

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 1986 IN KEMNAY ACADEMY

PRESENT: Mr Bailey, Mrs Milton, Mr Murray, Mr Cumming, Mr Wainman, Mr Evans, Mr Pashley, Mr Stephen

APOLOGIES: Mrs Shrago, Mr Stubbs

ATTENDING: Mrs Stanning, Mrs Brown, Mr Moir, Mr Calder, Mr Duncan, Mr Christie, Mrs Cobb (Press), Cllr Wainman, Cllr McLean

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. The Minutes were read and two amendments proposed: (i) Proposed by Mr Cumming and seconded by Mr Murray that in Paragraph 7, The Financial Statement, the words "expenses etc" should be bracketed with "Outlay" and the words "balance carried forward" should be inserted alongside £176.71. Passed unanimously.

(ii) Proposed by Mr Cumming, seconded by Mr Pashley that the paragraph relating to the discussion on the War Memorial should be moved from Paragraph 4 (Unfinished Business) to Paragraph 12 (A.O.C. B). Passed unanimously. With this amendment, the Minutes were adopted without dissent.

3. Matters arising:-

(a) Bulb Planting. Mr Wainman produced some catalogue prices for bulbs. It was then proposed by Mr Murray and seconded by Mr Stephen that further discussion should be deferred until the next meeting to give the new Council members a chance to participate. Passed unanimously. (AGENDA ITEM).

(b) Paper and ink expenditure. Cllr Wainman reported that the cost of paper, ink, stencils, etc for one double page in the Newsletter, and for our Minutes, would be £180 in a full year. The Chairman ruled that discussion on our contribution would be an AGENDA ITEM for the next meeting. Mr Pashley asked what other groups in the Village gave to the Association for their publicity. Mr Wainman replied that many groups gave various amounts as and when they could for example the Gardening Club last year gave £25. Cllr Wainman said that last year, overall, the Newsletter had just broken even.

(c) High Street Questionnaire. Cllr McLean reported that the questionnaire had been sent on for consideration and a survey had been completed. Hopefully the appropriate committee would be in a position to consider the situation in June. Mr Wainman asked what had happened to the proposed trial bus route. Cllr McLean advised that this would be discussed at the same meeting.

4. Unfinished Business:-

(a) Election for vacant Community Council places. The Chairman reported that the Returning Officer, Mr James Duffus, had certified that all eight candidates for the vacant places had been checked and met the requirements. An election would therefore be held on Thursday 1st May 1986 in Friendship House. A discussion followed to decide on appropriate polling times and it was decided that the polling station should open from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and again

from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friendship House was to be booked for the occasion, and Mr Bailey observed that an extra half hour would probably be required in the evening to count the votes. Mr Cumming and Mrs Milton volunteered to man the polling station during the morning period and Mr Wainman, Mr Pashley and Mr Stephen agreed to supervise the evening session. The Chairman stated that the Village Policeman or the Returning Officer would be asked to guard the Ballot Box during the afternoon. The Ballot Papers were to be printed by Gordon District Council. To publicise the election, Mr Evans will write to North Sound Radio, The Press and Journal would be notified by Mrs Cobb and Mr Wainman would be organising posters to be displayed around the village. Two methods of balloting were discussed. Mr Pashley finally proposed that electors be invited to place crosses against up to five of the candidates' names and the five with the most crosses be declared the winners. A tie would be resolved by the candidates themselves. This was seconded by Mr Murray and passed by 6 votes to 2. The Chairman declared the votes would be counted by the Returning Officer plus one other independent person and he would be asking Mr McKay, Mr Low or someone of similar standing to assist. Finally, the Chairman thanked the candidates for taking an interest and said he looked forward to the Council being at full strength.

(b) Mr Wainman asked Cllr McLean if there had been any progress with the pole which restricted vision at the junction of Bridge Road/Aquithie Road. Cllr McLean replied that this was still being investigated.

5. Correspondence received:-

(a) A letter had been sent by Mr and Mrs Low, Pictillum Farm to the Chief Executive of Gordon District Council, with a copy to the Community Council. The letter pointed out that the Community Council received a grant of public money from the District Council and in turn pays £120 of this to the Community Association. Mr and Mrs Low argued that the editorial in the Community Association Newsletter, written by Mr Wainman, himself a Community Councillor, and assisted by his wife, who is a Liberal District Councillor, was politically biased and that it was wrong that public money should be misused in this way. The Chairman explained to the meeting the reason for our donation to the Community Association, namely to cover the costs of one double foolscap sheet per month in the Newsletter to enable us to publicise our activities to the Community at large. The Newsletter was the most effective and cheapest way of doing this, we had no involvement with the editorial but were merely responsible for the items we submitted which were not of a political nature. The Chairman quoted examples of our use, such as the recent High Street Questionnaire and the forthcoming Community Council elections. The Chairman felt that although the letter in essence was correct, he believed the weight given to certain connections was unfortunate. He had telephoned Mr Low and invited him and his wife to the meeting, but they had not felt able to accept. This was a pity. The Chairman reiterated that the Community Council was a totally non-political body and that this was written into our Constitution. Mr Wainman declared an obvious interest and took no further part in either the discussion or the vote.

Mr Cumming confirmed that from the grant of £296.61 last year, we had paid £122.43 to the Community Association. Mrs Milton said that the method chosen by the Lows to raise the matter was unfortunate and that they should have done their homework first. She stated that the cost of paper, ink and stencils was very high and that without the Community Council grant the Newsletter would have failed

several years ago. An earlier Community Council had agreed after much discussion to contribute towards the costs. Mr Evans stated that the Community Council grant was not given for political reasons but for advertising our own activities. He felt we should write to the Lows explaining this. Mr Pashley said that the Lows had the right to complain because it was undeniable that the Newsletter was being misused for political comment, this was particularly insensitive just before the Regional Elections next month. Mr Murray said the letter was unfortunate but it was undeniable that there was a connection between the Community Council and the Community Association and that the Newsletter did raise political issues. He believed that this was wrong and that the Association should take a stronger line to ensure the neutrality of its editorial. Mr Calder, a member of the public, said that the Community Council was non-political as was the Association. It was wrong for the Editor to take advantage of the Newsletter circulation for political advantage. Finally, Mr Murray proposed that we write to Mr Kennedy (copy to Mr and Mrs Low) stating our contributions to the Community Association, explaining why this donation was made, and pointing out that the Newsletter was the cheapest and also the only practical way for us to circulate details of our activities to the community at large. This was seconded by Mr Pashley and passed without dissent.

(b) A letter was received from Grampian Police advising us that Sgt. Campbell would be coming on Thursday 29th May at 7.30 p.m. to talk on CRIME PREVENTION. This coincides with our next meeting. Mr Murray asked that details be published in the Newsletter as many members of the public might be interested.

(c) A letter was received from the "Scotland in Bloom" organisers advising us that the judges would be visiting in June. Details were also given of the scoring.

(d) A collective letter was received from Miss M H Duncan, Miss I M Emslie and Miss A D Ferries criticising the proposal to move the War Memorial. Mr Pashley replied that it had never been a proposal, merely a suggestion to improve the waste ground in Aquithie Road and provide a focal point in the Village. The Chairman observed that it appeared some people had taken the suggestion as representing Council policy. This was not true, there had been no proposer, no seconder and no vote. Mr Calder said the Memorial was built there by the grateful villagers of Kemnay in memory of those who had died in the two World Wars. He could see no advantage in moving it although there was a case for improving the site on Aquithie Road. Mr Calder also added that the Village had been split by decisions in the past and that this suggestion would do the same. Mrs Milton said she was fed up with complaints about the state of the land. On several occasions she could have sold it for a useful purpose but every time the Planning Authorities had vetoed the proposals. The land would stay as at present until the Planning Department acted more reasonably. The Chairman closed the discussion by concluding that the affair had been blown up out of proportion but it had at least invoked discussion which was a healthy sign.

(e) A letter was received from Stirling University advising us of a Conference to be held there in June on Local Authority Services. No one expressed an interest.

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(f) A letter was received from the Deputy Postmaster, Aberdeen concerning recent correspondence on the postal service. He said it was not possible to alter the collection times from the village as the post had to keep to a tight schedule to ensure speedy delivery across the country. Any change, for example a later collection time, would not improve the present service.

6. New Business - none.

7. District News - Councillor Wainman reported that the new toilets would be opened soon.

8. Regional News. Councillor McLean reported that previous information about cheap fares and subsidies on the buses was incorrect and a statement would be published tomorrow correcting the errors. He advised us that from August there was to be an extra Community worker appointed to the Academy and the present part-time worker would be full-time. There was nothing further to report on the A96 dual-carriageway. Finally, the latest proposals on bus shelters was to construct one by the car park on Aquithie Road and a second one by Pitmunie Place if the residents thought there was a need. Mr Cumming offered to establish this and will report back next meeting. AGENDA ITEM. The previous proposal for an additional shelter by Kembhill Park has been scrapped.

8. Planning Applications. Mr Evans reported that eight had been submitted and none were of a disturbing nature.

10. A.O.C.B. None.

11. Next meeting. There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 29th May 1986.

Proposed:

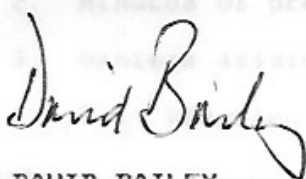
Seconded:

Signed:

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHANGE OF DATE OF KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCILLORS PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE NEXT KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL DATE THE 29TH MAY HAD A HIGH NUMBER OF APOLOGIES AND THE ALTERNATIVE DATE THE 12TH JUNE TURNED OUT TO BE TOO LATE FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN URGENT ITEM. IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN DECIDED TO HOLD THE MEETING ON THE 5TH JUNE AND I TRUST THIS WILL BE CONVENIENT FOR THE MAJORITY OF COUNCILLORS.



DAVID BAILEY
CHAIRMAN