

**Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Community Council
Wednesday, 6th October 2021, 7 p.m. / Online (Zoom)
Minutes**

In attendance: Community Councillor Geoffrey Goolnik (Chair/Host), Community Councillor Stephen Clarke (Secretary), Community Councillor Alexander Mess (Pro-Tem Treasurer), Community Councillor Linda Presslie (Planning Officer), Community Councillor Albert Craig, Community Councillor Daniel Warren [co-opted] and Community Councillor Rachel Smith [co-opted]

Also in attendance: City Councillor Sandra Macdonald and Genevieve Davis (Member of Public)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies had been received from Community Councillor John Singer (Vice Chair), Community Councillor Ann Pirie (Treasurer) and Associate Community Councillor Frederic Bayer (Website Manager)

2. Matters arising from 1st September 2021 Meeting

Firstly, Albert in fact attended last meeting and this will now be shown in the minutes. Secondly, the financial balance of the Council took into account uncashed £250 (since cleared) and a cheque to Geoff of £53. Thirdly, £30 per meeting for minutes assistance had not in the end been agreed to. Fourthly, Albert felt that the 'list of things to be paid' should have been included in minutes.

Sandra raised #8 (Old Aberdeen Medical Centre): She had been written to by John Singer following the discussion at the previous meeting. Sandra had replied and a copy of that interaction will be shared with the Council. Stephen to circulate this.

3. Police and City Wardens' reports and discussion

No representatives from Police or City Wardens present.

4. Aberdeen City Councillors' reports and discussions

Sandra commented on the City Council's local transport strategy. The main issue is consultancy and methods of transportation. The incoming community council should bring someone to come along and talk with the

Community Council about the local transport strategy and ensure its involvement in upcoming projects.

Geoff communicated with Councillor Ross Grant about a group he was forming for discussion about Bedford Road. A virtual meeting had been arranged for 28th of October. More specifically, it was about the bus gate and improving the Bedford Road environment (traffic levels). Geoff asked councillors for any input on these topics. It was in addition a possible opportunity to raise Albert's 'access to retail park' concerns. Albert, Alex and Rachael also expressed interest in attending the meeting and Sandra will consult Ross Grant about that.

Alex referred to the link for citizen concerns about transport.

Stephen reiterated a concern to Sandra about speed bump reinstallations on Powis Crescent, particularly in view of concerns about children's safety. Sandra will get back to the Community Council about this.

5. Representations received from members of the public Gen, a member of the public, had the task of taking on the Facebook page for the Community Council when she was a member. The Facebook page is in fact still being run by her and she asked if it might be better if the page should now be operated by a current member of the Council; and it was agreed that both Gen and a community councillor should be involved in the first instance on the page with regards its future development. This matter is certainly something that that next session and next council needs to address. In the meantime, thanks were offered to Gen about the Facebook page and her commitment to it.

6. Vaccination Centre's lack of toilets facilities

Albert raised John Lewis department store vaccination centre having a lack of toilet facilities. This had also been raised at the Aberdeen Community Councils Forum meeting and they are looking into it. He stated that in the planning process vaccination centres are not considering such needs. Sandra added that planning for vulnerable people should as much as possible include considerations about transport, toilets and parking and she was sure that a review was taking place all the time about these

matters.

7. Planning matters

Linda stated that there were no upcoming planning applications for this area this month.

It was revealed that Dewi Morgan of Old Aberdeen Community Council had received a reply about how ACC decide on the number of HMOs in a designated area. He received a unsatisfactory response. and he was not content with how this method was implemented. He had found that it has been an officer rather than Council decision. He will send the information that he has to Linda who will in turn circulate for discussion to our CC. The new community council should work with its counterpart in Old Aberdeen council to raise the profile of this issue. At present, HMOs are far too extensive in this area and ACC needs to sit up and seriously take note of our feelings.

Geoff raises that the flats development in Bedford Place is causing traffic disruptions despite the works only having permission to take road space until August. Sandra agreed to approach ACC officers to see what had or had not been agreed upon and whether any extension had been officially been granted.

8. Aberdeen's Low Emissions Zone

Sandra stated that the LEZ has gone through committee and two parts have been tweaked and will go through Convenor and Vice-Convenor for sign-off if they are agreeable (i.e. the area between West North Street down to the Harbour and area around the Trinity Centre (Wapping gyratory). These will then be presented to Transport Scotland ministers hopefully this year. If there are no legal challenges then the LEZ will start at the beginning of next year with a 2 year grace period until fines come into effect (2024).

Albert asked if the boundaries are included in the LEZ. Sandra confirmed that Market Street is in the LEZ and asked the Community Council to have a close look at the new zones. Sandra will forward the most up-to-date map, to be shared.

9. Chairperson's report and discussions

a. FPSCC funding application procedures / Form

The proposed form had been previously amongst Community Coucillors. Sandra stressed Aberdeen City Council's commitment and that the community's needs should be prioritised according to the Community Council's funding situation. Geoff reminded the Council that we were dealing with public funds and such any funding application should be made – as it was on this proposed form - with space for proper justification. Albert also agreed that the money should be used more effectively ensuring a better connection between council and the community.

Geoff further raised the point that criticism has been raised about funding being applied for and spent in the recent past and felt that the funding processes should really follow as much as possible that of the Aberdeen City Council and the details that were required.

Rachel argued that application forms for outside groups should include a deadline so they can be debated and decided upon in comparison with one another. Geoff felt that this could possibly not work due to the time at which different outside groups needed the funding. Stephen saw the Form as rather wordy and he also had concerns for those with disabilities.

Nevertheless, despite these reservations, the Form was agreed as important and passed unanimously when put to a vote,

b. Two Bridges Redecorations Project proposal

Network Rail are agonizing about being involved with regards Canal Road bridge after first being enthusiastic. The immediate managers concerned while enthusiastic don't have a budget and are currently still unable to get their superiors to commit at this point. Geoff proposed that the Bedford Road pedestrian bridge element should instead proceed, funded by ourselves. Once completed it might incentivise Network Rail to come on board for Canal Road. RGU students from Gray's School of Art are very

enthusiastic about being involved and also wish to get engage on a community level to ensure ownership at a local level. They would like to hold workshops for locals to design, draw and offer up ideas for the RGU students to realize and draw inspiration from. Linda was happy to act as liaison with the Community Centres regarding these activities. Timescale: It was agreed that these sessions should start asap but for the actual painting to begin sometime in the summer when the students were available and weather conditions agreeable.

Budget discussions to be researched further but estimation of £1,000 was made in the light of earlier (commercial) quotes. Alex pointed out that this money should be ring-fenced.

c. Scottish and Southern Electrical (SSE) substation redecoration, Bedford Road

The front has now been painted dark green by the SSE as a would-be deterrent to taggers.

d. Minutes Assistant update

The appointment of Gabriel Myers was agreed to as Minutes Assistant, @ £20 per transcription, and pending his acceptance of this figure. A possible thank you fee to the previous Minutes Assistant was discussed. A vote was conducted and a gift of £50 to be paid with a thank you letter was approved.

10. Secretary's report

Information on who will be on the Council for the reformation: Everybody apart from Fred and Rachel are elected back on again. Fred will be co-opted in the November meeting in the absence of him completing his application within the time period allowed. The Community Council will then in total have 9 members. Gen Davis will also think about being co-opted.

11. Treasurer's report

Alex reported that the balance is presently at £1,866.91. Nothing else to report on.

12. Monthly report from Aberdeen Community Council Forum

The Forum had examined the Local Transport Strategy, with the assistance an ACC officer (Alan Simpson) who was in attendance. Talked about a 'master plan' for the city centre. Looking into the closures at Union Street and attempting to adapt bus capabilities. The community were also invited to get involved with the issue of planning at the Beach.

There had also been discussion about Cityfibre and their sub-contractors, Kelly Communications. Over the city there have been complaints about the quality of the work being put in, particularly resulting in the repeated occurrence of outages. The workers men are being seemingly instructed to take short cuts with wiring. It has resulted in unsightly work being done to fit this cabling. The problem is though when finished it will be a hard task to re-work. Some of the men are though hard to communicate with on the spot.

Linda agreed to make contact with Alex McNiven who is apparently the ACC officer who works directly with Cityfibre. Updates on this issue will be relayed back to the Community Council.

13. Reports from other Community Councillors

No reports from other community councillors.

14. AOCB discussion

Powis Community Centre had given permission for face-to-face meetings. Geoff suggested that it might be wise to have at least one more meeting online before we decided if meetings should go back to in-person. This was agreed. An email will be sent to Karen about this decision.

15. Election and date of 1st meeting of new community council

Next meeting: Wednesday 3rd of November, 7pm online on Zoom