

Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council

Wednesday, 2nd June 2021 at 7pm

Online (Zoom)

Minutes

In attendance: Geoffrey Goolnik (Chair/Host and Website Manager), Stephen Clarke (Secretary), John Singer (Vice-Chair), Linda Presslie (Planning Officer), Alexander Mess (Community Councillor), Albert Craig (Community Councillor) Rachel Smith (Community Councillor) and Fred Bayer (Associate Community Councillor)

Also in attendance: Dell Henrickson (Aberdeen City Councillor), Michael Hutchison (Aberdeen City Councillor), Ross Grant (Aberdeen City Councillor) and Police Constable Alderson (Police Scotland)

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Anne Pririe (Treasurer).

2 Minutes of the previous meeting (5th May 2021)

Alex corrected that the area with the seagulls is on Bedford Road next to the McDonalds not on Elmbank Terrace.

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

3 Matters arising from 5th May 2021

St Machar Academy - Police Constable Alderson provided an update that St Machar Academy is seeking to take a more proactive approach to eliminate congregation in the problematic areas around the school. Targeted patrols along with liaison with the school officer has had an impact.

Vandalism and graffiti - PC Alderson is aware of the tagging at Kittybrewster Retail Park and seeking reports of tagging. Linda reported that there is more tagging on the Canal Road bridge.

4 Police Report & City Wardens

Police Report - PC Alderson reported that there are continued operations on bikes in the local area which has had a positive effect. There are ongoing investigations that will look into opportunistic theft of pedal cycles and motorcycles in the area which has also received positive results. There has also been a reduction of reports on theft of pedal cycles and motorcycles in the area. House break-ins in the area have subsided although there have been a few reports. There has been a reduction in youth vandalism but still a potential issue.

Alex raised his concern over cycling on pavements and electric scooters on pavements. PC Alderson confirmed that there is currently a discussion

being had by police and prosecutors on the best way to enforce this. Police are also aware of the e-scooters and are determining the best policing method for them.

Linda reported that the concern over the owner of 50 Elmbank Terrace who had been using his flat as a bed and breakfast establishment but not providing guests with proper access to the property. Linda has already reported it as a scam and contacted Bookings.com and PC Alderson agreed to follow up on this matter.

Another issue was raised about the growing number of HMOs in the area primarily because the area is already overpopulated. Cllr. Hutchison updated that there are plans for an HMO cap to be enforced next year. It was agreed to return to this matter in the next meeting

City Wardens – No reports received.

5 **Councillors' Reports**

Cllr. Grant provided a follow up in relation to graffiti on Bedford Road and is willing to assist in the matter. Cllr. Grant was also able to inspect the patch in Powis Terrace and managed to remove a number of maintenance items that needed to be taken away.

Geoff raised with the Councillors concern over the lack of clear road markings on the junction on Bedford Road, Elmbank Terrace and Powis Terrace as it creates a serious safety hazard. Cllr. Hutchison agreed to take this up.

Geoff also raised concern over the surface of Canal Road bridge as well as a hole which is directly above the train line which is a potential safety hazard. Cllr. Hutchison responded that the bridge surface has been inspected and there are plans for resurfacing by the end of March 2023 in next year's re-surfacing programme. Alex asked that the pavement of that bridge also be looked into as it currently is not broad enough to allow for an electric wheelchair. Cllr. Hutchison agreed to follow up on this and ask whether the pavement can be re-done at the same time as the re-surfacing. Further Cllr. Grant suggested that Cllr. Hutchison ask the officers to consider if there is an option to re-design the bridge and the pavement. Cllr. Grant also agreed to assist on following up on the hole as it may need an emergency repair.

John asked about the dangerous parking on Spital outside Grub and Shakes 'n Cakes. Particularly that it is difficult for pedestrians to see round the bend when crossing the street and buses tend to get stuck. Cllr. Grant agreed to raise this with the Traffic Management team to look at ways to improve the safety at the junction. John also raised a point that it is difficult to get electrical waste recycled without a car. Cllr. Grant agreed that there is an issue in central urban areas with fly tipping in areas further away from the city dumps. There is a local scheme covered in Seaton, Tillydrone and Woodside that is looking at upcycling and different ways to tackle fly tipping and electric waste and will share details of this project to help with this concern.

Linda also reported the school buses at Sunnybank School that park on the double yellow lines beyond the zigzag lines and are abusive to other drivers on the street. There is no signage signifying that the area is for school buses only. Cllr. Grant will be in contact with the City Wardens to contact the school about the matter.

6 Members of the Public

None present.

John suggested thinking of ways to attract members of the public to attend meetings including advertising meetings. Fred suggested making it clearer on the website that members of the public can join the meeting by requesting a Zoom link. This matter is dependent on guidance from Karen on the future of community council meeting in relation to members attending. John suggested people can register through Zoom or Eventbrite. It was agreed to save this discussion for the next meeting. Stephen agreed to follow up on this with Karen.

7 Planning matters

No new applications had been received.

8 Draft Locality Plan (Central Aberdeen)

Linda gave a summary of the Central Locality Group meeting and provided a copy of the report via email. The meeting focused on creating a draft plan for the central locality. Linda highlighted that the area is classed as an affluent area due to the number of HMOs and Cllr. Hutchison explained how the deprivation index is determined. It was discussed in the meeting that there will be an employability fund which will be spread across the Central Locality region. The meeting also

highlighted the growing social isolation of old age pensioners. The group was recommending that sheltered housing have better internet access. The group also discussed ways to bring old people back into the communities through various projects such as gardening groups. It was also discussed that a lot of projects don't get off the ground because of bureaucracy and health and safety assessments. The group also discussed the Tillydrone project which aimed highlight and help with domestic abuse. The project aims to get funding so that community workers are available to go into areas and work with abuse victims rather than them going for pre-made appointments. There was also a discussion on allowing electric scooters on the road.

9 **Chairperson's report**

Old Aberdeen Medical Centre

No new update on Old Aberdeen Medical Centre as currently awaiting to see who has the permanent tender. Geoff received a response from Sandra MacLeod (Chief Officer, Aberdeen Health & Social Care Partnership) who said she understood that the Community Council and their local community have strong feelings about outcome of Old Aberdeen Medical Centre, and this was verbally communicated to the Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board on 23rd. March 2021.

Two Bridges Redecoration Project proposal

Allan Brooking, the Community Safety Manager for Network Rail in Scotland, came to speak to Geoff and Alex which was very beneficial. He inspected the road surface of the bridge and explained Network Rails potential involvement in the mural. They are keen to get community involvement in many projects. Alan offered to enquire who owned the narrow strip of ground between Elmbank Terrace and the fencing by the train track. Alex also pointed out to him the piece of the fence near Erskine Street which was missing and the latter agreed to get that replaced. He also inspected the uneven slats on Canal Road bridge and suggested that Network Rail can replace the vertical infill panels on the bridge to ensure uniformity and will confer with colleagues to see what else is possible.

In terms of the mural, Geoff has received two designs from the Aberdeen University Art Society. Fred mentioned that they are able to create more designs if given more time. Geoff has also received response from David Blyth from Gray's School of Art who was very enthusiastic about the project. He was keen to engage students and suggested running a

community workshop(s) where members of the community would create designs and students would refine them. David agreed to get back to Geoff by the end of June. A discussion was had about which approach to take and it was decided to leave the matter until all responses have been received from both universities.

Scottish & Southern Electrical (SSE) substation, Bedford Road

Update received regarding the SSE substation and although they were interested in the mural project, SSE are not keen on getting any new work done on the substation before next April when major technical upgrade work will be completed. In the meantime, SSE will wash the surface of the substation and Shona Horn, the SSE Customer Relations Manager for the North of Scotland, has also inspected the area and is keen to clean up the tagging.

Geoff referred to the desire of the Powis Residents' Association to create a mural for the back wall of the Kittybrewster Retail Park on Bedford Avenue. He approached Eoin Cashman, the surveyor of the Park, and received a positive response. The latter was very supportive and offered to research and review the leases on the wall to establish who is responsible for it. Cllr Grant was happy to assist with this project and providing any contacts he may have. Rachel, who is a member of the Residents' Association, added that the group are keen to create something that will enhance the area and Geoff agreed to attend the next meeting to discuss this.

10 **Secretary's report**

Stephen reported that there was an email about licensing; the Council are looking at updating the current gambling policy which Stephen has sent out via email. Councillors who have any input or comment on the document must do so by 20th of August.

11 **Treasurer's report**

Alex reported that the bank balance remains the same. The balance currently stands at £1405.26.

Albert raised the point that the balance should be stated during the meeting and it was agreed the balance will also be displayed in the minutes for more clarity.

12 **Reports from other Community Councillors**

None given.

13 **AOCB**

Linda reported that pergolas were being erected at Powis and Froghall Community Centre which will be useful and practical for children and adult groups and also handy as shelter from the sun for people waiting to get into the Centre for food distribution.

Linda also reported that the community group formed by Fran Smith pre-pandemic were planning to run a project to erect noticeboards around the area. The project was put on hold due to the pandemic but there are now plans to start this up again and erect these noticeboards in particular around the community centres.

Albert suggested having Community Council meetings outdoors over summer if possible within the Government restrictions. A discussion was had on the matter and it was agreed to continue this at the next meeting.

14 **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 7th July 2021, 7pm (Online via Zoom)