

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2010

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Margaret Christie, David Evans, Annie Ferries, John Hern, Bob Ingram, Ian Murray, Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Allison Grant, Graeme Watson, PC Sandra Duncan.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. Apologies: Gavin Adam, Bill Blackwood, Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri.
3. Police matters: There have been only seven minor crimes in Kemnay for the whole of January. These have not necessarily been cleared up, but the police are generally aware of who the culprits may be. There has, however, been a series of opportunistic thefts of motor bikes which appear to have been organised by an Aberdeen gang with local contacts: a lack of owner security has generally been a feature of such thefts.
4. Kemnay Cricket Club: Graeme Watson outlined the club's plans for an all-weather wicket on the cricket square at Bogbeth Park to extend coaching facilities. He pointed out that the club was having some success in recruiting young players, but that there was an age-gap between them and the mature players which the club would like to fill. It was felt that the increased coaching which would be made possible by the all-weather wicket would encourage slightly older players than the under-eighteens who were currently having some success in winning awards. Having confirmed that the provision of the all-weather wicket would not affect the football pitches, the Community Council agreed to support the endeavour.
5. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2009 was proposed by Annie Ferries, seconded by Mavis Wainman and unanimously approved.
6. Question Time: There were no questions from members of the public.
7. Matters Arising from Minutes: Jim Piggins pointed out that there had been no intimation of the start of the 90-day consultation on the Fetternear development.
8. Planning matters and applications: There were no controversial applications.
9. GACCF: The Chairman noted the success of the mini-grill on 3 December when Community Councillors had had the opportunity to question Leslie Tierney from Planning, Jim Stevenson from Landscape, Andrew Ritchie from Education and Bob Leonard from Community Learning and Development. He also drew attention to the postponed planning teach-in which had been held on 26 January. Maureen Corley had stressed the importance of deadlines in the new system and had made the point that the intention was to streamline the planning process.
10. Christmas Lights Sub Committee: The lights appeared to have been a success. Eric Pashley and Chris Hunneyball had removed the lights from, and felled, the Christmas trees. It would appear that they had then been removed by Aberdeenshire Council. Alan Mearns had taken down the lights from the lamp-posts. It is hoped to buy four more lights in the "two for one" sale along with another strand of tree lights. Collection tins had been recovered from the shops where they had been displayed, but the cash collected had not yet been counted. Eric Pashley and Gavin Adam were thanked for organising the display, Ben Hudson for donating the trees, and those hardy Community Councillors who braved appalling weather conditions for erecting them.
11. Report from Safety Group Representative: The representative pointed out that appropriate footwear was necessary in the current weather. He also commended the professionalism of teachers taking classes to Fetternear woods – the pupils were well-organised and well-behaved.

12. Report from Community Learning and Development Representative: The opening of the fitness suite has been further delayed. The company which had the contract for maintaining the equipment had gone into receivership. There is still no volunteer to maintain the mini-bus.

13. New Business:

a) Garioch Local Community Plan: It was agreed that a Garden Refuse site at Birley Bush, Toilet Facilities, Sports Provision and Transport should be suggested as additions to the Plan. The Chairman agreed to attend to this.

b) Aberdeenshire Council's Statement of Assistance for Private Homeowners and Tenants of Private Landlords: It was agreed that this required an initial explanatory paragraph. The Secretary agreed to complete the questionnaire.

14. Unfinished Business:

a) Place of Origin: Although it was generally agreed that little could be done other than using a group of volunteers to keep the area cleared, Cllr Grant agreed to speak to Angus Beacom, the planning inspector, about the problem.

b) Beechhill Access: The Chairman was to write to Linda Mathieson, the Access Officer at Aberdeenshire Council, to suggest that she liaise with John Hern, on whose judgement the Community Council would rely. It was hoped that other members of the Community Council might be able to be present at a site visit.

c) SEPA – Flood Warning: SEPA were to be invited to talk to the Community Council.

d) ASCC Update: An Edinburgh Community Council Chairman had contacted all Community Councils, expressing his dissatisfaction with the ASCC. There had been some initial response, but the matter appeared to have died down.

15. Aberdeenshire News: Councillors are now aware of the uses to which planning gain is put. The Garioch Area Plan is currently a high priority.

16. Correspondence:

a) Nesta (Enterprises for the over 50s): The Press Release was on the village noticeboard.

b) RoPIS (A Planning Focus Group): There were no volunteers to engage with this project.

c) Building Up Boards Training Event (How to recruit members to committees): This appeared not to be relevant to Community Councils.

d) Kintore Rendering Plant FAQ: All members of the Community Council had received a copy of this.

e) Columba 1400 Team (An Academy anti-litter initiative): Margaret Christie agreed to respond to the school.

f) ACSEF Planning Workshop: This was to be in Aberdeen on 18 February.

g) SEPA View: This had been received.

h) Digitaluk: There was to be a drop-in session with information on the digital switchover in Kemnay Academy on 22 February between 7 and 9pm.

17. AOCB: Janet Newberry pointed out that there had been no follow-up meeting after the changes in the bus timetable.

Ian Murray intimated that the Fyffe Park Clinic Sign and the Water Board bollard outside the clinic had been demolished. Cllr Grant agreed to pursue this.

The Treasurer asked if annual accounts could be finalised at the end of February to allow complete accounts to be presented at the AGM. This was agreed unanimously.