

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 28 March 2008 AT 7.30 PM

IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Margaret Christie, Annie Ferries, Pat Findlater, Neil Johnson, Susan Milton, Janet Newberry, Jim Piggins, Alex Thomas, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri.

Apologies: Bill Blackwood, David Evans, Eric Pashley, Paul Smart, PC Alex Allen, Cllr Allison Grant.

1. Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. Minute of Annual General Meeting held on 29 March 2007

The adoption of the minute was proposed by Susan Milton, seconded by Mavis Wainman and unanimously approved.

3. Chairman's Report

The attached report was read by the Chairman. A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Susan Milton, seconded by Jim Piggins and unanimously approved.

5. Financial Statement

Janet Newberry outlined the year end position and presented the accounts. The adoption of the financial statement was proposed by Jim Piggins, seconded by Annie Ferries and unanimously approved.

6. Appointment of Auditors

There is now no requirement from Aberdeenshire Council to have the accounts formally audited; all that is required is a signed copy. No appointment was therefore made.

7. AOCB.

There was no other business

8. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

Thursday 26th March 2009.

Chairman's Report

Last year Neil Johnson, after over two years of willing and competent service, was forced to resign as Secretary due to pressure of work, so we were delighted when Mrs Margaret Christie volunteered to take over that position at the start of this year and, later, to be co-opted as a Community Councillor.

The Aberdeenshire Council elections in May completely altered the structure of local government, and we found ourselves being represented by three councillors. All three, Councillors Al-Kowari, Grant and Lonchay have taken an interest in our affairs, and we are grateful for their efforts on our behalf. One of the implications of the new structure was that in some cases community council boundaries were badly misaligned with the new electoral wards and we were given the opportunity to propose changes, but none were necessary in our case.

Inspector Allen retired from the Police, initially without relief. He has been a staunch supporter and we now hear that Inspector Bob Thomson has taken over responsibility for the area. Unfortunately he has a much larger parish and it is unlikely that we will see much of him, but we look forward to seeing more of our CBO, PC Allen.

It is inevitable that some topics dominate our agenda year after year. Last year we had a lot of work done to improve the appearance of our village; this year there has been rather less, but it is good to see that the benches around the Bremner Way raised flower beds have now been installed, and that area is looking most attractive. Our thanks to Aberdeenshire Council, and Bob Rose in particular.

There was a proposal to build houses on the land previously being used by the Lawrence car dealership. This was opposed by the Community Council, but Barratt's, the developer, took the decision to appeal on the grounds of non determination despite eventual rejection of the plans by the Garioch Area Committee. We spent a lot of time and effort researching the implications, and attended and gave evidence at the hearing. It was pleasing to find that the Reporter rejected the appeal, and it was also most encouraging to find that our arguments did feature in the judgement. Successes of this type do make the effort seem worth while.

Reported at the first meeting this year, less successful was our attempt to prevent the development of the plot on Bridge Road adjacent to the bridge over the Don. This was a small plot, occupied by a traditional granite house, and the application made was to demolish it and build a block of ten flats. This, at an attractive gateway to the village, will be entirely out of keeping, and there were well over one hundred letters of objection. Nonetheless, at the Garioch Area Committee meeting the view was expressed that it was likely that the majority in the village, who did not express an opinion, would approve and the application was successful. The Community Council felt so strongly over this issue that a motion of dissatisfaction with the approval process was passed. Because there is no third party right of appeal allowed there was nothing more that could be done, but we thank those Councillors who supported our view, and hope that the end result will not be as bad as we fear. In this context I should make it absolutely clear that the Community Council does not oppose affordable housing, or appropriate developments, but it would not have been prepared to support any large building on that site.

This, in our opinion, failure of the planning process led to a suggestion that we submit an application for Conservation Area status for the heart of the village. A lot of work went into the planning of this, opinions of all those in the proposed area were individually canvassed, and all residents were invited to comment. In the end only some 25 responses were received, more or less equally divided for and against, with many of those against attending the Community Council meeting. It is possible that those who did not respond would have been in favour, but the Community Council was not prepared to make this assumption so the proposal was dropped. Nonetheless, David Evans did an enormous amount of work on this, and should there be a change of heart the proposal could easily be resurrected. Our thanks go to David for his efforts.

Christmas lights continue to be a topic. Unfortunately the Chairman of the Sub Committee had to resign from the Community Council on moving from the area and as a result plans for street lighting have not progressed. However, thanks to Bon Accord Landscapes and the Forestry Commission, we had two excellent Christmas trees in the village, and our thanks also go to Aberdeenshire Council for ensuring that this year both were lit. It was unfortunate that one was vandalised by some thoughtless individuals. TRAK has also been fundraising for our lights and we are grateful for their generous donation, and also to Lingard's Butchers, Kemnay Pharmacy and the Kellas Partnership for their contributions.

The Community Council was invited to help with fundraising for the Kemnay Youth Café, but after investigation it was concluded that this was not appropriate, so a separate association, led by community councillors, was set up to assist.

The Place of Origin was nominated for, and received, an award from the Saltire Society. As sponsors, we accepted a certificate, which now hangs in the Friendship Room of the Village Hall, at the awards ceremony and I congratulate the sculptors, John Maine, Glen Onwin and Brad Goldberg on this further recognition of the quality of their work.

The Police donated ,1,000 to provide goal posts on the Green, which had been one of the suggestions put forward at our youth meeting last year. Unfortunately it has not yet been possible to come to an agreement with Aberdeenshire Council as to their siting; the place they proposed would have led to balls being kicked towards a greenhouse which was clearly unsatisfactory. We suggested that they replace the existing small posts, which reflected the ideas of the potential users. Hopefully we may come to a compromise shortly. In the context of youth meetings, after our highly successful meeting last year, and at the suggestion of the younger element, a similar meeting was planned for June, but unfortunately did not generate the same enthusiasm.

The lack of toilet facilities at Bogbeth Park remains an endemic problem and we can still see no prospect of early an resolution, particularly as Aberdeenshire Council policy seems to be to close public toilets rather than to open them.

Finally I would like to thank those who have worked on our behalf. First Margaret Christie, who as our Secretary, is kept very busy. I have already mentioned David Evans in connection with the Conservation Area proposal, but let us not forget the enormous amount he did on the Barratt's appeal and giving up three full days to attend it, not to mention everything else he does so efficiently and cheerfully. Pat Findlater has taken on Christmas lighting as well as representing us on the Safety Group, Jim Piggins keeps an eye on Community Learning, and Janet Newberry is a willing and efficient Treasurer. And let us not, of course, forget all those in the village, Community Councillors and others, who do so much to keep Kemnay such a good place to have a home. Thank you all.

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2008 FOLLOWING THE AGM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Margaret Christie, Annie Ferries, Pat Findlater, Neil Johnson, Susan Milton, Jim Piggins, Alex Thomas, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri.

1. Apologies: Bill Blackwood, David Evans, Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley, Paul Smart, PC Alex Allen, Cllr Allison Grant.
2. Welcome: Chris Hunneyball welcomed those present.
3. Police Matters: The new Garioch Area Inspector is to be Inspector Bob Thomson. PC Allen was unable to be present, but provided the following report to be tabled:

Reported Crime review for Kemnay so far in 2008

In January 2008, there were 11 different crime reports raised for Kemnay, including three for domestic assault, two breach of the peace, an assault, a vandalism, a theft, a theft by housebreaking and two for underage sex.

In February 2008, there were 14 different crime reports raised for Kemnay, including five vandalisms, four breach of the peace, one sending of an obscene image, one for supplying alcohol to persons underage and three for road traffic offences.

From 1 March - 24 March 2008, there have been 6 crime reports raised, including two vandalisms and four for road traffic offences.

A review of reported crime for the Garioch area has shown that Kemnay has particularly high rates regarding vandalism and youth disturbances compared to other villages. It is requested that should anyone witness such damage being committed then they report this to the Police, with the names of those responsible or a good description of the persons should the names not be known, and details of any other possible witnesses in the area. This can be reported to the Police on 0845 600 5700 or to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Witnesses to a break-in at Alehousewells school would be particularly welcome.

4. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2007 was proposed by Pat Findlater, seconded by Neil Johnson and unanimously approved.
5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:
 - a. Roads: The council had been contacted about the matters raised at the last meeting, but had not yet replied. The problem of parking on Victoria Terrace near the Primary School was raised. The Council was to be contacted on the matter, and asked if the double yellow lines could be extended to include the part of the road on the school side of the old toilets in the Pleasure Park.
 - b. Wooden structure under bridge: Cllr Al-Kowarri had raised this matter with the Council officers, but the officer concerned is currently on holiday.
6. Aberdeenshire News: The path along the river side is in the process of being resurfaced. Cllr Al-Kowarri continues to raise the matter of public toilets. She is to attempt to persuade the Council to revisit the idea of creating an access to the toilets in the pavilion which would not involve access to the building proper.

7. Planning Matters and Applications: The following 5 Planning Applications were submitted from 23/02/2008

Install Refrigeration Unit At Co-Op Foodstore 20 High Street Kemnay

Alter & Extend: Mr & Mrs P Neville, 8 Fetternear View, Kemnay

Change House Type At Plot 95 Parklands Development,

Sun Lounge: Mr Kenneth Elrick, 52 Bremner Way, Kemnay

Temporary Change Of Use From Garage To Sales Office at Plot 2 Bogbeth Road
Kemnay.

None was deemed controversial.

8. Community Planning: A Report on the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board meeting of Wednesday 5 March 2008 was received from Robin Blyth. It dealt with the CPP Priorities 2008-10, the Single Outcome Agreement, the Fairer Scotland Fund, the Financial Monitoring Report, and the Financial Implications 2008/09 Report. Robin Blyth will be standing down in September 2008 from the post of Community Council Representative. Nominations for a successor were being sought, but there were no volunteers to stand for election to this position.

9. Christmas Lights Sub-Committee: The sub-committee was considering the lighting available within the existing budget. The Council were to be approached about the possibility of having Christmas Lights on the Village Hall.

10. Report from Safety Group representative: There had been no meeting, but the representative drew attention to the Aberdeenshire Community Safety Group's eighth annual seminar to be held on 12 April, 2008 in Kemnay Church Centre.

11. Report from Community Learning and Development Representative: There had been no meeting, and consequently there was no report.

12. New Business:

a. Scottish Government Survey of the Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC) Stakeholders: The survey, dealing with levels of satisfaction with the conduct and procedures of the ASCC, was completed. It was noted that the ASCC had given no indication that the survey was being conducted, and that the community council had been notified on 14 March of a survey which had to be returned in April.

b. Street Names for Bogbeth Road Development: Greystone Road, Bogbeth Brae, School View and (somewhat tongue in cheek) Reporter's Way were suggested on the basis that Greystone was the name of the field in which the development was taking place, Bogbeth Brae could reasonably be expected to be in the vicinity of Bogbeth Road, and one could see the school from the site. These were to be forwarded to John Michie of Aberdeenshire Council.

c. Local Healthcare Bill Consultation: The Community Council had had short notice of this, but attempted to respond to the questionnaire which mainly concerned the possibility of having elected NHS Boards.

d. Data Protection: The Community Council will have to be registered under the Act, but the fee will be paid by Aberdeenshire Council. Disappointment was expressed about the stance taken by ASCC as it was felt that registration should be unnecessary.

e. Post Office closures: Kemnay will be consulted only if the Post Office here is earmarked for closure which, looking at the guidelines, is unlikely.

f. LEADER Programme: The award of £3.24 million to Aberdeenshire under the LEADER programme has been confirmed by the Scottish Government and the European Union. Details of how the money will be allocated have not been given.

g. Kemnay Football Competition: This will take place on Saturday 17th May at Bogbeth Park, Kemnay from 9.30am to 5.30pm. Pitches and stalls will be being set up from 6.00am. Participants have been warned about the lack of available parking. The police have been informed and parking restrictions will be in place.

13. Unfinished Business:

a. Boat Croft Handrail: Quotations had been sought from two suppliers – a required procedure before applying for a grant.

b. Goal Posts on the Green: As the Council are not minded to remove the existing goalposts, and as the alternative site suggested on Council-owned land within the Village for new posts was close to existing ones, it was decided to consult young people on this position, or perhaps an alternative use for the grant.

Correspondence:

a. Notification of Military Flying Exercise: This was a belated warning not applicable to Kemnay.

b. Sustainable Community Halls Initiative: A meeting to be held on 29th April in Kemnay Village Hall to explain this initiative was properly the responsibility of the Hall Committee.

c. Aberdeenshire Newsletter: This had been received.

d. The Network: This had been received.

14. AOCB: The matter of the lack of consultation on improvements in Kembhill Park, intended to bring the area up to the standard for adoption by the Council, was raised. Some street lights had been moved, apparently without reason, and areas were being paved which would be more suitably laid in grass. Cllr. Al-Kowarri agreed to make inquiries.

15. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday 24 April at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.