

## KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**7.30pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in the Friendship Room Kemnay Village Hall.**

**Present:** Bill Blackwood ( Chair) Gaenor Birkin (Vice Chair & Planning Secretary) John Whittall (Treasurer) David Carlin ,Claire Stewart, Margaret Basley, Sue Wainman, Marie Glendinning, Cllr Hazel Smith, Cllr Sebastian Leslie – new members William. Irvine and Lee Aitkin.

**Attending:** Rob Mackay.

**Apologies:** Fran Patrick ( Secretary)

#### 1. **Welcome** and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced the two new members. Apologies where given as above.

#### 2. Minutes of the AGM held on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

These were adopted as proposed by John Whittall and seconded by Margaret Basley.

#### 3. Chair Report (Appended)

The Chair read his report, highlighting the work and achievements of KCC of the past year, and thanked the members of KCC for all their efforts. A copy is attached.

#### 4. Treasurers Report& Financial Statement

John stated that he took over the role as treasurer part way through the year. The accounts have been officially checked and approved. The bank signatories are now up to date. The main expenditure this year had been the purchase of the Christmas trees.

A question arose regarding the insurance certificate, it is expected this will be sent to the Secretary, and needs to be confirmed.

Accounts proposed by Gaenor Birkin and seconded by Margaret Basley. John will now apply for this year's grant from the Council.

#### 5 **AOCB** None.

Next AGM 25<sup>th</sup> June, with the General meeting immediately following this AGM.

KCC Chair Report June 2019

Met 9 regular meetings, 1 AGM.

Bill Blackwood was elected to chair the Kemnay Community Council after the election in June 2018 and has survived his first full year as chair of the Kemnay Community Council without significant incident.

He took part in an Aberdeenshire hearing re: problems in another community council.

The 2018 election marked a major changing of the guard on the Kemnay Community Council, as seven long-standing members took this occasion to stand down. New members have stepped in to take their responsibilities admirably well and we continue to be a well-functioning community council.

Gaenor Berkin has taken on the jobs of Vice-Chair and keeping us up to date on the planning applications; Fran Patrick is secretary and has headed up the Christmas lights. John Whittall is treasurer. Sue Wainman keeps us up to date on a wide variety of things. The other members of the council work together to make us a smoothly working team. And teamwork is what is necessary to keep things happening happily here in Kemnay.

We had requested permission from Aberdeenshire Council to have 15 members when we adopted the Aberdeenshire Council prescribed constitution, and permission was granted. After the election we had nine members. One member subsequently stepped down because of other responsibilities. Aberdeenshire Council has conducted a recruitment drive for new councillors for Kemnay and we now have two new members. Kemnay Community Council extends a warm welcome to our two new members, Lee Aitken and William Irvine.

Kemnay Academy representative: has been carried out by Lewis Mackland, who has now left school, so we are waiting for a replacement representative. Marie Glendenning has been supplementing his reports and is actively recruiting an academy representative. The Chair represented KCC at the Academy's annual achievement ceremony for leavers on 20 June 2019.

Sue Wainman represents KCC on the Academy Parent School Council. Gaenor Berkin represents KCC on the Kemnay Primary parent council, but we have no regular representation with Alehousewells School. Sue attends the annual awards ceremony for Kemnay Primary School upon invitation.

Communications: Claire Stewart is keeping people posted on the Kemnay Community Council and Kemnay Village Facebook pages.

Sue is doing an excellent job keeping the notice boards up to date.

David Evans has continued to do excellent work maintaining the Kemnay Website. He designed it and has made it a valuable resource for all things Kemnay.

PADS: 5 defibrillator units now distributed around the village. Karen Stewart has taken on the task of PADS Guardian and is coordinating the oversight and maintenance of these units. She is also exploring acquisition and installation of a sixth unit in the Bogbeth Park pavilion.

Greener Kemnay has done great work, and after years of effort, have established the community garden at Birley Bush. It has unfortunately come under threat as a result of the most recent Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan, which would like to put houses there.

Response to flooding issues rising from January 2016 flood:

Irene Ferguson with the Milton Meadows Resilient Community Group and Ken Ledingham with the Kembhill Park Flood Group have been in regular contact with KCC regarding ongoing support for

those areas ravaged by the 2016 flood. Aberdeenshire Council has organized a contractor to deploy temporary flood barriers around Kembhill Park in the event of a flood, and Milton Meadows has set up cameras to watch the river level.

Gavin Penman from Aberdeenshire Council was supposed to give us an update on flood protection measures for Kemnay at the May meeting, but unfortunately another engagement came up and he was unable to attend. He did offer to send a report, but that hasn't materialised yet.

KCC Community Resilience Plan (CRP). The CRP is in place, with the two Kemnay Resilience/Flood Groups linked in to the plan, additional Places of Safety have been established and additional volunteers on board. This will put Kemnay in a better position to respond to any emergency in the village.

Police Attendance and reports: The police have attended the meetings when possible in the past, but now, due to manpower constraints, are sending us a monthly report which is distributed to the community councillors via email.

Scheme of Establishment and new Constitution are now in place and we have been operating under these new documents for the last year. We did get our hands slapped once when we didn't follow the Aberdeenshire prescribed constitutional method of getting a new member. The new member was ready and willing to join, and we co-opted her on the spot, rather than giving KCC councillors and Aberdeenshire Area Office the full 10 days' notice.

CC Public Liability insurance is now our responsibility. Whereas Aberdeenshire Council handled all the insurance requirements in the past, we now have the task of ensuring we are insured. AC sent us their recommended insurer, along with a 109 page insurance Policy document. AC pays the annual insurance premium for their chosen insurer on our behalf.

New 5 Year Local Development Plan is an ongoing never-ending project with periodic periods of dormancy and activity, consultations to respond to.

Planning Applications have for the most part been non-controversial. We have added comments about the occasional house modification request. There have been some, particularly proposed housing estates, that have caused concern and drawn detailed responses from the Community Council. Gaenor Berkin, using her knowledge of planning regulations and Aberdeenshire planning policies, has ably composed these responses.

A proposal for house on Bremner Way/Aquithie Road was withdrawn and the land is still green network amenity in the current LDP.

Traffic Issues: along a narrow Craigearn road are an ongoing concern, as is traffic at the Horner.

Parking issues are a constant problem and getting worse. Parking in front of schools seems to be moderating, thanks to a combination of police presence and the banners initiated by the Safety Group last year.

Parking in front of Coop on Station Road and opposite the take-aways, gym and cafe: An ongoing battle with people parking on the pavement because the road is narrow. Pedestrians, especially OAPs, electric scooters, and children in pushchairs can't get past. They have to go into the street, endangering themselves. Again, the local Police Officer had done what he can, but the problem is a chronic one. KCC has made several suggestions to Aberdeenshire Council but none of those has been taken up. At this point there doesn't seem to be any workable solution. We will keep trying because the situation is an accident waiting to happen.

The sale of the toilet block in the busy, well used Kemnay car park and subsequent conversion to two business units has raised concerns about how many parking places these units will use up for their traffic.

Our local Police Officer has done what he can about dangerous parking in other locations, and checked for speeding on village roads, particularly Victoria Terrace and Aquithie Road.

Litter and dog fouling are ongoing problems in our community. The Academy is doing its best to educate students on how to drop litter into waste bins. We have considered various ways of drawing the attention of irresponsible dog owners to their duty to clean up after their dogs, but the message is slow to get through to some people.

Place of Origin: Some success there. Greenbelt has done some maintenance on the path network around the art formation.

Fran Patrick put in tremendous effort last year in organising the Christmas Trees and lights. Complying with the increasing regulations hasn't made putting the lights up any easier, but they got done. We now need to have the lights tested and insured before Aberdeenshire Council will issue a permit to put them up. We have given some serious thought to replacing the annual Christmas trees at either end of the village with something more permanent. This year we bought one tree for one end of the village and placed a light fixture at the other end. Aberdeenshire Council has agreed to plant trees at either end of the village so we won't have to buy and erect new trees each year.

I would like to thank our Aberdeenshire councillors for their great help and the good work they have done over the last year on our behalf. If we had a problem and wanted help from the Council, or had a concern, they would always jump in and offer to help. And they give us excellent feedback on how that response is progressing. They have kept us well informed of things that are happening on the Aberdeenshire level of government that concern us directly and the shire as a whole.

We have been represented at various meetings including GAACCF, the Safety Group, Greener Kemnay, and a number of other groups. We are always open to hear the concerns and views of members of the public who come to the meetings.

I would like to acknowledge the extremely good work our Community Councillors have done over the last year. We are working together as a team. Everyone has had their little or large bit of the load to carry. And that is the key to the success of this community council. Everyone takes responsibility for the community as a whole, and does what they can with projects the community council has taken on. This community would not be as great a place to live in if it weren't for you.

I would like to thank especially Fran Patrick for her great work as secretary. She keeps me and all of us straight. I would also like to thank Gaenor Berkin for covering for me when I had to be out in March, and for taking care of the planning matters. John Whittall has done excellent work keeping our finances in order, and Sue Wainman keeps her ear to the ground and keeps us up to date on things that are happening in and around Kemnay, as well as representing us on various committees and groups. And special thanks goes to each of the other members of this great Kemnay Community Council. As we work together as a team, we do what we can for the good of Kemnay, our village.

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GENERAL MEETING

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**Attending:** Rob Mackay.

**Apologies:** Fran Patrick ( Secretary)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed those attending and apologies are as given above.

**2. Declaration of Interests/Audio Recordings**

The Chair went into detail – for new comers-about this standard agenda item, to avoid any future misunderstanding.

**3. Minutes of the meeting 30th May 2019**

Minutes of this meeting had been previously circulated and were agreed as accurate.

Proposed by Margaret Basley and seconded by Sue Wainman.

**4. Election Results & Office Bearers**

Lee Aitkin and William Irvine where welcomed as new members. All current office bearers remain unchanged.

**5. Police Matters**

The received report had been circulated. Cllr Smith has taken the opportunity to talk to the Police while at another meeting about the ongoing parking problems in Kemnay. Members are advised to report license numbers or photos to the email address at the bottom of the Police report, and they will respond. The email address is: [InverurieCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:InverurieCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

A discussion followed as to whether a notice should be placed in the Kemnay Newsletter regarding the parking, but no firm view was reached.

**6. Kemnay Academy Pupil Report**

No representative present but M. Glendinning gave an overview of Academy activities. Processes undertaken to appoint a new school captain and pupil representative, Pupil Conference held at the Loaves and Fishes, the Award Ceremony has taken place and the P7 visited in preparation for the new school year. There is currently a head count of 960. A special award has been given to Lewis Mackland as the most valuable pupil in the school.

The Chair asked if the Academy has plans to be involved in the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the VE World War II? The Reminiscence Group should also be asked, and not forgetting VJ a year later was also an important day. **Topic for a future agenda.**

## **7. Guest Speakers**

None.

## **8. Kemnay Resilience**

An email received from Gavin Penman has been circulated explaining the Flood Risk Next Step. This will be reviewed again at the September meeting.

## **9. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Speak**

Rob Mackay raised the condition of the paths at the Point of Origin. It was felt that the original paths allowed for three persons to walk abreast, but this has been reduced to one because of overgrowth.

After discussion Cllr Smith said she would raise the matter at a Ward meeting, as maintenance was a Greenbelt matter, although the Council would do some remedial work on the car park.

## **10 Matters Arising**

- a) **Aberdeenshire Employability Partnership** – put on September agenda.
- b) **Update on campaign re inconsiderate parking** – discussed earlier under Police matters.
- c) **Youth Forum Survey** – outcome is that there is a negative view of Kemnay and low community spirit. KCC discussed ideas regarding how to improve this view.
- d) **Community Learning & Development** – There are a number of conflicting views circulating about the future of CLD within the Academy at present. After being lobbied by a number of residents Cllr Smith had asked for a report to be made available for this meeting. This was read out and members were assured services were not being withdrawn for Kemnay.
- e) **Charging Points** – The secretary would be asked to write to the Council regarding plans for Kemnay.
- f) **Light Touch Review** – It is due now. There is nothing further to add so the secretary to send as is.

## **11. Treasurers Report**

Has been circulated. Christmas lights and defibrillators to continue to be reported in separate columns.

## **12 Planning Matters and Applications**

Two were brought to the KCC's attention but nothing contentious.

## **13 Reports**

- a) PADS Report - Pads need replacing, alarm not fitted at the hall. **Attention Karen, Fran and John.**
- b) Safety Group--No Meeting

- c) GACCF – AGM Sue remains the Community Planning rep. The slides presented by Kat Lasko from the Waste Team have been circulated. The trial of the three week collection cycle has begun in Mintlaw and Sue saw that there is now a separate plasterboard skip at Souterford Road in Inverurie. As an addition, the garden waste lorry at Birley Bush Depot on Saturday had 5 cars unloading at once at around 9am. This is a huge saving of time and fuel for Kemnay residents as well as some diversion from landfill and possibly an improvement in fly tipping of garden waste.
- d) Community Planning – meeting Wednesday 26.6.2019 Main business Community Action Plans – update on Kellands, Inch, Sauchan, with Premnay wishing to undertake. For Kellands the consultations have been done but there is no group to take the plan forward, so there will be a feedback note from the Area Office on the comments made during the engagements on the actions that have been taken on by partners and volunteer groups. Inch will go to final draft next week and Premnay will start their consultation in late October. I reported that in Kemnay we had no group to take forward the actions but that through conversations quite a lot of progress has been made and that the three members of the steering group would be making a progress report. As community action plans are the base for local development conversations as well as a way of getting improvements for a settlement by local initiatives and normally hosted by community councils I suggested that displays of the work done through CAPs be shown at the Community Councillors Network Day in September.
- e) Greener Kemnay – Birley Bush Community Garden - unlike the Place of Origin a wheelchair or pushchair can get round the community garden! We are very grateful to the help from the Golf Club and we have a further offer of help with strimming. We asked for and received the waste from the winter planting scheme so the black bags of tulips and polyanthus were left for us. The bulbs have divided so will not give as good a show as this past spring but this waste along with the Homebase waste is what makes the site colourful. The mosaic toadstools are now on site.  
Kemnay Public Art Project – there were nine applications for consideration with a further two not considered as they arrived after the deadline. Four artists are invited for a July interview, in person or by skype, three are not from the local area. The Kemnay Public Art Project has been facilitated by Lorna Forsythe from the Community Learning and Development team with meetings held in Hut 304 as there would be no funding for room rent included in any grants available. Greener Kemnay paid for the initial meeting in the Village Hall.
- f) Kemnay LLCP – minutes have been circulated – includes pieces on Job Club and IT Skills
- g) KAPC/KPPC/APPC Sue was unable to attend due to another commitment.
- h) Press Reports – Margaret read out a piece from the Inverurie Advertiser that stated the Geek Bothy in Kemnay had won the Best Craft and Creative Business Award.
- i) Margaret & Sue attended the postponed bus forum. There were only 18 people attending from the whole of Garioch, (those looking for info found phones going unanswered, emails unanswered and the A.C. website not displaying up to date information). Only on the day before did we discover that there were changes proposed and the implications for Kemnay, Kintore and Blackburn were the removal of a corridor into the city as the proposal was for every bus to go via ARI. On Tuesday this week the 0720 bus X20 had 17 passengers going into the city and at least 7 of those 17 were going to destination stops on the route that would no longer be served. The consultation period was 9 days and not during term time so young people attending university and college would not know of the proposed changes.

#### **14 Aberdeenshire Councillors News**

Cllr Smith said she will be Chairing the head teacher interview for Kemnay Primary school and also reported the very tall tree on Bremner Way has now been cut down; to the relief of those living close by. In strong winds this tree was prone to drop large branches, endangering pedestrians and parked cars. Matters with the Police and CLD were mentioned within the agenda.

#### **15 Correspondence**



Has been circulated on receipt.

**16 Opportunities For Community Councillors to Speak**

Gaenor attended leaving ceremony at Kemnay Primary.

John referred to a possible co-op representative from the Loaves and Fishes. **Action Bill/Fran.**

A possible 2 new newsletter deliverers.

A question regarding a path or cycle way from Kemnay to Inverurie.

The state of the new car park at Fetternear – **Action Fran to write to David Fyffe.**

Bill has a list of contacts he will email to everyone.

**It was agreed that office bearers would deal with routine business during the summer break. Anything else will be a matter for all members.**

**Date of next meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019**