

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27th of NOVEMBER 2003

PRESENT – Cdr C. Hunneyball, Miss S. Taylor, Mrs S. Milton, Ms H. Al-Kowarri, Mrs M. Wainman, Mr A. Davies, Dr R. Dunham, Mr D. Evans, Mr A. Thomson, Dr J. Piggins and J. Newberry

ATTENDING – Inspector D. Allan, Mr John Sorrie (Inverurie Herald), Mr J. Whittal and Ms K. Rigby

APOLOGIES – Mr P. Findlater, Mr B. Blackwood, Mr A. Hinton, Mr T. McKay, Cllr G. Saluja and Cllr A. Leitch.

1. POLICE MATTERS –

Inspector Allan gave us a very interesting and thought provoking presentation on the recorded crime statistics for 2002/2003 to date which left us with a real picture of crime in Kemnay and other areas. With the recorded crime to date for November at it lowest for 2 years at only 8 reported whilst October had 26 and we only had 11 in September. It is encouraging to know that these figures for Kemnay are low compared to other communities in the area but we should not become complacent. 50% of crime is vandalism and the detection and charge rate for this type of crime is 20% with the detection rate for serious crime at 64%.

Ian Wallace the Chairman of the Community Safety Group wants to have an open meeting to discuss what can be done in the community to raise awareness and help prevent vandalism. However, we must be careful that this meeting did not become a dig at the Police and that the level of vandalism does not all get blown out of all proportion. The last thing we need is a headline in the papers stating vandalism crime wave in Kemnay as all this will do is cause fear and give our village a bad name. For this reason more thought and discussion must be done before this line is taken. We need to get people to help the police catch the criminals and as a community help prevent crime before it happens.

There has been some recent vandalism at the Church Centre of the bird table and nesting box and investigations are on going as to why this continues to happen and what can be done to resolve this. It could be that young people are congregating where they feel safe – as it is a well lit area and easy to see and although most are probably just hanging out with friends causing no problems a very small minority are making a nuisance of themselves with petty vandalism.

2. PRESENTATION BY JOHN WHITTAL FROM FETTERNEAR ESTATE –

Mr Whittal came along to update us on the progress on the Estate and the plans for the future. Eighteen months ago they applied for a Lottery Grant which was unfortunately turned down however it was suggested that they may be successful if they looked at a phased plan and a grant of less than £½ a million. Therefore, the new plan has 2 phases – the 1st is Conservation of the oldest part of the building and to enable it to be opened to the public the 2nd phase is the landscaping and conservation of the estate. They must put together both an access plan and an audience plan and this will continue as an ongoing consultation. They do get between 5/6000 visitors and users of the estate each year including 35 different groups i.e./ rambblers, National Trust and RSPB etc. The Trust is looking for representatives of the community council to join a local consultative committee that would meet 2 or 3 times a year to discuss various matters for the estate. He also advised that the received funding from Aberdeenshire Environment Fund (the grant covered the cost of the artwork) to allow them to produce some literature on a brief history of the estate and on the birds that can be found there and these will be put on sale to visitors. He thanked community council for the information we sent to them for a Local

Heritage Initiative Scotland fund, which unfortunately they were unsuccessful in getting – they had applied for funds for a viewing area around the dig, some signs and leaflets. They are to have a launch night for the leaflets (which will be on sale priced £3.50 for the Brief History of Fetternear and £2.50 for the Birds booklet) on Wednesday the 3rd of December at 7pm in Netherton Business Centre which members of Kemnay Community Council are welcome to attend.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTE FROM 30/10/03 –

Proposed by Dr J. Piggins and Seconded by Mrs S. Milton.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

- a. Induction Day for Community Council Members on Planning Process – held on 18th November – Very informative event, a letter of thanks was sent to Ian Fowell for organising this and to the gentlemen who spoke on the evening for a thought provoking and insightful evening.
- b. Website Update – Some information still to be received from other members of the committee as to what information they wish to have for themselves on the website as it will be accessible to all. Once this information is collated back to Sheila, she will inform Claire.
- c. Rubbish at the end of Aquithie Road – Ongoing investigation, an email has been sent to the council to investigate this issue and as yet no response to report.
- d. Wood Gardens/ Kendal Road - Damaged Wall – The Community Council has applied for a grant to get this repaired, along with the statutory 3 quotes for approval and once we get this we will organise to have the work carried out as soon as is possible.
- e. Aberdeenshire Design Awards – Still to work on nominations as none immediately come to mind that fit within the criteria required. However, the deadline is the end of February so we can think about this and discuss at our meeting in January.
- f. Proposal of Community Council Updated Constitution – Approved by all members and Cdr Hunneyball is now going to send it to Ian Fowell of Aberdeenshire Council to complete its approval and conformity.
- g. Trees cut down on Aquithie Road in car park – No response as yet from Aberdeenshire Council as to who was responsible for this but, it does look like more work has been done and it does not look as bad as it did initially.
- h. Stop Sign at Midmill junction being ignored – Awaiting reply from Ian Rendall, Local Roads Manager at Aberdeenshire Council on the road layout and whether this should indeed be a stop sign in light of the visibility or should be changed to a give way junction.
- i. Light Pollution from driving range – A letter was sent to the owners and Sheila received a call saying although they could not attend this meeting they would like to give a comment for the meeting on their light set up. Basically, they have two banks of lights, which are necessary for people in the dark nights to be able to see exactly what they are doing at the driving range. These have been specially designed along with the whole building for the set purpose of a driving range. Whenever possible they switch off one set of lights as they do cost a lot of money to buy, replace bulbs and run. The lights are switched off at 9pm which is when the close. They cannot for obvious

reasons switch them totally off when no-one is there or they would lose trade, as people would assume they were closed. Sheila has also spoken with people who use this facility to see if they feel there are too many lights and they explained that they are necessary and that it is a well thought out and excellent facility. In addition, as a user of the road between Kemnay and Inverurie on a daily basis Sheila points out it is not a hazard or a nuisance to road users. It was decided that the case of light pollution was dropped after this discussion.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Youth Café plans/update – Although no councillors were present some information was known within the members of the community council. Alistair Thomson informed us that they hadn't got the building warrant as yet and that the quotes were too high. Thus, they were having to re-apply to other contractors for quotes on the works required. Therefore, the project was on hold until January pending some more quotes to be looked at.
- b. Glebe Obstruction – Still there almost a year on. Aberdeenshire Council are dealing with this matter.
- c. Aberdeenshire Local Plan – Postponed due to a legal technicality on the advertising of the public enquiry not being adhered to (the council are supposed to advertise for 2 weeks and only advertised for 1 week) If it had gone ahead not only would it have cost around £1.5 million it would have also made the whole thing invalid. New date received for Community Council to put across their objections have now been confirmed as 11th of May.
- d. Toilet Facilities for Bogbeth Park – Nothing further to report from Aberdeenshire Council at this time.
- e. Kemnay Village Sports Day 2004 – No date for this event confirmed yet but Kemnay Park and Pavilion Committee have expressed their interest to help with the event.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Agenda Format – It was suggested as a result of the training events that we improve our agenda and prioritise the running order differently. To allow a slot for questions for the general public who are welcome to attend our meetings to speak nearer the start of the meeting rather than have to wait 2 hours or so to be heard. This would also allow them the chance to speak if they wished too as people do attend but as no time is allotted for them to have their say they are maybe not aware that they can address the council. In addition, at this time for matters to be timetabled for the AOCB as this will help focus the mind and keep the meeting timely. New agenda proposed and accepted for our next meeting.
- b. Budget Briefing on 9th of December – KCC to be represented by Mrs Wainman and Cdr Hunneyball.

7. REPORT FROM THE SAFETY GROUP –

As Mr Findlater could not be here, Ms Rigby gave the report. They have again several very good and interesting projects ongoing one of which are community wardens, it will have a pilot scheme in the northeast before being introduced to other areas. Funding was also given to Kemnay Academy to help with the cost of a Driving Ambition Day, which is run in conjunction with Grampian Police and Lawrence of Kemnay to 6th year

pupils. There is also a new scheme from the Driving Safety Agency called 'Arrive Alive' on road safety. Brian Jaffray of the Scottish Ambulance Service attended the Safety Groups meeting in November to discuss the concern over the ambulance centre in Inverness and how it operates with an invitation to the group to go and visit their premises to see first hand how it works. There is also an invitation to go to the new Police service centre in Bucksburn. The Safe House Project – the safety house is now open and available for members of the public to visit

8. **PRESS REPORTS** –

Several items. The Broadband target has been set at 500 and at this time, they have 424 names so a drive is on to get the 500.

9. **ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS** –

As no Councillors were able to be present to update us on any matters on this nothing to report at this time.

10. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** –

No objections as nothing contentious.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE** –

Letter from the Scottish Sculpture Workshop
Scotland National Heritage Discussion Paper – on land management. It was agreed that we would not discuss it as it would involve a special meeting to formulate a reply, but members can make individual responses if they so wish by looking at it via the website – <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/strategy/advisingothers/LandDiscPaper.pdf>
All others in circulation to members.

12. **A.O.C.B** –

Thanks expressed to Janet Newberry for the wonderful firework display once again this year and all her hard work to organise this.

Leading Edge have almost got the £60,000 they wanted to raise to get the skate park underway so are looking to start building this in the new year.

No buses turned up on Monday morning. This has been reported to the bus company but we would urge bus users to always put their comments (complaints) in writing as this is logged with the bus company.

The path along the riverside is in a very bad state and is very slippery a letter is to be sent to Aberdeenshire Council to ask that something be done to repair this as soon as possible.

Sheila noticed in the Garioch Area Committee Meeting Minutes that the planning application for the erection of 4 dwelling houses at Aquithie Road, Kemnay by Grampian Country Food Group had been refused for two reasons.
1/ The site lies within the East Gordon Countryside as defined in the Gordon District Local Plan 1989 and the Countryside Beyond the Greenbelt as defined in the Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan 2003. These areas are defined to protect the amenity and attractions of the countryside and in which there is a presumption against most kinds of residential development.
2/ That in the absence of noise and dust assessments from the applicants demonstrating evidence to the contrary, the proximity of the site to Kemnay Quarry could result in the residential amenities of the proposed dwelling houses being adversely affected by noise and dust associated with the activities carried out at the quarry.

Mavis has in her shed 100 daffodil bulbs waiting planting if anyone has suggestions and the willingness to plant them please let her know.

Millstone Place – the old play area is to be revamped like the others in Alehousewells, as the money is now available for this site.

Bad flooding beside the quarry, which is spilling over the road – Sheila to notify Aberdeenshire Council to look into this and take action as required.

The flowerbeds have been dug up and the old plants disposed of for this year unfortunately no local residents got the chance to have any of these bedding plants as the council took them away to dispose of.

It is believed that Robbie Dow is to turn the old petrol station into a shop but it will not sell anything already available at other shops in the village.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 29th OF JANUARY 2004