

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2011

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Gavin Adam, Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, David Evans, Annie Ferries, John Hern, Bob Ingram, Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley, Jim Piggins.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Chris Bell (SSE), Isabel Hunter (Evening Express), Peter Jennings (SSE), Margaret Shaw (SSE), Keith Thomson (SSE), Kenny Thomson (Kintore CC), Stephen Wood (SSE).

Apologies: Ian Murray, Mavis Wainman.

- 1. Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed those present, and especially the team from SSE. He extended the good wishes of the Community Council to Mavis Wainman who was currently in Inverurie Hospital.
- 2. Police matters:** There was no police presence and therefore no report.
- 3. Presentation by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) on Leylodge enhancement project:** The presentation gave details of the project's purpose which was to upgrade the existing electricity transmission infrastructure in order to enable renewable generation to link to the main transmission system. Stephen Wood explained that the work in the Kemnay/Kintore area would involve the extension of the existing Kintore substation and the replacement of the insulators in 742 transmission towers. He stressed that the potential environmental and visual impact of the project had been assessed by outside agencies; the assessment had concluded that the site planned for the extension to the substation had ancient woodland, cultural heritage and badger activity constraints which would have to be managed before the site could be thus utilised. He also intimated that no electricity outage would be necessary during the course of the work.
- 4. Opportunity for Members of the public to speak:** No-one wished to speak.
- 5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2011 was proposed by Eric Pashley, seconded by Jim Piggins and unanimously approved.
- 6. Matters Arising from Minutes:**
 - a) Update on ASCC representative:** The representative was now Ruth McPherson who was also the National Secretary; she had been co-opted in January following the resignation of Sheila Urquhart in December.
 - b) St Anne's garden:** Aberdeenshire Council had made strenuous enquiries which resulted in their denying responsibility for dumping snow in the garden, and it was agreed that the Community Council could do no more to assist in the matter.
 - c) Glebe Road lamp post:** Cllr Al-Kowarri had contacted Bob Gray. A survey of lamp posts in the area was to be made and any problems rectified.
 - d) Community Safety Awards:** There were no nominations.
 - e) Car Park consultation:** The Community Council's proposal – that instead of increasing car park fees, the charge should remain the same but the length of time for which it was valid should be shortened – was to be “fed into” the infrastructure services committee.
- 7. Planning matters and applications:** There was some disquiet about the proposal for two wind turbines at Greenmoss. The feeling of the meeting was that the advantages of the turbines might be outweighed by the damage done in erecting them and the effect they might have on the landscape. It was agreed to write to the Planning Officer, enquiring about the environmental and visual impact of the proposed turbines.

Questions were raised about the fact that the 77 houses proposed for Fetternear were part of Kemnay's allocation. Cllr Al-Kowarri said that if these had not been considered to be part of Kemnay, another site would have had to be found for the 77 houses within the Kemnay boundary. As it was, these 77 houses would have planning permission only as part of a robust business plan which included the restoration of the Bishops' Palace.
- 8. ASCC:** There was no-one interested in attending the Common Ground meeting. No-one was interested in standing in the biennial area-representative election. The copy of the Newsletter was made available to members.
- 9. Reports:**
 - a) Safety Group:** Aberdeenshire Council was to discontinue funding individuals on the “Pass Plus” scheme. The Safety Awards Ceremony was to be in Kemnay Church Centre on 19 March 2011. The Motorbike Safety Course was to be run again as it appeared to have had some positive impact on motorcycle accidents in Aberdeenshire; there would be 12 places funded by Aberdeenshire Council Safety Group.
 - b) Community Learning and Development:** There had been no meeting so there was no report.

c) **GACCF:** The next meeting was to be on 16 March 2011.

d) Community Planning:

i) **Report:** Aberdeenshire Youth Council had given a presentation to the Executive seeking membership of the Community Planning Partnership and this was to be granted. The Community Council welcomed the participation of young people in Community Planning.

ii) **Community Steps to a Positive Future – Events in Aberdeenshire:** It was agreed that these events were not aimed at Community Councils.

10. Craig Lea path; Burnett Arms path: A member of the public had complained about the overgrown nature of Craig Lea Path and the quantity of cigarette ends and other litter opposite the bar door of the Burnett Arms. It had been established that Craig Lea Path was the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council, as was the St Bryde's Road-Station Road path. Cllr Al-Kowarri agreed to draw the attention of the Council to this. Bob Ingram agreed to speak to the Landlord of the Burnett Arms about litter opposite the door of the bar.

11. "Welcome to Kemnay" stone: Thanks were extended to Aggregate Industries for providing and engraving the stone. Their work on landscaping the Mill Farm area, planting trees and erecting bird hides was also much appreciated.

12. Aberdeenshire news:

a) **Planning gain: update on how the money from recent and on-going developments in Kemnay had been spent:** Cllr Al-Kowarri presented some information on this, but suggested that Ian Fowell would be better placed to discuss the matter. It was agreed to invite Ian Fowell to a future meeting.

b) **Update on Council budget savings:** The budget had been approved two weeks previously, and the impact of cuts would become evident gradually. Some reductions had already been made to the opening hours of some recycling centres, and the use of taxi cards for longer journeys had been cut.

c) **Potholes:** Cllr Al-Kowarri suggested that members of the public contact the Pothole helpline: 08456 081205 or e-mail roads@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to report potholes.

13. Correspondence

a) **Community Planning Update (Previously circulated):** This had proved interesting.

b) **Winter Consultation Newsletter (Previously circulated):** It was noted that, contrary to the information in the newsletter, farmers had to provide their own snowploughs.

c) **ASCC Newsflash (Previously circulated):** This had been dealt with under item 8.

d) **Kemnay/Kintore Academy Stakeholder Meeting:** This had been postponed.

14. AOCB: Eric Pashley suggested that drivers might be issuing tickets to spurious destinations to those travelling on free bus-passes; members aged over 60 were asked to examine their tickets. A leaflet was available publicising Community Councils in Formartine; Bob Ingram agreed to e-mail it to members. The design of houses on the Cairnview development was commended by David Evans.

15. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be held on Thursday 24 March 2011, following the AGM at 7.30pm.