

Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council

Wednesday, 5th May 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), Rachel Smith (Community Councillor) and Fred Bayer (Associate Community Councillor)

Also in attendance: Michael Hutchison (Aberdeen City Councillor), Sandra Macdonald (Aberdeen City Councillor) and Sergeant Michael Stobie (Police Scotland)

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from John Singer (Vice Chair), Dell Henrickson (Aberdeen City Councillor), and Anne Pirie (Treasurer).

2 Minutes of the previous meeting (7th. April 2021)

Nothing incorrect. Approval of the previous Minutes proposed by Alex; and seconded by Daniel.

3 Matters arising from 7th. April 2021

Graffiti around the area:

Kittybrewster Retail Park - Geoff had previously circulated a letter to Community Councillors from Eoin Cashman, Property Manager for the Park. Tagging has since been removed along the gable end of the DFS store has now been cleaned off and emergency exit door exteriors repainted. Upgrading of the CCTV system is to occur covering this stretch to deter taggers, along with landscaping of the wall. Mr. Cashman had further stated that the back wall of the retail park along Bedford Avenue, where tagging had also appeared, was also to be cleaned.

Substation on Bedford Road - Geoff had been in touch with a Shona Horn, SSE Customer Relationship Manager for our area. She had been most helpful and supportive of decorating the structure, particularly fronting onto the road itself. SSE might also be willing to part-fund this initiative. She was conscious of safety concerns surrounding any decorating and she would consult with colleagues as to precautionary measures that had to be in place before this could occur and get back to us.

Froghall Community Centre - Cllr. Henrickson had apparently asked for the graffiti tag found at the centre to be removed.

Bedford Road Footbridge – Linda reported that tags had reappeared on the footbridge.

Police Report & City Wardens (*N.B. taken at this point because Sergeant Stobie had to leave soon for operational reasons*). Because of longer hours of daylight, it was reported that incidents involving theft of bikes and crime generally has further reduced in the area. Geoff asked about tagging in the area and he stated that the Police do keep a database in relation to individuals who are active graffiti taggers. Daniel was concerned about motor bikes still causing annoyance in the streets, pointing out that an organised group were causing this disturbance. Sergeant Stobie noted the details and promised to look into the matter. The matter of disturbances occurring within St. Machar Academy – noted in the previous month's minutes – were also raised with him directly. He hadn't been aware of this and Linda was able to provide a report of an incident there, He explained that one of his fellow officers at Tillydrone Police Station, PC Jamie Oliver, had been specifically assigned liaison duties within the School. He would talk with him to establish the situation. On another matter, Albert had previously mentioned people coming into Sunnyside Gardens and trespassing on private land to access Sunnybank Park. As he wasn't at that point present at this CC meeting, Sergeant Stobie invited him to make contact with him directly so that police officers could call round to his house and take in the problem.

Seagulls: Alex had at the last meeting 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 said that in raising the issue with council officers as she had done this had most probably heightened an awareness of the problem amongst the latter, so much so that a leaflet had in fact now been produced to advise the public about this very issue. This had been circulated to Community Councillors by Cllr. Macdonald.

4 **Police Report and City Wardens**

Already given (*see above*).

No report though from the City Wardens.

5 **City Councillor's Reports**

Cllr. Henrickson (*by word of mouth as he was unable to be present*) –

The strip of waste ground on Elmbank Terrace between the road and the fence in front of the rail line was not owned by the Council but most probably by Network Rail. Although there again it might be the property of the developers who had had built the "skinny" apartment block nearby next to the line. Alex reported was not looking so much like tip at present. Possibly the wind had lifted the offending debris and naturally dispersed it to other parts of the street. He raised the idea of the Community Council organising regular 'litter picks' for this area. Cllr. Macdonald thought this was good and that the Council could provide participants with bags, gloves, etc to assist them in such a venture. It was agreed to look at this idea.

Cllr. Macdonald - Alex pointed that the pothole at the traffic lights on Bedford Road was removed very quickly. Regarding the abandoned dog on the University campus that Fred had mentioned at the last meeting and which could not be rescued by the City Council Dog Warden service, Cllr. Macdonald had referred the matter to them but it was not immediately clear why they had not been available to deal with the matter originally.

6 **Members of the Public**

Nothing.

7 **Planning matters**

No new applications had been received. It was noted that building of the already approved block was progressing in Bedford Place. Albert remarked it seemed though to be proceeding at a quite sporadic pace.

8 **Chairperson's reports**

Update on Old Aberdeen Medical Practice

Geoff had written further to Stewart Macdonald MSP to seek confirmation that there were three possible outcomes for the tendering process from Lorraine Mckenna of the Partnership. She did indeed reply stating that the tendering process for each practice could be concluded by six months, could be extended beyond six months if negotiations demanded; or, in the absence of a satisfactory result, a decision could be made (for those 2c practices that had not been successfully tendered for) to be amalgamated into one. Apart from this, Geoff had again approached Kevin Stewart MSP because a reply had not yet been received from Cllr. Sarah Duncan in relation to a letter penned by him that expressed our particular concerns over, firstly, the conduct of the 25th. February meeting that she chaired between members of the Joint Board, the Partnership and the two local Community Councils; and secondly, some confusing statements that had been made by the representatives of the health authorities at the event. It was now 3 weeks since the letter from Mr. Stewart had been sent.

There had been delay with regards the timetable for the tendering process and Geoff was to establish from "Save Old Aberdeen Medical Practice" campaign at what point it was now at. When he receives some clarification on this he will immediately pass it on. He however had gathered from the Campaign that the complaints made to the Ethical Standards Commissioner and Scottish Public Services Ombudsman over the ways in which whole decision-making processes had been conducted were still on-going.

Update on two Bridges Redecoration Project proposal

Geoff has again been with Mark Henderson, Senior Community Engagement Manager, about possible funds from Network Rail. The matter is still being

pressed by him and he has also suggested bringing in his colleague Allan Brooking, Community Safety Manager, with a view to enhancing collaboration if project funding is finally approved. Mark has enquired if we would be happy to meet with Allan on-site to discuss the project. Albert, Alex and Geoff are willing to do this and Mark will be informed accordingly.

Geoff has met up with the recommended street artist and his rough design for one of the side panels of the footbridge had been circulated around Community Councillors. This visual was found by all those present to be uninspiring and did not feature the aspects of local area in a way that had been hoped for. It was as a result definitely now decided to approach both the Universities, Fred with Aberdeen University and Geoff with Gray's (RGU) and see if students here were interested in submitting appropriate designs and, if once chosen, completing the work. Geoff agreed to rapidly draw up information to accompany the invitations.

Covid Community Memorial Projects Fund

Although originally promised in April, no further update had yet been released by Greenspace Scotland concerning this fund.

9 **Secretary's report**

Stephen updated members with regards to the short videos that are being produced by the City Council to give some idea about what community councils are and do and most importantly to encourage people to stand in the forthcoming community council elections his October. Short contributions are called for and the deadline for submissions is Friday 4th. June.

10 **New Web Officer for Community Council's website**

As previously announced, Geoff wished to step down from the role and, following brief discussion, Fred took on this post.

11 **Treasurer's report**

Alex reported that the bank balance remains the same.

12 **Report from Aberdeen Community Council Forum**

Daniel reported that the Civic Forum should be running again soon, online. Even when CC and Civic Forums eventually return to face-to-face formats the hope is that people will still be able to access them via Teams, online or by phone. There was mention regarding Community Council elections in October: forms for standing will be available online for downloading and as original hard copy. As already mentioned, Karen (Finch, ACC) is looking for people to record themselves for promotional videos, saying what they like and why they wanted to be a community councillor.

13 **Reports from other Community Councillors**

Rachel commented that Powis Circle had now been very satisfactorily resurfaced. On another matter, she commented that the Powis Residents Association had

been in discussions with Cllr. Ross Grant about a mural for the wall on Bedford Avenue opposite the two shops.

14 **AOCB**

Nothing.

15 **Date of next meeting**

Agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 2nd. June 2021, 7pm (Online via Zoom).