

# Aberdeen Cycle Forum

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting

**Sunday 28th April, 14:00 Ma Cameron's**

**Present:** Gavin Clark (Chair), Rachel Martin (Communications Secretary), Clare Roberts (Treasurer), Gavin Thompson, Gregor McAbery, Kirsty McAbery.

1. **Apologies:** Liz Lindsey
2. Reports from outgoing officials

**Gavin:** Was elected as chair in August 2018. The secretary position is still vacant. In the last year we've had the AWPR protest in September, the pollution protest in November, the King Street Design Competition, and now Pedal on Parliament. We've had good press coverage for all events. On the downside we're yet to see this translated into action by the local authority. Gavin has met with Ross Grant a couple of times and he has been supportive but this has not been translated into action. We think Sandra McDonald may have taken over from Ross Grant as the new transport councillor. Gavin Thompson has a meeting with her tomorrow and will confirm. Although our membership remains healthy (600+) and our Facebook followers are now over 1,200, the number of people regularly attending meetings or actively getting involved in campaigning is lower than it has been, so new blood and ideas are always welcome.

**Clare:** The account is looking good right now with over £7,000 in it after a successful application to Lush for funding.

**Rachel:** The Union Street bike path petition is still before the council and we're expecting an update this quarter. Rachel to followup with them in the next couple of weeks. Lots of people took Union Street bike path postcards to mail to the council which is great. The £7,000 in funding is for two more visualisations - one for King Street and another for Market Street. The King Street one is being worked on now and will use the designs submitted in the King Street Design Competition.

### 3. Election of officials

Gavin voted in as chair.

Clare voted as treasurer.

Rachel voted as communications secretary.

Post of Secretary remains vacant and available to any new willing and enthusiastic member, but meantime Gavin and Rachel are managing to cover all the essentials between them.

**4. Minutes** from previous meeting available online at [https://  
aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Note-of-Meeting-March-2019-ACF-  
and-BBR.docx](https://aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Note-of-Meeting-March-2019-ACF-and-BBR.docx)

## **5. Events**

PoP2019 - The route was great. Good to see lots of kids and new faces there. We'll likely do the same route or similar again next year. Some people asked to do this more regularly like once a month or even every week. Disappointing to see no politicians at the event. How do we get council officers to see the benefits of cycling infrastructure?

Annual cycle count - Coming up in May. Need to get more volunteers - need about 16 people. Rachel to publish a request to help on the website and social media once the PoP recap is done.

## **6. Consultations**

The city council contacted us about our thoughts on having motorbikes in bus lanes. We asked our members for feedback and most were against the idea. We have not taken an official position on the topic but we shared member feedback with the city council.

The city council has been consulting on a public bike hire scheme. The closing date for this is today. Gavin will submit a response for ACF. In discussion it was agreed that although a hire scheme isn't a 'bad' thing, it shouldn't be the priority when what we really need is high-quality infrastructure such as segregated bike lanes. The survey done by Chris James a couple of years ago showed that the overwhelming reason (around 88%) why people don't cycle more is that they don't feel safe. It isn't that they don't have access to a bike. We can see how a hire scheme could work well e.g. at Duthie Park or on the beach esplanade: but again the key point is that these important destinations aren't linked by safe or attractive routes. We think ACC should learn from schemes which have been implemented elsewhere, and should also find out how many hires the bikes provided at the railway station have had.

**7. Next meeting** - Tuesday 21st May 7:30pm at Ma Cameron's. NB due to holidays this is not the regular 'last Tuesday of the month'. We will continue to experiment with alternating between Tuesday evening and a daytime meeting at the weekend. We also continue to look for a suitable venue and a number of options are being looked at.