

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
26th February 2015

ACTION

Present: Sheila Simpson (Chair), David Evans, Douglas Laing, Vaila Spencer, John Hern,
Margaret Basley, Annie Ferries, Kate Rigby, Bob Ingram, Bill Blackwood, Janet Newberry

Attending: Rob Mackay (Secy), Gaynor Berkin, Graeme Wood, Hazel Smith, Sue Wainman

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present, Irene Reid and Rob Mackay as the new Secretary.
2. Apologies for Absence: Sheena Lochnay, Alison Grant, Eric Pashley, Gavin Adam
3. Community Council Elections: SS provided the update that four new members (Graeme Wood, Hazel Smith, Gaynor Berkin, Rob Mackay) have been appointed and three existing members (John Hern, Annie Ferries, Eric Pashley) are retiring. Hence with these number of nominees no election was necessary and the new Community Council will take effect after the AGM in March 2015.
4. Police Matters: Two Police Officers were present to speak to the report. 10 Crimes have been reported within Kemnay. Two assaults occurred one outside School and another in a residential property. The offenders for both have been traced. One has been reported to the courts and the other is due to be reported. One vandalism took place at Kemnay Academy where fake cladding was removed from a wall. Enquiry is ongoing and Officers would appeal for any witnesses or information to be passed to local officers. One case of threatening and abusive behaviour and a communications offence has been reported during the period. This is in relation to threats made over a telephone call. Enquiry is being made . Two cases of Fraud have been reported during the period. The first is in relation to the purchase of a motor vehicle. The second case relates to the removal of cash from a Shop within Kemnay by fraudulent means. Enquiry is being made to trace the offenders. There have been two incidents that relate to a male being in possession of controlled drugs. One outside a residential property and the second within a motor vehicle. This has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Various Road Traffic incidents have occurred including Drink Driving and Driving with No Insurance. All have been reported to the courts. Local officers continue to monitor speeding issues and other antisocial driving within the area where possible. A Road Safety Initiative was carried out during the morning of Friday 30 January 2015, which resulted in five drivers warned with various road traffic offences. Children within Primaries one, two and three of Alehousewells Primary School and Kemnay Primary School were also spoken with regarding Road Safety and keeping themselves safe. This involved Pedestrian Safety and understanding the Green Cross Code. During this time parking was also monitored around the Primary Schools and education provided to drivers in relation to parking outside schools and within restricted areas. This will continue to be monitored within the town.

Police Scotland are highlighting general security and would encourage householders to use timer switches or to leave a radio/tv on in a room when the property is unoccupied and local patrons should ensure properties are correctly secured, including outbuildings as there is still evidence of opportunist thefts in the area targeting insecure properties or vehicles. Police Scotland would also like to remind drivers of correctly preparing their vehicle for winter driving ensuring all round visibility, and also to increase stopping distances when driving in wet/icy conditions.

The two Police Officers in attendance responded to a question about the installation of a mobile speed camera indicated that if the Community Council (CC) put in a request that this would be added to the list of requests from other communities. The meeting suggested the optimum place of placing a camera would be Victoria Terrace and Aquithie Road. They also confirmed that the Police are monitoring parking around Primary Schools as Aberdeenshire Council are not providing traffic warden cover.

5. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Speak :

Rob Mackay raised the issue of the Community Mini bus, which is under threat as Aberdeenshire Council has disbanded the Community Development Group and has stated that the ownership of the Community Minibus has to be passed on to a community group. It was pointed out that the Community Minibus is very well used by local groups and helps them to achieve their aims. The meeting considered that more information is required.

A meeting with Community Learning and the user groups is to be pursued.

RM

6. Approval of Minutes from 29th January 2015 – Approved: David Evans
Seconded: Margaret Basley

7. Matters Arising from Minutes:

- a) Item 9; post of Secretary has now been filled.
- b) Item 11; David Evans reiterated his view that the comments of Community Councils on planning matters should be regarded as coming from a statutory consultee rather than at present they are treated as coming from 'members of the public'. This issue to be followed up.
- c) Item 12; there has been communication from Aberdeenshire Council regarding the numbers of recycling bins in the car park adjacent to the skate park to the effect that two of these bins will be moved from the parking area onto the verge leaving just one bin in a parking area.
- d) Item 15; the lack of white line markings has been addressed. They will be painted later this year.
- e) The consultation on the play park is now complete and Aberdeenshire Council have decided which equipment is to be purchased although date of installation is not known.
- f) Item 16d; SS wrote a response to Police Scotland about their proposals for future policing arrangements and expressed concerns about the lack of resource for Kemnay. A reply has been received from Inspector Millar and he has undertaken to attend a future meeting of the CC.
- g) Item 17; -SS will raise the issue of lack of road treatment for ice/snow on the Leschangie Road.

SS

- Issue of cars parking on corner of Bridge Road/Bridge Croft has been raised.

SS

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8. A note is to be put in Newsletter regarding our speaker at the April meeting.

9. The Community Council & the Village

There was a discussion about the function of the Community Council, the role of individual members and how we communicate with people in Kemnay. Sheila Simpson posed the question as to how people hear about as Community Councillors and how to bring issues to our attention? She suggested that the Village Website has been very successful (14,000 hits) and suggested that we could post photographs and contact details of each of the councillors on the site. This is to be discussed further. There was a discussion about greater use of social media such as Facebook & Twitter; it was pointed out there are groups within Kemnay that communicate with each other through Facebook. David Evans in early stage of developing a Facebook page and agreed that he & Vaila Spencer do more work on this. **DE/VS**

It was suggested that there are opportunities for the CC to be more visible by having a presence in village events such as those that take place in the Village Hall. There was agreement that the role of the CC is to co-ordinate information, to be the voice of the people and on occasions to stimulate

activity. Vaile Spencer suggested the closed public toilets in Bogbeth Park is a case in point where community groups could oversee it, although some thought that with the reopening of the Bennachie Lodge that toilet access would continue to be there.

The question was posed as to whether Community Councillors would or should or take on responsibility for particular areas or issues. The possibility of sub-committees was raised. Agreed this needs to be reflected upon and more discussion to take place at future meetings

10. Scheme of Establishment:

The consultation process on the Scheme of Establishment with regard to Community Councils has now reached its 2nd phase. DE and SS are working on a response to the latest document. SS/DE

11. Planning Matters and Applications – 4 planning applications were recorded – 4 passed without comment: Change of Use of Land from Agricultural to Domestic and Erection of Dwelling house at Overton Croft Fetternear Inverurie; this application reached DE late but the application was refused. The Erection of Replacement Dwelling house (Full permission) at Fernhaw Aquithie Kemnay. Application is to demolish existing cottage and erect a replacement house. Erection of Agricultural Buildings, Nether Aquithie, Kemnay.

12.

The Erection of Dwellinghouse and Garage (Permission in Principle) at Boatleys Farm Kemnay; this had just come in so the details were not available for members to comment upon, but details are on website so members were invited to e-mail DE with comments.

13. Reports

1. Christmas Lights – worked successfully over the Festive period. Eric Pashley to be thanked and to be asked who his contacts are for future reference.

DE

2. Safety Group – BI referred to the discussion with the Police Officers about the mobile speed camera.
3. Community Learning and Development – no report
4. GACCF – SS reported back on a presentation about ‘community resilience’ and approaches to flooding.
5. Kemnay Academy – 2 Pupil Representatives have been identified to join the KCC meetings. Not represented at this meeting. BI to contact Academy staff to find out more.

BI

6. Press Report – JH reported that there was no references to Kemnay in recent press
7. Garioch Partnership –. Agreed to invite Anne Simpson, development worker to future meeting.

SS

8. Community Planning – SS reported on an appraisal exercise; Men’s Sheds being very successful; Ward Forums and the Community Empowerment Bill were discussed. It was revealed that Aberdeenshire Council have to save 30 million gbp. in the next financial year. This led to a discussion on the policy of freezing Council Charges and concern was expressed about the impact this has on service provision. Agreed we should convey these concerns to the Scottish Govt.

SS

14. Aberdeenshire Council News: No report as no Councillors present.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

SS is endeavouring to limit the amount of e-mails sent to KCC members, but instead arranging for some items to be put on the village website: www.kemnay.info.

The following emails were received: anyone with a particular interest should contact SS for more details regarding invitations or contact.

- a. Street Life website

- b. Aberdeenshire Towns Conference to take place
- c. A questionnaire has been received from the Scottish Health Council and members are encouraged to complete it
- d. Feedback is being sought from C.C. members as to support offered by 'shire Council. SS to circulate questionnaire. **SS**
- e. Application for Comic Relief grants – comment was made to the effect that completing one of these application forms is complex & time consuming. Agreed that expert advice can make all the difference – enquiries to be made as to who might be contacted for advice. **SS**
- f. There is to be a consultation event in Kintore on 21st March from 10 – 12.
- g. The proposed Local Development Plan is on the C.C.'s website. SS wrote concerning the proposal by Deveron Homes.
- h. Community I.T. issues were noted.

16. AOCB

Chair's Report –

The certificate for Public Liability has been received (cost £88.74). This is paid for by the shire Council. This was passed to the Treasurer for safekeeping.

Community Councillors items:

AF noted the Digital 'Books for Visually Impaired People' is looking for more volunteers. Annie was thanked for her service on the C.C.

MB had nothing to report but is going to meet with RM to decide on timing of C.C. Minutes being included in the Newsletter.

Grateful thanks expressed to JH for his service on the C.C. as he will not be at the AGM.

DL asked about progress with the installation of Optic Fibre by BT. The comment was that accurate information is difficult to obtain but it appears as though there has been partial implementation and there is now an Optic Fibre cabinet installed (Fraser Place).

17. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 26th March 2015 at 7.30 p.m. The business part of the meeting will be preceded by the A.G.M.