

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL 2008 AT 7.30 PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Margaret Christie, David Evans, Pat Findlater, Neil Johnson, Susan Milton, Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley, Jim Piggins, Paul Smart, Alex Thomas, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Ian Fowell, 5 members of the public, 5 schoolchildren.

1. Welcome: Chris Hunneyball welcomed those present, in particular Ian Fowell (of Aberdeenshire Council), and Anne Laing and the children from Kemnay Primary School.
2. Apologies: Bill Blackwood, Annie Ferries, Cllr Allison Grant.
3. Police matters: There was no police presence, and therefore no report. The matter of broken glass in the play area in the Pleasure Park on a Saturday morning was raised. It appears that a large number of youths gathers in the park on a Friday night, and that some of them consume alcohol and break empty bottles in the play area. It was agreed to inform the police about possible underage drinking on a Friday night, and to ask the Council if the area could be cleared of litter early on Saturday morning.
4. Talk by Primary 7 Pupils of Kemnay Primary School on "Youth Crime in our Community": Pupils throughout the school had researched this topic, and four individuals from primary seven delivered an excellent presentation dealing with the crime statistics and actual and potential solutions. They had, as part of the presentation, composed a rap criticising youth crime. Their presentation had won the area public speaking competition. They were thanked and wished well in the finals in Edinburgh.
5. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2008 was proposed by Susan Milton, seconded by Mavis Wainman and unanimously approved.
6. Matters Arising from Minutes:
 - a) Roads: As no reply had been received regarding concerns about roads, a new request was to be sent. The new request was to include the fact that the road surface and visibility of yellow lines in High Street were causing concern.
 - b) Wooden structure under bridge: This had been investigated by Aberdeenshire Council and was found to be no longer there. Bridges downstream were to be checked, lest the obstruction had lodged under another bridge, and the Don bridge was to be inspected regularly.
 - c) Kembhill Park: The matter of lack of consultation over the improvements in Kembhill Park had not yet been resolved, but would be pursued.
 - d) Data Protection Act: The chairman felt that the Community Council should not have to register as it was not a statutory body, and did not hold data which was not already in the public domain. He was pursuing the matter.
7. Aberdeenshire news: The village orderly scheme had been approved for the coming year – Kemnay was included. Works had been approved for Kemnay in 2008-9, mostly regarding paths but also within the cemetery. A new feature for the entrance to the village on the Kemnay-Kintore road was on the standby list. It was pointed out that this had been requested for some time, and that a feature incorporating granite would appear to be most suitable. A dead sheep had been washed up on an island in the river opposite Kembhill Park: it was suggested the local angling club be contacted. The application form for the one-off grant for Christmas Lights was now available. It was pointed out that the Council would pay the registration fee under the Data Protection Act.

8. Planning matters and applications: There appeared to be nothing controversial. The Housing Land audit was available for comment – it seemed to be accurate, but it was agreed to write to inform the authority that while the audit as it stood was correct, Kemnay would prefer not to have further land zoned for housing.

9. Community Planning: Ian Fowell stated that the new Area plan was to have input from Police, Fire Services and so on, to enable co-operation. The stronger the relationship between the various participating parties, the better Community Planning would be. There might be a slight hiatus, as the present Community Planning Officer was leaving and would have to be replaced.

10. Christmas Lights Sub Committee: Funds might be available from the Council to match the Community Council's own funds. £12,000 was to be made available for the whole of the Garioch. An application form was to be submitted, with special pleading, in that Kemnay's Christmas lighting was minimal compared to that of other communities.

11. Report from Safety Group Representative: ROSPA booklets had been distributed to S1 pupils in the Garioch. Kemnay Academy had held a most successful "driving ambition" day. The Safety Group was to be represented at the Echt Show on July 12. The annual seminar had been most successful.

12. Report from Community Learning and Development Representative: Funding had become available for the crèche deficit from the Community School network and for trampolining tutors from the Active Schools network. There was to be fundraising for a new mini-bus, although it had been decided not to attempt to purchase one with a tail-lift because of the hugely increased cost. Funding was to be sought for a supervisor so that the Fitness Centre in the Academy could be used by the community. Adult Learning Week was to be w/c 25 May. Janet Newberry raised the matter of concern about rising fees, and it was pointed out that there needed to be evidence that these were preventing people from joining classes.

13. New Business:

a) ASCC update: The ASCC website seemed to have disappeared.

b) Access to Riverside Walk: The problem of access past the Tor Ecosse site is unresolved; planning permission extends for five years and the path need be restored only when the development is complete.

14. Unfinished Business:

a) Boat Croft Handrail: A second estimate was still being sought so that an application for funding could be submitted.

b) Goalposts: It was agreed that the goalposts would not now be erected.

15. Correspondence:

a) Letter from Kemnay Youth Café Association: The Association sought the help of the Community Council in raising money for the building extension. It was agreed to assign the £1000, donated by the police for youth projects and earmarked for the goalposts, to this project.

b) Letter from Aberdeenshire Community Mediation Service: It was agreed to invite the representative to address a meeting of the community council.

c) Correspondence had been received from Nigel Don MSP, Postwatch Scotland, Richard Baker MSP, and SEPA.

d) Letter from BT: No telephone boxes were currently planned to be removed in Kemnay.

e) Reminder about the Calor Gas Competition: This had already been discussed.

f) Letter regarding Kemnay FC Tournament: Stewards were to be in place and parking was to be closely monitored.

16. AOCB: Litter was being thrown from the Pleasure Park into Kemnay House grounds, probably because the litter bins in the park were overflowing. Susan Milton had had it removed at considerable personal expense. It was agreed to write to the Council asking that the bins in the Pleasure Park, should be emptied more regularly.

Mavis Wainman raised the matter of the benches which had been erected alongside Station Road although there had been no consultation. Ian Fowell agreed that the council should supply a wish-list of projects for end-of-year money so that improvements which were made were those which had the backing of the community.

17. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday 29 May 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.