

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE

29TH OF APRIL 2004 AT 7.30PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT – Sheila Taylor, Chris Hunneyball, Susan Milton, Pat Findlater, Jim Piggins, Hazel Al-Kowarri, Alistair Thomson, Janet Newberry, Mavis Wainman, Rodger Dunham & Andy Hinton

ATTENDING – Cllr Alister Leitch, Cllr Gurudeo Saluja, Inspector Dave Allan, Tim McKay (Kemnay Academy) & Ken Poole.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE–

Bill Blackwood, Alan Davies, David Evans & Iain Morgan.

A. POLICE MATTERS

Inspector Allan was please to report that there has not been much to report since our last meeting just the odd incident, which is encouraging. The Police House Project will be complete at the end of May/ start of June with the Police office back in use as soon as is possible. The officers will then once again work out of this office whilst on duty in our area. (**Note** this is not to be out in the Newsletter Report). The problems happening in the Alehousewells area, and in particular Shannoch Path /Heron Way area, which include damage to fences and cars and late night disturbances, are being looked into by the Crime Prevention Officers with a view to better lighting in the area, and working with the Academy on the matter. It is noted that the timings of these incidents coincide with the Community Education disco on a Friday night (hot spot between 8pm to 10pm) this is for a variety of reasons including alcohol abuse and general disturbance. The Academy Safety Group, Community Education and the Police are looking at several way to combat this. Inspector Allan gave thanks to the excellent work done by Mr McKay and Mr Legg along with the Academy Safety Group, that much of the investigations into thefts at the school are already resolved before the police officers can get to the school. Mr McKay advised that, for insurance purposes, the school must report any incident of theft and that in most cases the missing item (commonly a mobile phone) is either found, returned to the owner or the matter resolved quite quickly, but it is all logged as a theft of property. Bearing this in mind Inspector Allan gave us an update of the Crime & Safety at the Academy since 2002 as he has compiled a survey of progress. From 2002 to 2003, there was a decrease of 24% in formal incidents reported and the total up until now is a decrease of 44%, which is excellent news.

Breakdown of figures –

1st Year (2001) = 17 formal vandalism reports (including 7 to motor vehicles in the front car park)

2nd Year (2002) = 8 formal vandalism reports (including 5 to motor vehicles in the front car park and 2 attempts at fire raising there were also 4 thefts)

3rd Year (2003) = 9 formal vandalism reports (including 3 to motor vehicles in the front car park & 3 thefts of pupils property)

Predominantly the vandalism is broken windows. However, both he and the Academy Safety Group are confident of making further progress on this success story so far. We thanked him for such an encouraging report. We also heard via Pat Findlater that the Garioch Area Safety Group are giving the Academy £300 for new signs to advise that walking your dog on the Academy playing fields is not permitted. Mavis advised that someone had removed the covers from the security lighting around the Village Hall, they were recovered from a hedge later and are undamaged but it required Aberdeenshire Council to come and refit these to the building. She also advised of a lady who parks her car (in daylight hours on Paradise Road) and it is repeatedly vandalised (keys taken along the side of it). She has instructed the lady to report this to the police each time. She also asked if any progress on the incident about a month ago, when a man on Paradise Road was badly assaulted and kept in hospital as a result of his injuries. Inspector Allan had no news on this incident at this time but investigations are ongoing. The no waiting sign has been removed from the wall in the High Street (it is currently outside Mavis's front door) and will need to be put back. People are parking in the reserved Doctor's spaces in the High Street, this is difficult to police as both the doctors and nurses use these spaces and the police are not aware who should be using these spaces or they would issue a parking ticket. There are 2 traffic wardens in the Gordon area and they have a rota of towns and villages to visit, for obvious reasons they do not want to give out details of this rota and when they are not available police officers can issue parking tickets. Lastly, but not least, Cllr Leitch and Inspector Allen will be going round the local pubs and licensed premises in their respective capabilities reviewing the licence renewals.

B. MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 25TH OF MARCH 2004

Adoption Proposed – Susan Milton

Seconded – Mavis Wainman

Corrections to last minute/agenda – Cllr Alister Leitch's name spelt incorrectly in part F2 of Agenda. Hazel Al-Kowarri also pointed out that she only proposed the last minute on the understanding that her amendment to it be noted, which it had duly been corrected. It was agreed that any amendments will be noted at this point in the following months minute.

**Please also note were it states that Sheila has contacted someone it is on behalf of Community Council and is either at its request or a request of a member of the community within her capacity as Secretary of Community Council.

C. QUESTION TIME –

_a/ Opportunity for members of the public present to address the Community Council should they wish.

- Mr Ken Poole addressed the Community Council with a concern over the state of the kerbing on Bennachie View. He has counted 64 curbs that are in need of replacement as they have disintegrated. This was an answer we could give immediately as it is on the map of works to be carried out that Cllr Alister Leitch had with him this evening. Although we have no date as yet it, will be carried out this year and we advised Mr Poole that we would endeavour to find out when and let him know. He then went on to thank us all for our service and the job we do within the Community, We thanked him for coming along and invited him to stay longer should he so desire.
- Tim McKay has been appointed to the position of Head Teacher of Alford Academy and will take up his new post on the 3rd of July. He went on to formally thank the Community Council for all the support and help they have given both himself and the Academy and hopes this will continue for his successor. The Community Council gave a vote of thanks from both ourselves and the community as a whole for all the good works he has given to the Academy and the village in his time with us. We expressed that it has very much a two-way support that has been given and we wish him all the best in the future. We hope that his replacement will continue his good work and we will extend a warm welcome to him/her in this new role. Mr McKay went on to tell us that he has also identified (with the help of the guidance staff at the Academy) two 5th year pupils who may be interested in coming along to Community Council meetings as they have a career interest which this would aid them in. He hopes to take them along to our June Meeting (as he cannot make it along to our May meeting) as his guests; the 2 pupils are staying on to do their 6th year studies. Mavis asked if she could get some pupils who are interested in work experience to help her organise her files and Mr McKay advised that she contact Sandra O'Rourke as head of the Business Studies Department. We also asked if it were possible to get a copy of the Academy Newsletter sent to Community Council for those of us who do not have children at the Academy so we can be kept updated of any developments within the Academy. He also informed us that Graham Legg (currently the Head Master) is leaving to take up the post of Head Teacher at Aberdeen Grammar. He assured us that it is nothing to do with Kemnay Academy (it is a great school) and not to worry; it is just unfortunate timing that the two appointments have been made at the same time. We agreed that it might be because it is a good school it is a victim of its success and provides an excellent training base for staff to progress their careers. Mr McKay also advised that the kids and parent have not been officially advised of these appointments this is because no official announcement has been made by Aberdeenshire Council, Education Department in the local newspapers, and they have held off until this is done. Cllr Leitch is to investigate why this has not been done yet. (**Note** for this reason I have not out this in the Newsletter Report)

b/ Nominate any matters to be raised under AOCB or for a future meeting to be recorded and timetabled

- 20 Sign on Grove Road for the School Limit obscured by Branches of the Tree now that the leaves are appearing.

D. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTE

1) Community Council Representation – How the public and community at large perceive our role and work that we do. Cllr Leitch provided us with a handbook on research and surveys that we could carry out. However, no one has the time to do this or any ideas on what it is that we should ask? We could use the newsletter to circulate a newsletter but would need to structure it to find out what it is we really wish to know. If more people took an interest and we had to have an election of members, then maybe people would know more about what we do and the role we provide. People generally only contact us when they have a burning issue or particular concern to discuss. We can do no more than we already do to encourage people along to our meetings. But Hazel pointed out that people do perceive that Community Council only look after certain areas of the Village (in particular the old / original part) not Alehousewells and the new parts as the village grows. We do want to get feedback for all areas and all generations of our community but how do we do this? It boils down to we do put minutes of our meetings in the Newsletter and members of the public are welcome to attend and are invited to do so each month.

2) Questions for Alister from our last meeting–

- Map of work to be carried out in the village – only 2 works to be carried out in Kemnay over the next year are detailed on this map. One is the footway works on Bennachie View and the second is resurfacing works on Fraser Place. We pointed out that there is a particularly large pothole at the top of the High Street as you turn in from Grove Road and Alister is to look into getting this repaired for us.
- When will the broken window at the library be fixed it is now six months since this happened? This is now a priority 5 and will be done by May the 11th, they are to redesign the window, and instead of having one large pane of glass it will be several smaller panes in a bid to stop the vandalism and cost of repairs. We also asked at this point if anything could be done about the garden area, which is decimated at the moment.
- Why has the Village Centre sign changed to Town Centre? – He is unsure why this has happened and the only solution could be that in the sign shortage only Town Centre signs were available.
- Disappointed to learn that in the council's new signage campaign of late, which they cut down a Rowan Tree on Bremner Way to put up a new signpost. Can we request that they do not do this in future? Obviously and unfortunately, nothing can be done about this now but Alister did report this on our behalf.

E. ABERDEENSHIRE NEWS

Although a lot of points are covered above Alister went on to tell us that he too got a letter of thanks from the Church Centre for their new sign. The Youth Café will open on the 18th of June and the Skate Park will also open around this date (this has had some delays as the contractor – Steve Clarke was unwell in hospital). The curve was taken out of the design for the War Memorial to give a wider footpath at this point particularly for wheelchairs and children's pushchairs. Alister is on the interview board for the replacement of the Kemnay Academy roles and informs us that the short leet will take place on the 8th of June and interviews on 21st of June for the Head Teacher role initially, as they will then be involved with the deputy role and interviewing of

candidates. Cllr Saluja advised us that the top up grant is slightly increased for this financial year to £40,000 and will have 3 application dates, the first being September, however for urgent requirements this may be reconsidered dependant on reasons.

F. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

BUILDING WARRANT APPLICATIONS :-MR & MRS D FORSYTH – 29 HIGH STREET – ALTERATIONS & EXTENSIONS

MR & MRS W HENDERSON – TIGHNFRAOCH, LESCHANGIE – EXTENSION TO DWELLING & ERECTION OF GARAGE

MR & MRS RAYTON – 23 DAUN WALK – INSTALLATION OF VELUX TO MASTER BEDROOM & SHOWER TO GROUND FLOOR TOILET

MR & MRS LENGKONG – 17 DONALD AVENUE – EXTENSION TO DWELLINGHOUSER & MRS R MORRISON – 7 ELIZABETH CLOSE – EXTENSION TO DWELLINGHOUSE TO FORM SUN LOUNGE

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

MR & MRS McPHEE – TILLYFOUR COTTAGE – EXTENSION TO DWELLINGHOUSE

MR & MRS W HENDERSON – TIGHNFRAOCH, LESCHANGIE – EXTENSION TO DWELLING & ERECTION OF GARAGE

MR & MRS LENGKONG – 17 DONALD AVENUE – EXTENSION TO DWELLINGHOUSE

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Double Yellow Lines on Victoria Terrace & Grove Road** – do we get Traffic Wardens or will this be the police that look after this? As there are only 2 traffic wardens for Gordon this will be a joint task as police officers are also able to issue parking tickets.
2. **Victorian Lamppost Update** – Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department are waiting on specialist parts arriving to get this all up and running. Hopefully this will happen shortly.
3. **Aberdeenshire Local Plan Update** – nothing to report on a date for this yet, as we still await the revised timetable from Aberdeenshire Council however, we have placed our objections once more. We have questioned the clarity of the letter as our objections were placed in 2002 not 2003 and the letter states objection received last year and were on ALP not on ALP Modifications Document. We have also

questioned why it is not available in our library (please note it is now available in Kemnay Library) and the cost of the book (£10) is an extortionate price.

4. **Toilet Facilities at Bogbeth Pleasure Park Update** – nothing new to report at present. Alister informed at this is still be looked into however noted that once again the old toilet block door has again been kicked in.
5. **Disused Chicken Shed** – Again, Ian Fowell is still to revert back to me on this matter; he has passed it to environmental health department. I also contacted SEPA on this matter. Really it is the owners' responsibility not the councils', but we need the council, environmental health and SEPA to put pressure on the owners to deal with this matter urgently. This is of great concern amongst the local residents so we will keep behind this issue.
6. **Youth Café Update** – Will open on the 18th of June.
7. **Scottish Rural Partnership Fund- Consultation Paper March 2004** (Deadline 15th May for replies) – in pack to members. Can we all look at this and come back with ideas in our next meeting. Any more feedback? – No more feedback I will send this of as it is.
8. **Garioch Area Partnership** – At Inch Primary School on Monday 29th of March at 7pm. Did anyone attend? Can they give a report? Mavis went along and was pleased to report 30 people turned up for the meeting including some local youths. They are concerned about Community Learning (new emphasis for community education to be more on learning) but this is not what the youngsters want. They are to work with the outreach workers on a questionnaire to find out exactly what the young people want and need. Several problems in the area, in that different things happen in different buildings, but no one seems to be aware of when these premises are free and could be used for other activities. The Area Partnership had another meeting on the 26th of April which was supposed to be in Westhill but ended up being held in Millbank, unfortunately not such a good turnout for this meeting but still very productive concentrating on the Sauchen area.
9. **Garioch Area Plan 2003-2006** – is there anything else people wish to add?

Suggestions so far include –

- Extending the library opening times and listing it as a main library so it can get local plans etc.
- Recycling and Refuse collection – better facilities and at a more realistic cost (£18 to get a mattress collected – will only lead to more illegal fly tipping) Some kind of information as to who would reuse paint, furniture etc rather than just taking it to the skip.
- Why do some councils offer more and better recycling facilities?

- Could the council not get together to tackle this as a Scottish environmental issue? Shetland for example burns the rubbish and has heat exchanges in their homes. Tayside offers more facilities than Aberdeenshire.
- No provision is made for those who have no access to their own transport (they have to pay for collection).
- Nevertheless, the main question has to be this is the plan for 2003 –2006. Why are we just getting this now to comment on?
- There are things that have been talked about for years and we despair at ever happening. Note, however, things that are well in progress (guaranteed to be done) – Youth Café and Skate Park are mentioned.

No more that anyone wished to add so I will submit this to Ian Fowell. Alister Leitch informed us that the recycling point could not be put at Birley Bush, as there are plans for its development. He believes it is to go back into use by Landscape Services.

10. **War Memorial Update** – now underway again and the wall and railings should be finished shortly, then in the spring/summer Landscape Services will work on the garden area, replacing and putting in new plants and generally overhauling the area. We are a little bit disappointed that it is no longer a curve as it did look more pleasing to the eye, and that we did not see the council's plans before work was carried out on this area when we could have asked for the curve to be done.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consultation on the Report of the Summary Justice Review** – You really do need to read the whole report (228 pages long) to answer these questions properly, but we do have time, as it is not due until The 16th of July. In the pack is some correspondence received for Aberdeenshire Council regarding an awareness meeting on the McInnes Report on Legal Reform. Cdr Hunneyball, Mavis Wainman & Sheila Taylor have volunteered to attend. This will enable us to have a better understanding of the proposals.

2. **Rights of Appeal in Planning Consultation Paper** – deadline 30th of July – Cdr Hunneyball is to ask if David Evans would be kind enough to look over this on Community Councils behalf and draft a reply.

3. **ASCC Survey to Investigate a Model for Local Community Planning** – completed at the meeting by those present.

4. **ASCC AGM 12th of June in Stirling** – no one free to attend unfortunately.

5. **Suspension Footbridge over the River Don at Burnhervie proposed plan for work** – Community council welcomed this plan and look forward to a safer and hopefully less able to be vandalised bridge on an important and well used walk.

6. Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 – it was decided to leave this consultation unanswered as it is a long and technical document that covers all aspects of water most of which do not directly affect Kemnay. Sheila has a copy of the document should anyone wish to read it

I. REPORT FROM THE SAFETY GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

The held their AGM on Tuesday 27th of April. So have a new Chairperson as Ian Wallace steps down to Vice Chair and Ron McKail steps into the role of Chairman. Unfortunately Alan Stewart has had to step down for health reasons. The group are keen to attract new members as they are becoming a bit thin on the ground. Inspector Allan and Inspector Wallace (of the Road Traffic Police) gave an interesting talk on drink driving and the time frames of when people are most commonly caught, namely late evenings and early mornings. The Annual Seminar was an excellent event (Sheila agreed that this was a very enjoyable and interesting day) and Kate Rigby did a fantastic job organising all this. The workshops were particularly good and informative. Information of seminar will be in the pack for the next meeting. Meeting with the MSP's was postponed until Friday the 28th at Gordon House due to lack of notice for people to attend. There have been 60 people applying for the posts of Community Wardens of which Aberdeenshire will receive 20. Their hours of work will be 7am until 3.30pm and 2pm to 10pm

J. CORRESPONDENCE - All in circulation to members or in the pack provided.

Email from a member of public (read at meeting)

Letter of thanks from the Church for our assistance in getting the Church Centre Sign.

Letter to tell us about Planning Aid and an invitation to join at a cost of £10 – David Evans felt there was no point joining as we have a good relationship with the Planning Department.

K. A.O.C.B– As timetabled earlier – quickly discussed at the start of the evening due to people having to leave at 9pm for other commitments

L. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 27th OF MAY

Note for your diaries – here is the list of meeting dates for 2004 – 24th of June, No meeting in July or August then 30th of September, 28th of October, 25th of November & No meeting in December.