

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 26 March 2009 AT 7.30 PM

IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Gavin Adam, Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, Malcolm Edwards, David Evans, Annie Ferries, John Hern, Bob Ingram, Ian Murray, Eric Pashley, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Inspector Bob Thomson, Barry Watson.

Apologies: Susan Milton, Janet Newberry, Alex Thomas, PC Alex Allan.

1. Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. Minute of Annual General Meeting held on 28 March 2008

The adoption of the minute was proposed by David Evans, seconded by Bill Blackwood and unanimously approved.

3. Chairman's Report

The attached report was read by the Chairman.

5. Financial Statement

In the absence of Janet Newberry the Chairman presented the accounts. The adoption of the financial statement was proposed by Annie Ferries seconded by Mavis Wainman and unanimously approved.

6. AOCB.

There was no other business

7. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

Thursday 25th March 2010.

Chairman's Report

This has been the last year of the three year term of the current Kemnay Community Council. For the first time in, I believe, around twenty years it was necessary to hold an election for the next Council, and while this did entail some work it was very encouraging to see that there were so many people prepared to step forward and to serve on behalf of Kemnay.

It has been a varied year, with fewer major issues than have occurred in the recent past, but nonetheless a good deal has been achieved.

PC Allen, our Community Beat Officer, has been a frequent and welcome attender at our meetings, and has been a positive influence in the village. He has been receptive to our requests for information and, I believe

we now have a better understanding of the problems faced in Kemnay, although that does not mean that we necessarily know how to solve them. What is encouraging is that the percentage of crimes solved is improving, and hopefully this will filter through and have a deterrent effect on potential offenders.

One of the highlights of the year, and please excuse the pun, has been the success of our Christmas illuminations. An offer by Aberdeenshire Council to provide a substantial sum towards their provision helped kick start the project, which had not, until then, progressed too far. Under the leadership of Eric Pashley we were provided with a vastly improved display last Christmas, and now that such a good start has been made the way is clear for a steady increase in the number of decorations. Kemnay owes a great debt of gratitude to Eric, without whose efforts I doubt we would have achieved anything significant. Other contributors, both financial and in kind, were acknowledged in the newsletter.

While on the subject of Aberdeenshire Council finance, the Community Council installed a handrail on the steps of the path down to Boat Croft following the submission of a successful application for a grant towards the cost. These steps, which can be dangerous when wet or icy, have been a cause for concern of the residents for years. We also successfully applied for a grant on behalf of the Village Hall to allow improvements to the stage sound system.

There have been some frustrations. In response to a request by the younger members of our community we had hoped to arrange to have a set of goal posts erected on the green. In the event the only location acceptable to Aberdeenshire Council was not acceptable to us, so the money that had been earmarked for this, and to be spent on younger people, was donated to the Youth Café. We continued to be surprised by some initiatives such as provision of benches near Littlewood Court and the improvements to the Pleasure Park. We certainly welcome enhancements but would appreciate a degree of advance information. A recent proposal to create a "wish list" may help in the future.

A request from an individual in Craigearn for an extended speed limit zone was forwarded, but it drew attention to the fact that we should not assume that a single voice represented a consensus, as proved when we were contacted by a number of people who opposed the suggestion. Our request was withdrawn, and in future such proposals will be noted in the newsletter report and deferred for a month before action is taken. However, a request for action to be taken to control speeding was generally supported and the authorities were invited to investigate, as they were after complaints about safety at the Horner junction and the narrowing of the junction outside the new Bridgend block of flats.

The requirement for Community Councils to register under the Data Protection Act was considered quite unnecessary and vehemently opposed, and the matter was taken up with our MSP. Unfortunately the Information Commissioner has not been persuaded, and although our inclination was not to register it was decided that this should be a matter to be decided by the new Community Council.

A highlight was the talk given by the P7 pupils of Kemnay Primary, who went on to win the public speaking competition in Edinburgh. We congratulate them.

While discussing awards, we entered the Place of Origin in the Aberdeenshire Council Design Awards competition, and were pleased to receive a Highly Commended Certificate, the highest given in our category.

Most of the planning applications that we have examined have been routine, but the one for the Fetternear development aroused stronger feelings. There have been two critical letters in the Kemnay Newsletter, and a large number of objections to the plans noted, most of which refer to the proposed car park on community land in Bremner Way. The Community Council has in the past been opposed to housing developments; however in this particular instance the proposal, unlike any previous, or proposed, ones, does offer the possibility of employment opportunities and much improved community facilities. For this reason the outline proposal was supported in principle, however the Bremner Way car park arrangements were opposed. This support may be modified when detailed plans are published.

We responded to the draft Structure Plan, but our comments were not accepted. We now have the opportunity of putting our thoughts directly to the Scottish Government. We also made some suggestions for inclusion in the Draft Local Development Plan which should be published shortly.

Hopefully the Fetternear proposal will draw attention to the fact that the LDP has the potential to approve the building of several hundred houses in Kemnay, over and above the more than 150 currently under construction or awaiting final approval, but whose plans aroused little opposition other than from the Community Council.

The Community Council was deeply unhappy about the changes to the Association of Scottish Community Councils' constitution, which we believe makes the Executive virtually unaccountable. Moreover, the voting system used was not in accordance with the then constitution. We also do not know what the ASCC is doing on our behalf. For these reasons we have suggested that Aberdeenshire Council consult with Community Councils to see if they wish to continue their block membership.

There has been a right of access issue at Beech Hill Croft, and the Community Council has supported efforts to resolve the impasse.

Paul Smart and Susan Milton have not stood for re-election, and we thank them both for their work. Special mention must be made of Susan Milton, who has served for 32 continuous years on the Community Council. Her contribution, both in practical terms and in advice offered, has been absolutely invaluable and her presence will be sorely missed.

Finally, my thanks go, in particular, to Margaret Christie for doing a superb job as our Secretary, and to our Treasurer, Janet Newberry. I do not know what I would have done without David Evans's sound advice and hard work over planning, and sometimes other, matters. Our Councillors have also been most supportive: Cllr Al-Kowarri has attended every meeting and willingly deals with our problems, and Cllr Grant has also been a frequent attender and has become involved in a number of issues. Finally I would like to thank all members of the Community Council for what they have done for Kemnay over the past year.

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2009 AT 7.30 PM in KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Gavin Adam, Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, Malcolm Edwards, David Evans, Annie Ferries, John Hern, Bob Ingram, Ian Murray, Eric Pashley, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Inspector Bob Thomson, Barry Watson.

1. Apologies: Janet Newberry, Alex Thomas, PC Alex Allan.
2. Welcome: Chris Hunneyball welcomed those present, and in particular those recently elected to the Community Council.
3. Election: The following office-bearers were elected for the three-year term of the Council:

Chairman: Chris Hunneyball – proposed by Mavis Wainman, seconded by Annie Ferries, and unanimously approved;

Vice-Chairman: Bill Blackwood - proposed by David Evans, seconded by Jim Piggins, and unanimously approved;

Secretary: Margaret Christie - proposed by Chris Hunneyball, seconded by Annie Ferries, and unanimously approved;

Treasurer: Janet Newberry - proposed by Bill Blackwood, seconded by Jim Piggins, and unanimously approved;

Planning Scrutiniser: David Evans - proposed by Mavis Wainman, seconded by Eric Pashley, and unanimously approved;

Christmas Tree Sub-committee Chairman: Eric Pashley; Members: Gavin Adam, Ian Murray - proposed by Margaret Christie, seconded by Mavis Wainman, and unanimously approved;

Community Learning & Development Representative: Jim Piggins - proposed by Bill Blackwood, seconded by David Evans, and unanimously approved;

Safety Group Representative: Bob Ingram - proposed by Jim Piggins, seconded by Margaret Christie, and unanimously approved;

GACCF Representative: Mavis Wainman - proposed by Jim Piggins, seconded by Bill Blackwood, and unanimously approved;

Press Liaison: Bill Blackwood - proposed by Chris Hunneyball, seconded by Mavis Wainman and unanimously approved.

Mavis Wainman volunteered to act as Press Scrutineer.

4. Police Matters: PC Allan had tabled a report which showed the crime figures for the month:

One breach of the peace, detected; one possession of drugs; one driving whilst using mobile phone; one careless driving; one theft, detected; two thefts of motor-cycles with suspects interviewed but not charged; three reports last weekend of vehicles having been entered and property stolen, enquiry on-going; one assault, enquiry on-going; one vandalism, detected. He highlighted thefts from motor vehicles which may

not have been locked and thefts of off-road motorcycles from secure premises. The public were urged to lock their vehicles, and to report suspicious activity. A traffic survey on Aquithie Road near Littlewood court had found vehicles travelling at up to 60mph. Inspector Thomson pointed out that this might be a freak reading caused by the presence of two cars crossing the recording beam simultaneously. Bill Blackwood expressed the Community Council's appreciation of PC Allan's work.

5. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2009 was proposed by Mavis Wainman, seconded by Bill Blackwood and unanimously approved.

6. Question Time: There were no questions.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes: The matter of registration under the Data Protection Act was to be discussed at a future meeting. The Chairman had ascertained that the principal driver of the pavement plough was Kenny Rough.

8. Planning Matters and Applications:

a) New Applications: There was nothing controversial.

b) Changes in the Scottish Planning System: Developers were in future to be obliged to consult with local communities, including the Community Council.

c) Responding to Developers: Community Councils had been urged not to give the impression, by suggesting improvements, that they sanctioned developments which they might want to oppose.

d) Planning Gain: The figures for planning gain for Kemnay had been received. They were as follows:

Development Contributions collected for specific Services	Available	Allocated
ELL Community & Recreation Facilities	£5500	0
ELL Education	£4071	0
ELL Library	£0	0
ELL Art	£0	0
Affordable Housing	£460	0
T&I Waste	£0	0
T&I Roads/PTU	£0	0

It was agreed that the amounts declared were insufficient to undertake any significant projects and so any decision as to how the money should be spent would be deferred until a larger sum was available.

e) Planning Aid Workshop: This had been rescheduled for 25 April from 2-5.30 pm. Jim Piggins agreed to contact the Youth Cafe about the supply of pancakes, and Chris Hunneyball volunteered to put up amended posters.

f) Structure Plan: It was generally agreed that the consultation process had been unsatisfactory. Three courses of action were proposed: to have another meeting to discuss the feedback to the Community Council's response; to do nothing; or to resubmit the original objections as formal objections to the Scottish

Government. It was agreed to do the last of these, and David Evans and Chris Hunneyball agreed to formulate the objections appropriately.

9. Community Planning:

a)CC Representative on Community Planning Executive: There were no volunteers for this post.

b)Aberdeenshire Community Councils' Communication Forum: The Chairman pointed out that it is possible to register to receive information by e-mail, and said that he would forward the details to anyone who e-mailed him asking for the information.

10. GACCF: A report of the previous meeting was tabled.

11. Christmas Lights Sub-Committee: Eric Pashley suggested that it might be possible to plant and harvest Christmas trees around the Place of Origin. John Maine, the artist, was to be consulted about the possibility.

12. Report from Safety Group Representative: There was no report.

13. Report from Community Learning and Development Representative: One of the team of HM Inspectors of Schools who were visiting Kemnay had had a constructive meeting with a group from Community Learning and Development. The loss of rooms at both Kemnay and Kintore, and the problems associated with public access to the gym at Kemnay Academy were discussed.

14. New Business:

a) ASCC: There were no volunteers to be area representative.

b) Disabled Parking on High Street: Since the double yellow lines are constantly ignored, a request was made for a disabled parking space on High Street. It was to be forwarded.

c) Dog Waste: The problem of dog waste in Gregor Park and on the green spaces around Alehousewells School and the Academy was raised. As there are many dog waste bins in the area, no solution was found.

15. Unfinished Business:

a) Aberdeenshire Safety Group Annual Seminar: Bob Ingram was to attend.

b) Beech Hill Croft: A report had been prepared by Aberdeenshire Local Access Forum as its advice to Aberdeenshire Council and was awaiting action from the Council.

c) Fetternear: It was agreed to await detailed plans before making any further comment on the proposed developments at Fetternear.

d) Community Led Health Local Event: Mavis Wainman and Bob Ingram were to attend this.

e) Kemnay Wish List: Members of the public were urged to contact Community Council members with their suggestions for minor works to be undertaken in the village. Several suggestions had already been made to Aberdeenshire Council.

16. Aberdeenshire News: There was nothing specific to Kemnay which had not already been dealt with. Cllr Al-Kowarri asked members to forward to her the names of people who had been of service to the community so that she could select two people to attend the Provost's luncheon.

17. Correspondence: Correspondence had been received about:

The Garioch Area Bus Forum – timetables were to change on 18 May. The number to phone if buses failed to arrive was 01224 591381.

- The National Spring Clean – volunteers were sought;
- The Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament to be held in Peterhead – no-one wished to attend;
- The Licensing Consultation on a renewal of the licence for the Co-operative in Station Road – there were no objections;
- The Community Plan;
- Speeding in Kemnay – the possibility of traffic calming was being considered; Aberdeenshire’s draft Walking and Cycling Action Plan.

18. AOCB: The matter of the redundant sign pointing to the Laird’s Restaurant was raised by Jim Piggins. The fact that recent road works had obscured the double yellow lines on Victoria Terrace was raised by Mavis Wainman; and the missing bend-warning sign on the quarry road was raised by Margaret Christie. All were to be referred to the appropriate authority.

19. Date of next Meeting: Thursday 30 April at 7.30 pm in Kemnay Village Hall.