaired the meeting with the Community Councils) stating in conclusion that while Partnership & Joint Board had learnt a lot from us during this they still weren't minded in any way to adjust their decision on Old Aberdeen Medical Practice!

Approval of the previous Minutes proposed by Alex; and seconded by Daniel.

#### 3 **Matters arising from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**

Graffiti around the area – The graffiti by the substation on Bedford Road has become a lot worse and Geoff proposed sending a letter to SSE about it. Cllr. McLellan offered to follow up with officers about getting it cleaned up. The graffiti at Kittybrewster Retail Park has also worsened. It was suggested contacting the landlords about it which the city councillors offered to do.

Linda also noted a pink graffiti tag that was found on the waste container at Froghall Community Centre. Linda agreed to send Cllr. Henrickson a picture of the tag so he can find out who it belongs to. Cllr. Henrickson will also ask for it to be cleaned up.

Graffiti on Canal Road Bridge – this has been cleaned up.

Signage on Sunnyside Road – Cllr. McLellan was able to get the 20 miles per hour surface sign refreshed on Sunnyside Road.

Aberdeen University's Internship Programme (ABDNConnect) – Geoff received a positive reply from Tracey Innes about starting a newsletter as part of the Aberdeen University Internship programme. She is sure she could find an opportunity for this to take place and the programme would be funded by the University.

#### 4 **Police Report & City Wardens.**

Police Report - Sergeant Michael Stobie (by email) submitted a written report which was read out by Stephen as Police Constable Lisa Stephen was in the end unable to attend the meeting. It was reported that theft of bikes has reduced in the area and police are running a 5-month operation in relation to bike theft and anti-social behaviour around the area. There has been an increase of youth annoyance calls due to the holidays and loosening of COVID-19 restrictions. This is being monitored and Sergeant Stobie is ensuring extra patrols are being carried out. There are no significant increase in crime trends in the area.

Geoff suggested asking the police if there is a database that contains a record of all the graffiti tags around the area and who those tags belong to. Albert raised a concern about people coming into his street and walking through residents' gardens to access Sunnybank Park. He asked whether it is possible for some sort of signage pointing people in the right direction. Cllr. Macdonald suggested speaking to the police about people accessing gardens. Linda offered to put this concern on the agenda for the next meeting of the Friends of Sunnybank Park.

Alex raised a concern about rats appearing on Erskine Street as a result of someone feeding seagulls and birds on waste ground on Elmbank Terrace. Cllr. Macdonald suggested providing the name of the person feeding the birds so the City Councillors can move forward from there. It was agreed to find out whether anything can be done or if any signage can be placed to prevent people feeding birds as it becomes an environmental issue when it brings rats. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

City Wardens – No reports received.

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

Cllr. McLellan – Provided an update from the recent City Council meeting. The road markings on Sunnyside Road have been renewed (*as noted above*) and there are plans for the markings on Elmbank Terrace to be redone in the next few days. He will follow up to see when this will be done. The graffiti at the entrance of Sunnybank Park on Sunnyside Road has been removed. SSE have said they will pursue cleaning the substation and Cllr. McLellan will be in touch with them to get an update.

Cllr. Macdonald - Alex pointed that the pothole at the traffic lights on Bedford Road was removed very quickly. Cllr. Macdonald further reported that there are plans to resurface Powis Circle on the 30th April. Works orders have been raised for the other potholes that need attention. There are plans to cut some of the

trees on Sunnyside Road that have been developing Dutch elm depending on resources and best time for planting. Linda asked if there is a way to know when trees will be taken down. Sandra to follow up on this but stated it is not always clear when this takes place but will find out.

Cllr. Henrickson – Gave an update that he has not heard anything back about concerns relating to the entrance to Kittybrewster retail park. He also clarified that there is nothing the Licensing Committee can do to enforce landlords to ensure tenants take bins off the street but will make a further enquiry on this matter. Alex raised the point that there used to be a paper which told you when the bins should be taken out. Perhaps this kind of mechanism can be brought back as a way to ensure tenants remove bins. Cllr. Henrickson clarified that the Roads Department are responsible for removing bins off the road and he will get in contact with them on the matter.

Albert asked for the grit bins to be filled on Sunnyside Avenue, Sunnyside gardens and Sunnyside Road. Cllr. McLellan agreed to follow up on the matter.

#### 6 **Associate membership application to join the Community Council**

Fred put forward an interest in becoming an associate member. In order to appoint an associate member, there must be a need for an individual with particular skills and knowledge. Fred currently works for the University of Aberdeen and has expertise working in health and safety, crime prevention and reduction, conflict resolution, and anti-social behaviour. After discussion, it was agreed that appointing Fred as an Associate Member would be beneficial not only because of these aspects but also as a way to get younger people involved in the Community Council and to enhance the link with Aberdeen University.

Particularly with further plans to get more students involved in the Community Council, Fred would be an asset in building a positive relationship with that body. A vote was taken, and Fred was approved as an Associate Member.

#### 7 **Members of the Public**

Fred raised a concern about an abandoned dog on the University campus which could not be rescued by the City Council Dog Warden as they did not have staff to take the dog. He asked why the Dog Warden did not have the staffing? Councillor Macdonald to look into this and follow up.

#### 8 **Planning matters**

No new applications received.

#### 9 **Chairperson's reports**

##### Update on Old Aberdeen Medical Practice

Since last meeting a press release was passed which raised two main issues: the first being the debate about Old Aberdeen Medical Practice and the second was the handling of the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> February. No coverage was received

from the press yet. Geoff though had written a letter to the 'Press & Journal', which was published, drawing attention to the press release and the motion.

After being in contact with MSPs, Geoff obtained different notions on what might happen to Old Aberdeen Medical Practice. A letter was received by Stewart Macdonald MSP from Lorraine Mckenna of the Partnership that the tendering process could be extended beyond six months if no qualifying bids are received. Cllr. Sarah Duncan had however also separately said in a letter to Kevin Stewart MSP there might be possible full merger of the present six 2c practices in the City. Hoping to gain more clarification on this, Geoff has contacted Lewis Macdonald MSP. Apart from this, Geoff has also raised the concerns over the conduct of the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February with Kevin Stewart MSP.

#### Update on two Bridges Redecoration Project proposal

Geoff got in touch with Mark Henderson about possible funds from Network Rail and is awaiting a response from him.

In relation to the pedestrian bridge, Geoff sent out to Community Councillors pictures of possible ideas and designs for the mural and these were discussed during the meeting. Geoff suggested getting in touch with the muralist in Aberdeen for possible ideas but is also open to taking suggestions from the other Community Councillors.

Daniel suggested approaching both universities about painting the mural. Fred offered getting in touch with the Art Society or the History of Art department at the University of Aberdeen. Stephen also suggested contacting the Digital Media department at RGU. Geoff and Fred to contact the universities about this.

Alex also suggested that the pictures Geoff found can be used in the newsletter. Daniel agreed this can be put in a digital newsletter via email or as a small book that can be placed in the Froghall and Powis Community Centres.

#### Covid Community Memorial Projects Fund

Announcement received from the Scottish Government about memorials commemorating COVID-19 in order to reflect on the impact of the pandemic and those who have lost their lives to COVID-19. Greenspace Scotland commissioned artists will work with communities to create the memorials. Linda suggested using the funding from this initiative to go towards the bridges project by painting commemorative artwork on the bridges. There was a discussion on whether that met requirements. Geoff suggested setting up a bench on Erskine Street bridge alongside some artwork which can act as a reflective space. It was agreed that councillors would think about areas where a bench could be placed for the next meeting.

10 **Secretary's report**

Nothing to report.

It was noted by Geoff that any information that Community Councillors wish to circulate to each other does not have to first go through the Secretary.

11 **Treasurer's report**

Alex reported that the bank balance remains the same.

12 **Reports from other Community Councillors**

Linda raised the concern about pupils at St Machar Academy who have been fighting on and in the school premises and little action being taken by teachers. Cllr. McLellan said this is not a simple issue to address as sometimes there is not much that teachers can do. Fred suggested contacting PC Jamie Oliver who is the police liaison at St Machar. Albert also suggested speaking to Sergeant Stobie about the concern. Stephen agreed to contact Sergeant Stobie taking note of Community Councillors' views about the reports of the children fighting inside the school and to speak to PC Jamie Oliver about possibly having a talk with the pupils about the implications of violence.

13 **AOCB**

Geoff interested in giving up management of the Community Council's website. Anyone interested in taking over responsibility for this are invited to put their name forward. This to be further discussed at the next meeting.

Stephen asked whether the other Community Councillors are happy for him to continue attending the Aberdeen Community Councils Forum. No objections.

It was agreed that for future meetings a report from the Community Councils Forum meeting will be put on the agenda.

14 **Date of next meeting**

Agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 7pm (Online via Zoom).