**Ferryhill and Ruthrieston Community Council**

**Minutes of meeting of Wednesday 12th April 2023**

**Present:** Community Council membersWilliam Rae (acting chair), Catherine Campbell, Leanne Ferries, Ishbel Shand, Gregor McAbery.

Councillors Iain Yuill and Derek Davidson from the Ruthrieston section of the boundary and Councillors Lee Fairfull and Christian Allard from the Ferryhill section of the boundary.

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-chair, William Rae took on the role of chair and welcomed attendees to the meeting.
3. Apologies were received from Michael Winn, Kevin McIvor, Cllr Watson and Cllr Kusznir.
4. **Police Report**

* No police were present

1. **Councillors’ reports**

Councillor Iain Yuill

1. Advised he had received reports from members of the public on anti-social drivers on Holburn Street. Police are pursuing this matter with officers maintaining a presence in the evenings.
2. Has received reports on potholes on various roads in Ruthrieston, which he is following up.

Councillor Derek Davidson

1. Has acted on reports of anti-social behaviour around ASDA.
2. Continues to pursue solutions to issues with buses around Garthdee and Ruthrieston. Buses are currently using Grey Street due to diversions on Holburn Street, but the road is very narrow.

Councillor Christian Allard

1. Attended a walkabout in Ferryhill, and noted that it was poorly attended by members of the public and community council. It was suggested that only 4 days notice were received from the council of the walkabout being planned, and future walkabouts should be better publicised, and possibly outwith working/school hours to allow for better attendance.

Councillor Lee Fairfull

1. Also attended the walkabout in Ferryhill, and agreed with Cllr Allard’s comments.
2. Reported a high level of concern from residents around road closures.
3. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting 8th March were duly approved by the community council.

1. **Update on F&R CC Publicity Poster**

Posters are still under development. William to give an update in May.

**Actions**

William to work on posters.

1. **Planning, licensing and public transport update (William/Ishbel)**

**Planning** – No further to those circulated to the community council via email, and published on the planning portal at https://publicaccess.aberdeencity.gov.uk/online-applications/

**Licensing** – No changes

**Public Transport** – No changes

1. **Financial Report** 
   * The only transaction in the month was £40 payment to Ferryhill Community Centre for room hire for March’s CC meeting.
   * Balance was reported as £245.79
   * Outstanding bills not yet received for room hire at Ruthrieston Community Centre for February and (now) April meetings.
2. **AOB**
3. Ishbel reported on the Ferryhill Community Walkabout
4. 3 councillors were present, as well as council officers and employees, but only Ishbel attended as a member of the public/community council. Greater notice in future would allow greater participation
5. The Pathway on Rosebank Terrace was noted as being very poor. This may not be an adopted road. Council officials will look into this.
6. Derelict land on OldMill Road was noted. Ownership of this land cannot be established.
7. Some evidence of anti-social behaviour in Bon Accord Terrace Gardens was noted. Better lighting, and possibly CCTV may help. Offensive graffiti on street furniture will be removed by the council.
8. Broken Slabs were noted in various places, from traffic and delivery vans mounting the pavement.
9. Dog dirt was also noted in various places.
10. It was noted that Ferryhill school may benefit from increased traffic calming measures
11. It was noted that public bike sheds would be beneficial, particularly on streets with many flats. Cllr Yuill noted that an increase in bike sheds is planned in the future.

**Actions**

* Increased notice to be given for future walkabouts, and better publicity to be given, approaching local schools to participate etc.
* Community Council to publicise the council’s reporting website for dog dirt etc.
* Members should take numbers for delivery vans and report so that persistent offenders can be approached.

1. A local resident attended the meeting to discuss his concerns around the consultation for transport options along the Ellon to Garthdee corridor and reported:
   1. Holburn Street currently has a wide and spacious feel for pedestrians. Reduced pavement sizes, and reduced garden sizes should be avoided.
   2. Simon had attended consultation meetings/presentations, but the detail available was poor.
   3. In general, the consultation process has been poor, and the impact on the community has not been well articulated.

* Cllr Yuill advised that the consultation is in the early stages, and any proposal being taken forward will have a full impact assessment performed. A STAG process must be undertaken by the council prior to any development of this nature, and all options must be considered. >400 responses have been received to the consultation, and nothing has been decided yet. A report to councillors will be made, with recommendations for next steps. Members of the public can make representations to members of committees, including the Net Zero committee, and the Environment and Transport Committee.
* The community council noted the resident’s concerns. The community council looks forward to further detail on the proposals and engagement over the coming months.

1. Ishbel noted her concerns around the council’s financial decision-making, in the context of library service closures etc. Discussing the Muse/Marischal Square development, TECA, and the previously issued stock market bond; councillors were urged to avoid such borrowing as far as possible.

Councillors noted that planned major projects are often eligible for additional sources of funding, for example the new Market building will receive ~£20M levelling up funding from Westminster, and will provide much needed connectivity between Union Street and the green/Union Square.

1. Gregor shared that Ruthrieston Residents Association are planning a spring clean on 22nd April at 10:30, on Riverside Place Lane. The community council will share details on its Facebook page.
2. Leanne reported on traffic issues: 1) anti-social driving, where police are telling people to contact their local councillors. Councillors affirmed that this should be police matter. 2) Road closures are causing issues including for emergency vehicle access.
3. Catherine enquired on any ongoing processes, or proposals for alternative provision, following the recent closure of Ferryhill and Kaimhill libraries. Cllr Davidson confirmed alternative modes of provision are currently being explored.
4. Great Western Community Trust and Ashley and Broomhill Community Council are holding an Easter event Sunday 16th April 1pm to 3pm, in Holburn Street West Church.
5. Leanne reported that Ferryhill Community Centre is planning a community newsletter, and would like to collaborate on funding and content. The community council agreed this is a good idea, and welcome more detail on costs prior to putting to a vote.
6. The next meeting was scheduled for 10th May at Ferryhill Community Centre.

* **Michael Winn, Chairperson**