

# **Aberdeen Cycle Forum**

## **Minutes of AGM & meeting**

**Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Attending:

Jyll Skinner (Chair), Gavin Clark, Clare Roberts, Mike Nieman, Patricia Melo, Liz Lindsey, Sheila Tuckwood, Dave Shannon.

Will Hekelaar - Aberdeen City Council

### **0. Welcome & Apologies**

JS welcomed all and including Will Hekelaar who had come to give a presentation on Aberdeen's draft Active Travel Action Plan.

### **1. draft Active Travel Action Plan**

WH gave a presentation outlining how this draft document had come to be, and the process from here. It followed survey /consultation in 2015, the conclusions of which had been fairly negative in many ways: Aberdeen is lagging far behind Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee, and numbers of children walking to school has actually fallen in the last couple of years.

It was now proposed to have the draft finalised by August, at which point there would be another round of public consultation. The proposed plan would then go to Committee in October and be adopted by November, all being well.

WH is willing to take comments back from ACF ahead of the public consultation

### **2. Annual General Meeting**

Reports from outgoing officials

- i) Jyll (Chair) Looking back on the year it had been fairly busy and although there is always more that can be done we are limited by the resources available to us. Highlights of the year included our Pedal on Parliament ride, our annual cycle count, the ITWMC event when we'd had good engagement with the public, the Walk, Cycle, Vote ride held to coincide with the SNP party conference at the AECC, and our Belmont screening of the feature length documentary 'Bikes vs Cars'. Going forward, the priorities for ACF should be i) promoting our cycling manifesto to ACC, ii) in-putting our ideas to strategies & plans such as the ATAP, iii) fighting our corner on issues like the AWPR crossings, iv) and promoting ACF – do enough people know about us and can we gain more traction by linking up more with common interest groups.

- ii) Clare (Treasurer). There had been no expenditure over the year. The opening and closing balances were both £718.
- iii) Gavin (Secretary). Current membership stands at just around 500. Although we continue to have new people join, we have also had quite a few recently who have left their jobs or left Aberdeen, presumably due to the downturn in the oil industry. Our facebook page following has increased significantly and now stands at just over 700 (this time last year 450) which seems to show that interest in cycling continues to increase. The new website was well established and was definitely easier to manage than the old one, as well as being more user-friendly for site visitors. We would still like to see more content added there, and ideas were always welcome.

At this stage of the meeting LL took over as Chair and the process for appointing new officials was conducted.

Chair: JS was nominated by GC (seconded by ST). There were no other nominations so JS was duly re-elected.

Treasurer: CR was nominated by GC (seconded by JS). There were no other nominations so CR was duly re-elected.

Secretary: GC was nominated by MN (seconded by ?). There were no other nominations so GC was duly re-elected.

## **2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

- i) JS had managed to speak to Cllr Yuill at PoP. He didn't know what is happening with the item concerning Westhill cycle route and when/if it would go back to CHI committee, but he had undertaken to look into it<sup>1</sup>.
- ii) Cycling Scotland community grants. PM and GC had been working on an idea which would revolve around Duthie Park but needs the involvement of the Ranger Service and/or Friends of Duthie Park, who we had as yet been unable to reach. They will continue to pursue the idea but time is very short with an application deadline next week, so it may be that we need to drop it and think more about ideas for next year.
- iii) Noted that there was a public petition concerning the diversion of the Deeside Way in Peterculter, and there seemed to be doubt over whether the diversion was intended to be temporary or permanent.
- iv) GC was awaiting the note from Amelia at FoE in summary of her presentation at the March meeting. CR confirmed she had received it and would pass it on.

---

<sup>1</sup> Now confirmed by Cllr Yuill that the matter will go back to Committee in August.

### **3. Cycle count**

Our annual count usually takes place in May and possible dates were either 10/11/12 or 17/18/19. Agreed that CR would find out when the Universities exams take place and we would choose dates to avoid them. Last year we had extended the period of the count for another 30 mins (0700-0900) and although there was no huge difference in the numbers counted it was agreed that we should continue with this practice for this year and possibly one more.

### **4. Safety meetings with ACC**

TC and HdR had had their meeting with the Council but as both were absent it was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

### **5. PoP de-brief**

The ride had been successful with numbers similar to last year. The weather had been cold with snow showers in the morning which may have affected turnout. Several Councillors and a couple of candidate MSPs had met us outside Marishcal College.

The idea for 'afters' at Six degrees North hadn't met with much success – only a handful of people came and most of those were those who had helped organise the ride.

The sub-group would meet again soon to discuss the success of the ride and ideas for 2017.

### **8. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Usual time & place.