

Aberdeen Cycle Forum

Minutes of meeting

Townhouse, Broad St, Aberdeen, Tuesday 29th April 2014

Attending: Jyll Skinner (Chair) (JS), Gavin Clark (GC), Clare Roberts (CR), Euan Innes (EI), Mike Nieman (MN) John Tuckwood (JT), Sheila Tuckwood (ST), Ian Mitchell (IM), Dik Skinner (DS)

0 Apologies Liz Lindsey

1. Report from out-going office bearers

Chair (Jyll Skinner) The first thing to note was the departure of our Vice-Chair (and former long-term Chair) Derek Williams, who is moving to Edinburgh imminently. Derek had been one of the founding members of ACF and its main driving force for many years. His depth of knowledge, determination and commitment had been exceptional. He will be sorely missed but we wish him and Jackie all the best with their move.

Otherwise it has been a busy year with some successes. The petition over Westhill has been one of the highlights, even if we haven't yet achieved a solution on the ground. We have attended several events including 'In town without my car' day last September, and more recently a stand with the Police at Union Square. There have been numerous meetings and other contact with officials and Councillors from Aberdeen City Council over various transport-related matters. Some improvements to winter gritting had been achieved, and the reopening of the straight-ahead lane onto Guild St. Of course there is always more to do, as ever, including more work on Quality Cycle Corridors

Treasurer (Clare Roberts). We started the year with £748 and have spent £30 on web hosting. There was no other expenditure. With Derek's departure we will need new signatories for cheques from the in-coming office bearers.

Secretary (Gavin Clark) The duties of the Secretary involve taking the minutes of meetings and posting those and other information on the website. The Secretary also maintains the membership list, which now stands at 433, which is an increase of around 70 in the past 12 months. Our presence on Facebook has also increased significantly and our page now has 224 'likes', when a little over a year ago it was around 10.

2. Election of Office Bearers

ST was asked to take over the meeting whilst new office bearers were elected.

JS was nominated as Chair by EI and seconded by JT.

GC was nominated as Secretary by MN and seconded by EI.

CR was nominated as Treasurer by MN and seconded by DS.

This concluded the business of the AGM

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Q&A with Police JS had followed up the matter of when we might expect to see Police officers on bikes, and awaits a response.

In discussion it was agreed that it would be good to maintain links with Police and it was suggested that we should seek a regular liaison contact point.

Roundabouts. JT has now taken on to follow this up with LN.

Triple Kirks. Currently with JS for action.

Cycle parking (suggested locations). JS and GC still had collated suggestions which have now been passed to Graham Mackenzie at ACC.

Cooperation between bike clubs / organisations – outstanding with GC.

LOAF rep. – IM has agreed to take this on.

Cycle safety leaflet – ongoing.

4. Westhill Cycle Path – Petition

JS had made a presentation to the Petitions Committee at their recent meeting. Cllr Ross Thomson was present and had spoken too. An official from Planning had also addressed the meeting and given most of the same reasons for lack of action as have been put forward in the past. The matter has now been referred back to the EP&I Committee, but it is not clear what will happen there given that they have considered it previously. However it was clear that there will continue to be development in this area with the successive phases of 'Prime 4' as well as the AWPR link.

JS has also been contacted by the owner of the Five Mile garage who was interested in meeting on site to look at the barriers and what solutions there might be.

5. 2014 Cycle count

This has now been set to take place on 13/14/15 May. JS has all the prior info and survey forms provided by DW. She has a handful of volunteers already but more are welcome.

6. Space for cycling

This is a nationwide campaign to encourage the public to lobby their local Councillors. It is a web-based tool which is very easy to use – it inserts your name into a template letter (allowing you to amend it if you so wish) and automatically identifies who your Councillors are. DS confirmed that he had used it and although he had had a favourable response from a Councillor, someone had suggested that it was an England-only campaign. This was thought unlikely as it worked in identifying and sending to ACC Councillors. It was agreed that we should promote it to our membership via usual channels.

7. Tourist cycle routes

Arising from the 'Interchange' project discussed at the last meeting, JS had been asked whether it was possible to identify any 'sight seeing' routes for travellers to take whilst they are (for example) waiting for a ferry. There were possibilities of trying to add this to the next reprint of the Cycle Map, but most present felt that the main barrier to any sensible route was Market St and the station / Wapping St gyratory. i.e. what is most needed is a) a usable cycle link to Torry and, b) some way of safely connecting the Deeside Way with a route to FootDee and the beach. Cllr Kiddie had expressed an interest in this and it was agreed that we should aim to meet with him or invite him to our next meeting.

8. AOBs

LL had sent a photo showing the new ASL arrangement on Kingsgate at the junction with Stronsay Drive. The line markings are confusing and it was agreed JS should ask Graham Mackenzie if they had been implemented as intended or whether there was a mistake.

Louise Napier (ACC) had been in touch about a forthcoming event 'Cycle hack' . This is a workshop aimed at finding engineering solutions to cycling problems and will take place in Glasgow (?). Anyone who is interested please get in touch via normal channels.

Following the last meeting, Patricia had been in touch pointing out that some of the signage at on/off points with steps on the Deeside Way is not particularly helpful. Perhaps what is needed is an audit of current signage. MN agreed to take this on. GC suggested that at some of the steps, a wheel channel could be used to make them more bike friendly. JT also pointed out that major works appear to be starting near Maryculter which may be connected with the AWPR?

GC asked about the idea of some mass ride as had been discussed at the last meeting, and noting the success of the 3rd Pedal on Parliament which had just taken place in Edinburgh. Most present thought that the idea of a family-friendly mass ride was a good one and could be organised for later in the year, possibly to coincide with 'In town without my car day' in September as this would give a suitable 'destination'. We would need to think carefully about the route and other implications. Possibly a sub-group of volunteers would be needed to work up ideas and explore the feasibility.

6. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 27th May and reverting to the normal start time of 1930hrs
