

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING FROM THE 25TH OF SEPTEMBER 2003

Present: Mrs J. Newbury, Mr A. Davies, Mr D. Evans, Dr J. Piggins, Dr R. Dunham, Mrs M. Wainman, Cdr C. Hunneyball, Mr A. Hinton, Miss S. Taylor, Mr B. Blackwood, Mr P. Findlater, Mr I. Morgan, Mr A. Thomson, Mrs S. Milton, Ms H. Al-Kowarri

Attending: Mr T McKay, Cllr A. Leitch, Mr J. Sorrie (Inverurie Herald), Mr R McArthur and Mrs A McArthur

Apologies: Inspector D. Allan

1. **POLICE MATTERS** – Inspector Allan gave his apologies that he could not attend tonight’s meeting. However members pointed out that the garage at the police house had been set alight and that at the time there was a police car in it and it was being treated as suspicious. Also the police house has two broken windows and the village hall had a broken window. No one has seen the police officer that is patrolling on foot but Mr McKay has met with him.
2. **MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 26TH OF JUNE 2003**
Adoption Proposed by Mr A. Davies and Seconded by Mr B. Blackwood
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTE**
 - a. **Community Council Constitution Update** – Whilst the update on the Kemnay Community Council Constitution is still in progress, we had been asked by Aberdeenshire Council to discuss the reduction of members’ age from 18 to 14 years of age and the scheme itself. The views expressed on the age reduction ranged from concern over how long they would stay (go off to college and university) to what would attract them to come along in the first place. It was also discussed what the difference would be between them being a full member to being a co-opted member, and it was felt that they needed to be given the power, chance and responsibility to have a vote (thus a full member) as a co-opted person may feel like a token gesture. Also the young are represented at some level by the members currently on community council so do we need more representation and once again it was felt that it would be good for all to hear their views and give them a chance to take part in happenings within their community. Mr McKay said it might be of interest to someone wishing to enter politics or government in some way and would also bring a level of development to the young person involved. It was then discussed should it be reduced from 18 to 14 or would 16 be more realistic and in the end came down to a vote on whether to adopt the recommendation or not.

Result : 10 for & 4 against - therefore recommendation accepted

On the scheme and model constitution (Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils) itself we had no comments to put forward.

Letter to be sent to Ian Fowell – done ✓ ST

- b. Toilet Facilities at Bogbeth Park** – awaiting response. Bob Rose is looking into this but no budget recognised for this as yet, the old toilet block would have come under environmental health so is approaching them.

It was also raised at this point that there are only 2 swings in the park (note two sets of two swings for the two different age groups) – more equipment is to follow according to Mr Rose’s presentation from June meeting.

- c. Park Pavilion Update** – Cdr Hunneyball has applied for funding under the top up budget for this and has received a letter back acknowledging its receipt. He also sent a letter about getting unbreakable plastic windows and PIR floodlights to be fitted. We received a letter back from Mr Daniels (Senior Estates Surveyor) saying the council would fit toughened glass (plastic is not encouraged for safety reasons) and with regard to lighting the budget that is available is limited and they would only be able to carry out essential maintenance and repairs and do not have funds for “improvements” for the foreseeable future.
- d. Queen’s Golden Jubilee Award** – proposal submitted by Cdr Hunneyball for the Kemnay Newsletter team and we have received a letter saying it is accepted and we await more details.
- e. Kemnay Clean Up** – several members of the public came along both young and old alike (and a member of the press to cover the day) and helped on the day and we express our thanks to Simon Davies for his work.

It was noted that the old shed at the end of Bogbeth Park has now gone.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Induction Day for New Community Council Members** – date set for Tuesday 28th of October – 6 members will be attending. – Alistair Thomson, Hazel Al-Kowarri, Bill Blackwood, Roger Dunham, Iain Morgan and Sheila Taylor. Also willing to help (experienced volunteers) were also asked for – Susan Milton, Jim Piggins and Mavis Wainman.
- b. Swimming Pool Assoc.** – Questionnaire done and will be delivered shortly, exact dated to be confirmed once a meeting of the association finalises details.
- c. Website Updated** – still under construction, Claire to be contacted regarding whether she still wishes to continue with this as she had originally said she would set it up and would help out but we were to look of people to keep it updated. **Please note website is now updated.**
- d. Youth Café** – Plans approved this is the fastest response from the Scottish Executive known (it was turned around in 2 days) Bid to tender for the work to be in by 26/9/3 and work will commence once this is finalised. The youth of Kemnay raised a fantastic £350 by doing a sponsored walk over the 5 peaks of Bennachie for the project.

- e. **Mound from Road Works at Aquithie Woods** – Now removed.
- f. **Trees under the Don Bridge** – removed on 1st September.
- g. **Glebe Obstruction** – It will be moved shortly. Ian Rendell is to deal with this.
- h. **Calor Gas Awards** – Application submitted.
- i. **Broadband for the Village** – currently 343 registrations. There was a meeting for local businesses on the 23rd of September and approximately 10 people attended. However the BT exchange for the village is out of date and the cost of laying fibre optic cable from Aberdeen will influence when we will receive broadband. It is understood the Sauchen will go live with Broadband in November. MP Sir Robert Smith has taken up the cause to get broadband for the area and has been to see the exchange and met with BT.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Treasurers Report – Prepared by Alan Davies** –

The statement of account as at 30/04/03 for the period 30/04/02 to 30/04/03 were distributed to all members and were then proposed by Susan Milton and Seconded by David Evans. Vote of thanks given to Alan for his records.

This will now be sent to Mrs Tracy Bremner, Accountant at Aberdeenshire Council in Banff.

- ### b. **Kemnay Village Sports Day – Mr Tim McKay gave details on this forthcoming event.**
- After the success of this years event the Community Council have been asked if anyone would like to help with organising a bigger event for 2004 with more involvement from local groups as well as sporting activities. Ms Gill Robertson, School Sports Co-ordinator proposed a joint fun day event with the Primary children's sporting activities and other local groups such as scouts, brownies etc to also take part, making it more into a local fun day and not just a sports day. She is looking for an organiser for the fun events part to co-ordinate and enlists the help of others, as she will be organising the children's sports day. It was suggested that the community council might not be the best group to approach for this and that someone should approach the Park Pavilion Committee to get involved as they represent a large selection of groups who might be better suited and interested in the day. However we do have volunteers to help but not to co-ordinate – Janet Newberry, Alister Thomson, Andy Hinton and Sheila Taylor all expressed an interest in whatever was needed.

- c. **Double Yellow Lines** –Cdr Hunneyball wrote to Mr Rendall regarding the yellow lines that had appeared all over the village during the summer and how residents felt that some of the marking were not very logical. In particular parking spaces lost outside the solicitor’s office and the baker shop, also lines down St Bryde’s seem unnecessary as it is not practical to park there but, no lines to protect residents’ driveways on Grove Road. Also why were none put beside the pleasure park on Victoria Terrace, which often causes a dangerous obstruction at school times with parents parking? He also asked why no one knew about this and could have suggested other areas? Aberdeenshire Council’s reply to the double yellow lines are that it is bound by statutory regulations hence the positioning of these new lines. However Cdr Hunneyball, David Evans and Mavis Wainman had a meeting with the council over various matters in August, detailed below are the answers from the council to these issues:

Overgrown Hedge at ‘Birchfeld’ – occupants to be contacted to cut the hedge back in line with the public footway as soon as possible as it is significantly overgrown and substantially reduces the available width of the Grove Road footway.

Kendal Road Carriageway Texture / Winter Maintenance Concerns – The Council say they have not previously been aware of a problem on the steep brae descending toward Victoria Terrace but they note our comments and will have the surface texture checked for compliance with the specification. And in addition shall ask the Operations Service to consider early treatment of Kendal Road during winter maintenance operations.

‘Stopped Up’ road from Wood Gardens to Kendal Road – Condition of Barrier Walls - They note the comments at the meeting and in previous discussions with the council but re-affirm however, that the Council is unable to assist in repairing the walls, as they are located within a private road. They also confirmed that there are no monies available to contributing to private roads and it is therefore up to the road owners / frontagers to determine what repairs they consider appropriate and to arrange for the works to be carried out. This item has a bit of a history in the fact it was Gordon District Council who put the wall up in the first place (on the non-adopted road). As community council we could apply for a grant and organise to get the work done ourselves or we could demolish it entirely either way something needs to be done as it is not only unsightly but very dangerous as someone in the dark could fall / trip over it.

At this point it was also raised that Church Lane is in the same position the Leisure and Recreation department tarred part of the lane up to the church hall but will not look after it. It is very smooth and in the cold is just pure ice. Pat Findlater is to raise this at the safety council and a letter is to be sent to Ian Rendall to ask if the pavement gritting machine could do this bit as well in the interests of safety.

Narrow Footway, Grove Road, alongside Kemnay Primary School – the simple answer received to this one is they have no funds to do this but will put it on a list of requests for footpaths to be considered at a later date.

Pedestrian Considerations – Junction of Grove Road / St Bryde’s Road –

The Council considered it feasible to arrange a relatively low cost ‘footway blister’ at the south side of the junction and have arranged monies to be made available for the works to be carried out as soon as possible thereafter.

Request for additional Waiting Restrictions – (i) Victoria Terrace between bends alongside Playing Fields and (ii) Grove Road between St Bryde’s Road and the War Memorial. The reply to this was as follows – ‘ Due to the amount of work involved in producing Traffic Orders required for waiting restrictions, requests for amendments are considered while reviewing the overall situation in a particular town or village. Kemnay was last reviewed in December 2001 and the above requests will be included for consideration in the next review.’ We have not been given any dates as to when this will be.

- d. Blockage in Lane of Kendal Road** – The wall from Wood Gardens to Kendal Road is falling down and could be dangerous in poor light however the Council cannot repair it, as the road itself is private and not council property. Community Council to look into further. **See more detail above.**
- e. Scottish Natural Heritage Survey** – Copy of report given to all members this was a study on partnership bodies’ relationship with Scottish Natural Heritage. More than 2000 organisations were contacted to give their views and around 1000 replied on the performance, approach, openness and transparency of the working relationship between the SNH and their partner bodies and how this can be improved. A full report can be seen on their website – www.snh.org.uk and they ask for continued constructive feedback on a regular basis.
- f. Bus Forum** – Meeting on 29th of September at Gordon House, free transport provided and hopefully it will be a productive meeting all members of the community are encouraged to attend.
- g. Buses – Through Ticketing** – Available for both single and return adult and child tickets at a fixed discount on the combined cost of the two journeys up to 20% on certain journeys via multi operator services. It was felt that this would not be of great benefit to Kemnay users (Kemnay to Inverurie then onto Inverness for example) but a good scheme none the less, giving a valid ticket for any operator of the service in one payment.

- h. **Aberdeenshire Local Plan** – Although we missed a reply date of the 9th of September in some documentation received we did submit a request earlier to be put on the list back in April. We must send a reply by email to Helen Cleaver first thing tomorrow on our ‘statement of participation’. We intend to attend in person as it was felt this was by far the best way to get our points across and Dr Piggins and Cdr Hunneyball will attend on Community Council’s behalf. We have a choice of a traditional format (strict timetable) or an informal hearing, which is guided by the reporter and although we can not be cross examined the reporter can ask questions it was decided to go with the informal format. The documents we will be referring to have to be detailed and we will only be using our objections to the two sites in question. objections to A.L.P that were submitted by the Community Council for sites A – Bogbeth and FE1 – Future Employment 1. Our next deadline is 27th of January when we must submit our statement of evidence and expanded view. The hearings will take place next year between 2nd of March and the 2nd of April.
- i. **Freedom of Information Act** – no comments made on this lengthy document.
- j. **Water Consultation Panel at Huntly on the 14th of October** – no one available to attend at this time.
- k. **Scottish Rural Partnership Fund** – lengthy document on 3 funds available. Part of the condition is a project has to raise 50% of the funding themselves and the cost is to be not more than £1 million. To be put on next months agenda for further thought and discussion.

6. **GARIOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM – Report by Cdr Hunneyball – Garioch Area Community Council Forum 11 September 2003**

Kemnay had best representation, with three members present. Discussion included:-

Council Work

It was suggested that Aberdeenshire Council should advise communities of work to be done in their area. This was considered to be impracticable for all work, eg trimming trees, but the possibility of putting major works on roads, etc, on the Aberdeenshire web site would be investigated.

Community Planning

It is hoped to have a presentation on Community Planning at the December meeting.

Planning

There was discussion on how to better allow representations against planning proposals. Unfortunately it was not easy to change the present system, which allowed developers to put in counter arguments to objections at the very last minute, thus having the final word. This ploy was frequently used.

There was also comment about the lack of response by the Scottish Executive about points made in Reporters’ points.

Budget

A briefing about the budget will be given towards the end of the year. Council accounting practices have been changed, splitting capital investment and revenue expenditure, which used to be combined. It was suggested that Community Councils should comment on capital expenditure items.

Induction Training for New Community Councillors

The format of the session was agreed, and has been circulated. The training will take place on 28th October, starting at 7.30 pm, with another session on planning being pencilled in for 18th November.

Area Partnership

Another meeting of the Steering Group was planned, and then a constitution would be drafted and tabled at an inaugural meeting. The extent of the activities would be increased, and hopefully an employee would be appointed to allow an application for funding to be in place by August 2004, to cover the next three years. Support was needed, and a source to provide matching funding had to be found.

ASCC Brief

Allan Stewart reported on a meeting of the Reform Group of the ASCC. This discussed finding alternative sources of funding, and the role of the area representatives. The possibility of forming a non-profit making company as a vehicle for alternative funding would be examined, as would the remit of the area representatives with a view to strengthening their role.

The ASCC is also involved in E-Democracy - the aim being to investigate the use of information and communication technologies to facilitate the development of on-line services to support Community Councils. The particular goal is to increase involvement in decision taking by governments and other agencies.

A two-year project is being undertaken by the Scottish Community Development Centre to produce a set of agreed standards for community engagements, which would establish ground rules to cover the relationship between communities and others.

Community Councillors' Expenses

The financial problems of the ASCC mean that it has not been possible to reimburse area representatives for their expenses in attending meetings. This raised the broader problem of refunding community Councillors' expenses generally. It is possible that these could be paid from Community Council funds.

Integrated Healthcare System

A proposal is being floated to bring all health services under one umbrella organisation, with the stated aim of providing a seamless service which would have a single point of contact. Community Councils are not directly involved, but a good deal of scepticism was voiced about the proposal. Presumably there were considered to be good reasons for the present structure when it was first set up.

Town and Country Historical Society

A planning committee was trying to institute a Town and Country Historical Society, with the aim of promoting the advancement of cultural awareness by furthering interest in the history of the region. It would be involved in research, publications, school visits, presentations, preservation of buildings and artefacts, and so on. Funding by subscriptions, donations and grants was being sought, and it was intended that the society should be launched next February.

Master Composter Scheme

This was mentioned, but Kemnay already has the details of this scheme.

7. **SAFETY GROUP – Report by Pat Findlater** Initiatives are all ongoing and new ones include Car Secured notices and awareness among the youth to call in confidence Crime Stoppers. He told us about the two types of defibrulators available – one for the Ambulance service and the other for general public use after specialist training. The second type cost about £2500 and one has been donated to the Red Cross in Fraserburgh. He also told us about concerns over the Ambulance Service call centre in Inverness and the problems with directions to call outs that this has caused. A member of the safety group has come up with a sign to hang from your interior mirror stating that this car is secured in an attempt to deter people from breaking in. Next Meeting will be 13th of January 2004, when they propose to discuss the design of road junctions and verge cutting at junctions, as Pat Findlater is unable to attend this Sheila will attend in his place.
8. **PRESS REPORTS** – Mrs Evans got a hole in one at Braemar.
9. **ABERDEENSHIRE NEWS – report by Cllr Leitch** - replacement signs have been put up to at Kendal Road and Loaves and Fishes. The pavement at the Memorial will be widened and wall and railings replaced shortly and then the memorial's garden area will be cleaned up by landscape services. Road repairs are ongoing. Grampian Foods have contacted Cllr Leitch regarding the change of use from industrial to residential namely, to remove the old chicken sheds on Aquithie Road and have houses built on this land. Aberdeenshire Council and various other bodies are in ongoing discussions with Kemnay Medical Centre with regards to a new centre on the Village Green.
10. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – 8 Applications over summer only 2 are still awaiting approval. One is the application for the change of use from agricultural to residential and commercial at Fyfe Park, it was proposed that we object to the land being used for commercial development as this is in keeping with our objections against the Aberdeenshire Local Plan and we must be consistent in our objections. The other application to the extension at Bennachie Lodge to put on a third floor to the building behind the hotel, David is to look into what grounds we could object on as it simply looks top heavy and not very pleasant to look at is not enough of a reason.

11. CORRESPONDENCE – all in circulation;

- 1. SCOTTISH WATER – CHLORAMINATION**
- 2. FINALISED ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL PLAN**
- 3. ABERDEENSHIRE SPORTS DIRECTORY 2003/2004**
- 4. ASCC ANNUAL REPORT 2003**
- 5. KEMNAY ACADEMY YEARBOOK**
- 6. THE NETWORK – KEEPING ABERDEENSHIRE BUSINESSES IN TOUCH - ISSUE 32 – ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**
- 7. ABERDEENSHIRE SPORTS COUNCIL – NEWSLETTER ISSUE 10**
- 8. WATER CUSTOMER CONSULTATION PANELS**
- 9. FOREST & WOODLAND STRATEGY – FINALISED FOR ABERDEENSHIRE & ABERDEEN CITY**
- 10. GRAMPIAN POLICE ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003**
- 11. SEPA VIEW – SUMMER 2003 ISSUE 16**
- 12. ABERDEENSHIRE SPORTS COUNCIL – NEWSLETTER ISSUE 11**
- 13. THE NETWORK – KEEPING ABERDEENSHIRE BUSINESSES IN TOUCH - ISSUE 33 – ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**
- 14. TOWARDS ZERO – THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMUNITY RECYCLING NETWORK FOR SCOTLAND**
- 15. COMMUNITY PLANNING IN ABERDEENSHIRE – NEWSLETTER No. 4**
- 16. POSTWATCH SCOTLAND – SUMMER 2003**

12. A.O.C.B

- a.** Council waste tipped at the end of Aquithie Road on the low road entrance to the village. Will this be taken away? To be investigated.
- b.** Red Car in the car park behind the Village Hall that has not moved in 6 months has been reported to the Police. Discussions ongoing as to how the Village Hall Committee can handle this.
- c.** Petrol Station – bollards now in place. What is happening? – No reports of work to be undertaken.
- d.** The Dementia Group want to use the Village Hall as their regular centre on a long-term weekly basis (4 days per week preferably 5). Mrs Wainman told us this is still under review as it would tie up valuable resources and they are unsure if they have the free space available for them in this very well used and busy village hall. Therefore this has not been decided and will go to the village hall committee for further discussion but no plans at the moment.
- e.** Kemnay Academy News – Mr McKay advised us of the latest happenings at the Academy and developments over the summer months. Firstly the new air-cooling system has been done – they completely replaced the air conditioning unit and cleaned out all the radiators - the first time this has been done since they were installed when the school was built. The roof is almost complete so it will not be much longer that we will see the black and white ‘cow skin’ effect round the top of the building and they have replaced the guttering at the same time. The scaffolding should be down by the first week of the October holidays (w/c 13/10) and he was happy to report no incidents or accidents playing on it. There is no progress to be reported on the removal of the mound from the front of the school, which had been discussed on safety ground that levelling it may be the best option and also still in discussion is an area for bus

parking for the school. As the number attending the school continues to rise and the area that the school takes from (Kinellar and Blackburn also now attend Kemnay) more buses are required to ferry the children to and from school and it is being looked at in the interests of safety where all these buses can park to drop off and collect the children. One area of concern that will be going in the newsletter is dog fouling on the playing fields. A number of dog owners walk their dogs on the playing fields each morning but do not pick up after their dog better awareness is called for in the interests of safety and hygiene. A new law has been passed to give dog owners a £40 fine for not cleaning up after their dog more details on this are to follow on administration of this, who and how it will be carried out.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 30TH OF OCTOBER 2003 at 7.30pm in Kemnay Village Hall. – Members of the public welcome.