

## **Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council**

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup>. September 2021 at 7pm**

**Online (Zoom)**

### **Minutes**

**In attendance:** Geoffrey Goolnik (Chair/Host), John Singer (Vice Chair), 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:** Police Constable Doug Murray (Police Scotland), Sandra Macdonald (Aberdeen City Councillor), Dell Henrickson (Aberdeen City Councillor) and Michael Hutchison (Aberdeen City Councillor)

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

Apologies received from Anne Pirie (Treasurer)

#### **2 Minutes of the previous meeting (4<sup>th</sup>. August 2021) – NB.**

*Taken later but placed here in traditional order.*

Canal Road Bridge. In terms of accuracy, the minutes should emphasise that cost had been expressed a determining factor preventing stairs being considered linking Canal Road bridge and Powis Community Centre.

Minutes proposed by Alex; and seconded by Stephen

#### **3 Matters arising from 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

##### Tagging

Geoff raised the question of tagging and whether breaches of it were being condoned by authorities. Cllr. Henrickson agreed to follow up on the question of what permission had been granted by ACC to local graffiti artists/taggers to decorate the Mounthooly pedestrian underpass.

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

PC Murray provided an update regarding crime statistics in the area. He also enquired about the speeding motorcyclist riding around the Powis estate offering trips to children. The police had assumed that this had ended but Rachel confirmed that it was still happening. PC Murray was to follow this matter up again.

Srgnt Stobie was still in contact with SSE to see whether they will bring forth any charges about the tagging of the Bedford Road sub-station but the company did not appear enthusiastic.

5 **City Councillors' Reports**

There was nothing on this occasion of relevant itemised detail to report on and note.

6 **Members of the Public**

None present.

7 **Planning matters**

No new applications have been received.

Geoff expressed concern about the continuing development of the flats in Bedford Place. Previously a traffic order with a one-way system had been in place but it had now ended because the specified end date had been reached. Yet building work continued. Driving past the site had as a result become hazardous as building materials and tradesmens' vans to a serious extent encroached onto the road. Cllr. Hutchison offered to investigate.

The CityFibre high speed internet installation been proceeding apace across the local area.

8 **The Old Aberdeen Medical Centre, re. circulated letter**

Linda expressed considerable concern in the light of the letter from the ex-GPs at the practice which had been circulated by the "Save Old Aberdeen Medical Practice" campaign and in turn passed on by Geoff. Linda was very troubled by what it further revealed about the course of events and feelings of the ex-GPs about their negative treatment at the hands of the ACHSCP.

John took us through the letter in detail to emphasise particular points raised in it and discussion ensued concerning the way in which decisions were arrived at and the extent to which certain interested parties were involved and for what purposes. A certain agenda of relying on eConsult in everyday working practices was being promoted but did it actually efficiently and effectively work in actual fact especially for the disadvantaged? Cllr. Macdonald – who now sat on the Integration Joint Board - however believed there was a desire to serve the best interests of the communities and promised to take our concerns back to the Board as questions were raised about the

lack of meaningful dialogue and clear messaging that took place. John believed that, amongst other things, we should all keep up pressure on the MSPs for the North-East and he would circulate contact information for this.

## 9 **Aberdeen's Low Emission Zone**

In view of the time the matter merited and what we had available it was thought appropriate by Linda to postpone discussion on this matter until the next meeting. Agreed.

## 10 **Chairperson's reports**

### a) FPSCC funding application procedures

Geoff had previously circulated this form and discussion ensued. It was agreed that some regulation was needed but there was debate in particular about whether funding applications should be phased to occur at certain times of the year so that the Community Council could more easily calculate how much money it had available for external projects. It was decided that councillors would reflect and post their responses back within approximately two weeks so that further consideration could be given well in time for being placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

### b) Two Bridges Redecoration Project proposal

Geoff reported that there were no new updates. Geoff will attempt to find out from Network Rail if there have been any developments. Cllr. Henrickson is further investigating to discover the status of the Canal Road panels. Geoff is also still waiting to hear from Network Rail.

### c) Scottish & Southern Electrical (SSE) St. Machar substation, Bedford Road

They have been in touch to confirm that the front face of the station will be painted next week.

### d) Minutes Assistant

Ms. Sarcha Dungu, volunteer Minutes Assistant, had apparently recently taken on a full-time post and no longer had the time available for transcribing the minutes. She was though prepared to transcribe them this month because her notification was short and she did wish to leave us in the lurch. She was thanked for her work. Geoff had since been in touch with Aberdeen University about trying to seek another volunteer from the student body, with a posting made by them under their online volunteering pages Some

discussion ensued though about the role of the position and its importance Albert was concerned that the minutes weren't being transcribed and circulated speedily enough to ensure the memory of what we had discussed remained fresh. The views of a number of councillors were that we should in future ask any occupant of the post to try and make certain that they turned them around in two weeks. There was at the same time a feeling that we certainly weren't paying a sufficient honorarium in view of the work involved, despite the fact that we were following the recommendation of the University in this regard. It was however now agreed to increase this sum to £30 per transcription and confirm both of these details with them to allow an amended advert to be posted.

e) More opportunities for Volunteers from Aberdeen University  
 Geoff said that he had been approached yet again by Julia Leng, Careers Advisers, of Aberdeen University about their "ABDNCommunity Volunteering Programme" that connects not-for-profit and charitable organisations with current students to assist with a defined project or range of activities via a voluntary role. Julia had arranged a TEAMS virtual meeting with him and some of her University colleagues for the morning of 8<sup>th</sup>. September to discuss the matter further.

There was some discussion then about a Community Council newsletter, both print and online that had been mooted a little while ago. Nothing could now occur until after the elections and in the light of any health constraints. Linda also asked Geoff for Julia's contact details because there was possible place she thought for a student volunteer at Froghall Community Centre.

#### 11 **Secretary's report**

Nothing to report.

#### 12 **Treasurer's report**

Alex reported that the balance will be at **£1,866.91** once the latest FPSCC cheque payment has been cleared.

#### 13 **Reports from other Community Councillors**

Alex mentioned that now community centres would likely to be operating again in the near future he needed to follow up on "our Community Matters" project that was going to offer a leaflet (funded by ACC) indicating community learning opportunities across the three

Community Learning Centres in the FPS Community Council area + the one in George Street. Was the edition that was originally put together before the Pandemic still relevant or would it have to be completely revised? Alex and Linda agree to investigate.

14 **Monthly report from Aberdeen Community Council Forum**

There was no report as this month's meeting of the Forum had not yet taken place.

15 **AOCB**

Rachel reported on Sunnybank Park and the ongoing support the park's management committee have received from Sunnybank Community Centre.

16 **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Community Council would be held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup>. October 2021, 7pm (Online via Zoom).