

Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council

Wednesday, 7th July 2021 at 7pm

Online (Zoom)

Minutes

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

Also in attendance: Alex McLellan (Aberdeen City Councillor)

Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Anne Pririe (Treasurer), Daniel Warren (Community Councillor), John Singer (Vice Chair) and Sergeant Michael Stobie (Police Scotland).

Minutes of the previous meeting (2nd June 2021)

Sandra Macdonald (Aberdeen City Councillor) submitted her apology for last month which was not recorded in the minutes.

Proposed by Stephen; and seconded by Alex.

Matters arising from 2nd June 2021

50 Elmbank Terrace – No update on the matter, Stephen agreed to follow up to see if PC Alderson has already been in contact with Srgt. Stobie regarding the concern.

Road markings on Bedford Road and Elmbank Terrace – Cllr. Hutchison was able to get the road markings on the junction refreshed and was thanked.

Canal Road bridge – The bridge has been placed on the 2023 resurfacing programme however there are concerns that the state of the hole will worsen in the interim. Cllr. McLellan agreed to follow up on this considering the urgency.

Dangerous Parking on Sunnybank Road – Geoff received an email from Dewi Morgan (Chair of Old Aberdeen Community Council) to Cllr. Grant raising concern about the red waste trolleys at the bottom of Sunnybank Road which push onto the pavement as there is no official space for them. Cllr. Hutchison agreed to follow up on this matter.

Police Report & City Wardens

Sergeant Michael Stobie (by email) submitted a written report. All crimes of dishonesty are down, with only two bike thefts. Operation relating to

bike thefts are ongoing with a positive impact. Police officers are continuing high visibility of the Kittybrewster area over the summer holidays and are running numerous events to keep people engaged. Looking to commence police surgeries over the coming months as an opportunity for police officers to meet people in a COVID safe environment.

Councillors' Reports

Cllr. McLellan reported two ongoing matters. The first being that the City Council agreed to propose a consultation on low emission zones and it encourages individuals to feed into the consultation. Following from this, Cllr. McLellan also discussed the ongoing city centre master plan consultation and also encouraged members to make their views known in the consultation so the City Council can take them into account.

Fred asked whether something can be done to the barbed wire fence on Canal Road bridge. He suggested perhaps creating a path that leads to the community centre or some alternative to make the fence more appealing. Albert raised the point that this matter has been raised before and the Community Council have been told that this would be too expensive. A discussion was had about potential ways funding can be raised through grants to improve the fence. Paul Tytler who is the Locality Manager for the North of Aberdeen is a possible contact. Cllr. McLellan will follow this up with Cllr. Hutchison and Cllr. Henrickson to discuss what the alternatives may be, as well as feasibility and potential cost projections. Alex raised the concern that the dangerous aspect of the bridge needs to be looked into as well.

Stephen raised concern that before the resurfacing of the road on Powis Crescent there were speed bumps but since resurfacing the speed bumps haven't been put back and he is asked for them to go in again. Cllr. McLellan agreed to follow up on this.

Members of the Public

None present.

Planning matters

No new applications have been received.

HMOs in our area

There has been an increased number of HMOs in our district, specifically in the Elmbank, Elmfield and Bedford areas which have more HMOs than

anywhere else in Britain. This is of growing concern as the community gets lost amongst the HMOs, with the latter crowding out the locality. Cllr. McLellan added that it has been added to the Local Development Plan and there are plans to add a cap to the number of HMOs in any particular area.

Linda also added that once licences are given there isn't a follow up from the City Council to ensure landlords are adhering to the standards and procedures. Cllr. McLellan stated that it can be difficult to conduct checks, but community councillors should make the City Council aware if there are any issues here.

Alex also raised concern over the large number of rental properties with absent owners and the lack of proper checks on these landlords. Cllr. McLellan stressed alerting City Councillors about these issues. Fred suggested that as the SNP manifesto had for instance stated plans for land reform, once these plans are underway community councillors could feed in these points when public consultations are conducted. It was agreed to revisit our concern relating to HMOs and landlords in the future.

Chairperson's report

a) Old Aberdeen Medical Centre

Communication has been received from Grampian Health Board about the change in provider of Old Aberdeen Medical Practice. The contract is anticipated to start on 1st September 2021. Cllr. Sandra Macdonald has taken over from Cllr. Sarah Duncan as her party's representative on the Aberdeen Health & Social Care Partnership. Cllr. Duncan has recently been appointed the post of Secretary to the NHS Grampian Health Board. It was agreed to leave the matter for now but the Community Council will continue to show support to the "Save the Old Aberdeen Medical Centre" group and any other parties concerned about how the 2C consultation process was handled.

b) Two Bridges Redecoration Project proposal

Geoff has been in touch with David Blyth from Gray's School of Art. David had spoken to interested students before the summer break but was unable to get students to come for a site visit as many of them have gone home. He suggested arranging a possible meeting with students during September after the semester has started - and will be in touch. He will also discuss with his colleagues about whether the mural could be integrated into the course. After

speaking to Allan Brooking, the Community Safety Manager for Network Rail in Scotland, it seems that Network Rail are now not keen on the aluminium panels. If the Community Council wanted to go ahead with them then they would need to pay the costs of removing the panels and placing them back in position whenever maintenance needs to be conducted. They were however willing instead to ensure that all the existing inserts were uniform instead. Allan Brooking is still trying to get in contact with relevant parties of Network Rail in regards to possible funding, and he is still waiting to hear back.

Fred gave an update in that he has reached out to the Aberdeen University Art Society to submit more designs which have a local focus and is waiting to hear a response. A discussion was had on potential mural designs and it was generally agreed that the mural should have a less of an abstract design and rather should highlight the historic aspect of the bridge(s). Fred highlighted the Scottish Graffiti Murals as a possible point of contact. It was agreed though that using students would be a good partnership with the Universities and Community Council. Moving forward, it was decided that a deadline of 31st October 2021 should be set for students to submit their designs and students will be given a more detailed outline of the history of the bridge to base their designs on.

c) Scottish & Southern Electrical (SSE) substation, Bedford Road

Geoff updated that the substation's wall facing Bedford Road has been cleaned. Rachel though reported that fresh tagging had now unfortunately appeared.

The tagging on Bedford Avenue has also been cleaned up. There has as well been further communication with the surveyor of the Kittybrewster retail park regarding the mural on Bedford Avenue. He confirmed that he has spoken with his client (DFS?) and they are in support of the proposal but would like to discuss further information on potential cost, mural examples, cost associated with maintenance of the mural, and the quality of artwork. The client also requested photographic evidence of any previous murals that have been maintained by the proposed artists. It was agreed that that this would be a great opportunity for the proposed muralists but it would need individuals with a sufficiently good track record. Alex suggested getting in contact with the communications department of Aberdeen University about the project. Rachel updated that the Residents Association has spoken with City

Councillor Ross Grant who has connections with NUART. She said that the residents were keen on a mural design that celebrated biodiversity and wildlife. There is however currently no timeframe for the mural. Geoff felt that the Community Council could work with the Residents here. Fred suggested using the "two bridges" project as a competition in which the winner could also paint the mural. Rachel suggested getting in contact with Genevieve about the artists who paint the wall at Sunnybank Park. Stephen also suggested the artist who did the mural at the Aberdeen Market.

Secretary's report

Stephen gave an update about face-to-face meetings. Karen Finch (ACC CC Liaison Officer) has no plans for face-to-face meetings until the end of August. She provided a notification which community councils can use for any members of the public interested in attending Zoom meetings. Fred agreed to update the website with this notification.

Treasurer's report

Alex reported that the balance started off at £1405.26; a total of £48.78 came out of the account; and a grant of £813.60 was received which left a final balance of **£2170.08**.

Reports from other Community Councillors

Linda provided a summary of the Community Council Forum meeting which mainly discussed the local economy, rebuilding and what's happening in the future. Johnathan Smith (the Chair) said Aberdeen Fairer Fund was getting a good return on every pound invested in the form of a donation. The Forum discussed the impact of the low emission zones being introduced in the City and particularly that the fines for parking in these zones are going to be quite extensive and it's possible the data it is based on may not be relevant and could potentially stop people going into town. This will be further discussed at another meeting of the Forum. At the Forum, Karen Finch also highlighted a local company doing voluntary work to assist community groups with local projects. Contact Karen if there is any project that needs extra help.

AOCB

Stephen asked whether £250 can be put aside to go towards play schemes for the Froghall and Powis community centres. Linda supported this as they are looking into paying tutors to do classes such as dancing and music. There is a plan to have 40-45 classes. Rachel suggested

putting together an explanation on what has to be spent and the implications. Linda agreed to put something in writing to say what the money is being used for when submitting the application.

Date of next meeting

Agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 4th August 2021, 7pm (Online via Zoom)