

**Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council**  
**Wednesday, 3rd March 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), Daniel Warren (Community Councillor) and Rachel Smith (Community Councillor)

**Also in attendance:** Dell Henrickson (Aberdeen City Councillor), Sandra Macdonald (Aberdeen City Councillor) and Police Constable Saira Craft (Police Scotland)

**Members of the Public:** Fredrick (interested in the Community Council)

**Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received from Anne Pririe.

**Minutes of the previous meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021)**

Proposed by Stephen Clarke; and seconded by Daniel Warren.

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

Graffiti on the junction of Bedford Avenue - still there but is a concern for the private landlord.

Vehicle outside Community Centre - PC Saira Craft gave an update that the owner of the vehicle reference in the minutes had been traced on Monday and the vehicle has since been removed.

Cycling on Pavements - Alex raised his ongoing concern about cycling on pavements to PC Craft. Adding that they go very fast and the Signage on streets is misleading. PC Craft will forward to this to Sgt Stobie.

Aberdeen University's Internship Programme (ABDNConnect)- Geoff to be in touch with Aberdeen University about internship involving creating a newsletter after the pandemic.

**Police Report & City Wardens.**

City Wardens - An email was received from Karen Finch (ACC) that City Wardens will not be providing any further reports to Community Councillors due to lack of resources. Senior Wardens will endeavour to attend online community council meetings for regeneration areas if made aware and for all other meetings they will attend if there are particular issues for the City Wardens but only if conducted through Microsoft Teams. Cllr. Macdonald added that if City Wardens cannot attend meetings directly, she would be happy to be the liaison between City Wardens and Community Councils.

Police Report - PC craft reported that the police had been catering with community problems and incidents have been ongoing.

## **Councillors' Reports**

Cllr. Macdonald – The City Council is setting its budget next week. She added that it has been a difficult year for front line workers and communities, and hopes to set a budget in place that recognises this. Due to the changing picture caused by the pandemic though, things are more difficult to predict.

Cllr. Henrickson – Communal food waste bins in the Froghall area were found open. He has been given assurance that broken ones would be fixed, and people instructed to make sure they are closed.

Graffiti in the area would be cleaned. Graffiti on the bridge on Erskine Street is also gone. The tag graffiti by the underpass in that area will also be cleaned up and rubbish in that area will be collected.

In relation to the increased number of refuse bins on Elmfield Avenue and Erskine Street it was found that flats have one or two bins per flat. Officers have asked residents if they would prefer a reduced number of bins but received no responses. The response surrounding placing communal bins was that they lead to fewer street parking spaces. Cllr. Henrickson asked which was preferable? He added that the pothole noticed on Jute Street will be repaired.

Alex raised the point that people are not taking action to take bins off pavements. He also reported an increased number of potholes on Erskine Street, a major pothole at the traffic lights near 43 Powis Terrace, and a pothole forming on Bedford Road. Cllr. Macdonald to take this up and let officers know about this.

Fred added that it is important to consult the wider area about communal bins as it may not be ideal if parking situations worsens for certain residents. Cllr. Macdonald added that the City Council would need to undertake a consultation, so she can follow it up and see what happens. Cllr. Henrickson added that the area should start thinking about this matter and will see what the City Council can do about forcing people to put bins away after being emptied. Cllr. Macdonald added that there are individual solutions to solve this, for example, the waste team can work with residents in those tenements. Linda Presslie asked members to start looking for places that could house a communal bin and suggested the top of Elmbank Terrace.

John asked about the plans for the empty retail space on Union Street. As well as implications on the City Council budget if council tax is frozen. Also, how the City Council will service the debt from investing in galleries which have not been open due to the pandemic.

Cllr. Macdonald added there are plans to regenerate the city. The City Growth and Resources Committee discussed the City Centre Master Plan Refresh to see what the council can do. There are a number of plans to regenerate the City.

Council is hopeful that the galleries and other venues will open up later on in the year.

Stephen Clarke asked about the use of P&J Live as a vaccination centre as many are fearful or cannot afford to take public transport to get there. He also asked about the lack of refuse bins on King Street and whether the community council budgets would be affected if council tax is frozen. He also raised concern about the pothole on Powis Circle which is very deep and has caused some injuries.

Cllr. Macdonald added that Rainbow Taxis has offered to help people get to vaccination centres and Stagecoach have put in robust measures and a cap on the number of people that can go on buses. She stressed letting officers know about concerns over refuse bins and took a note of potholes on Powis Circle. She is unsure how council tax being frozen will affect the budget for community councils. They will have to wait and see from the decision made in the upcoming meeting. Cllr. Henrickson added he will take up the concern regarding refuse bins on Union Street.

Discussion ensued about the bus to the P&J Live vaccination centre. Cllr. Henrickson had raised with Stagecoach the matter of social distancing marking inside buses and increasing the frequency of the 727 bus that stops at the centre back to a 10-minute service in order to relieve pressure. Linda suggested making a concession for the trip to people to and from the vaccination centre. Cllr. Macdonald said she had followed up about the query of social distancing barriers on buses, to which Stagecoach had responded that users should exercise personal safety when riding on buses and onus is on them to ensure they maintain social distancing.

### **Members of the Public**

Fred raised concern about large groups of teenagers meeting around the area. Asked if there is anything police or City Wardens can do? Cllr. Macdonald added that it would have to be an incident that was ongoing and constant, but unsure what the police might say as it depends on the ages of those involved.

### **Planning matters**

Linda received an application for a 20m high street pole with 6 antenna and an equipment cabinet on Causewayend. There were no objections.

Increase in street works in the area and graffiti on Canal Road bridge has re-appeared in the form of tags.

50 Elmbank Terrace has been registered as a B&B through booking.com but there is no one there to let guests in. This was causing problems. Linda waiting to get more information on this matter. Cllr. Macdonald to find out more about it and to follow up.

## **Chairperson's reports**

### Old Aberdeen Medical Centre

Report back on the consultation meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Alex Mess raised a concern about conduct of the meeting particularly that it appeared that the community councillors present at the meeting were going through a learning process and were given an unsatisfactory reason why patients were not consulted.

John Singer added that there is a review being undertaken to establish whether there were any impact assessments carried out. He also added that it was not clarified by whether they were taking on new student patients.

Geoff Goolnik noted that they were disappointed as to the way the consultation was conducted.

Linda Presslie asked who the Integration Joint Board (IJB) is accountable to. Cllr. Henrickson answered that the IJB report to the Council and all interested parties involved with health and social care in Aberdeen. If there are concerns about the meeting or any questions please would community councillors put them in writing and he will raise it with Cllr. John Cooke who is a member of the IJB.

Geoff Goolnik and John Singer are planning to put together a motion due to frustration regarding the matter. John read out the proposed wording condemning the decision regarding Old Aberdeen Medical Practice. Everyone agreed that they approved of this motion.

There is an investigation into possible infringement of the Patients Charter and awaiting to see the result before any further action.

Alex Mess suggested having a joint press meeting with Old Aberdeen Community Council. John Singer agreed to draft a joint press release and Geoff willing to conduct a joint Zoom meeting with Old Aberdeen Community Council, preferably before the investigation results.

### Update on two Bridges Redecoration Project proposal

Geoff Goolnik has been in touch with Mark Henderson of Network Rail and it may now be possible for Canal Road bridge redecoration to go ahead if the former gets a budget for a number of projects he is working on.

He has also been in touch with Stephen Shaw from ACC Environmental Services Aberdeen regarding the practicalities while the muralist is painting the pedestrian bridge, such as how to close the bridge and diverting traffic. Awaiting a response.

Geoff Goolnik was also in touch with Stephen Bly who had previously acted as liaison person with Environmental Services but who is leaving this job at the end of the week. He asked if he could get the contact details of his replacement. Awaiting response.

**Secretary's report**

Stephen Clarke asked the committee for £50 to go towards printing for minutes and agendas. It was agreed Stephen will speak to Karen Finch (ACC) to see if it could come out of ACC fund for community council secretaries.

**Treasurer's report**

Alex Mess reported that the Community Council's accounts stood as follows; One cheque to Geoff for £34.39 which left a balance of £1,405.26.

**Reports from other Community Councillors**

None given.

**AOCB**

It was agreed that Stephen Clarke will send correspondence to Albert about his leave of absence to ask whether he wants to continue being a part of the Community Council and that no reply will signify his resignation.

Stephen Clarke also agreed to write to Fred offering the option to become an Associate Member or to stay on as a member of the public.

**Date of next meeting**

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