

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28th MARCH 2002

7.30 PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

1. Present:-

Mr D. Caney, Mr A. Davies, Mr D. Evans, Mr P. Findlater, Mr C. Hunneyball,
Mrs S. Milton, Mrs J. Newberry, Dr J. Piggins, Mr A. Thomson, Mrs M.
Wainman

Attending:-

Inspector D. Allan, Mr D. Duncan (Inverurie Herald), Councillor A. Leitch, Mr
G. Paterson, Councillor G. Saluja

Apologies:-

2. Minute of Annual General Meeting held on 28th June 2001

The Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on the 28th June 2001 was approved.

Proposed: Mr D. Evans Seconded: Mrs S. Milton

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report, which is at Annexe A to this Minute, was presented.
On completion, Councillor Leitch moved a vote of appreciation for the work done by
the Chairman, which was universally approved.

4. Financial Statement

The Financial Statement which is at Annexe B to this Minute, was presented by Mr.
Davies.

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2001 – 2002

For presentation at Annual General Meeting 28th March 2002

My report last year referred to the Reporter's Inquiry into the Consolidated Local Aberdeenshire Plans (CALPS), and stated that it "may yet lead to conflict with the views expressed during last summer's consultation in communities including ours". Such indeed did prove to be the case, with the result that planning matters have dominated many of the Community Council's discussions during the year covered by this review.

In July 2001, we were notified that Aberdeenshire Council proposed to modify CALPS by allocating land "south of the Glebe" for 60 houses, in accordance with the Reporter's recommendation. The timing of the announcement could hardly have been worse, coming as it did after the Council's June meeting and with responses required by mid-August: the Community Council of course does not normally meet over the summer months. I thank members for giving up time in those weeks to compile a Community Council objection before the deadline.

In the event, this proved to be a consultation where our comments were to no avail. In November 2001, Aberdeenshire's Infrastructure and Services Committee saw fit to throw out our objections, and over 30 individual ones as well, on the grounds (questionable in my view) that these points "were considered at the Public Inquiry".

The same Committee meeting then proposed still further changes, admittedly of a fairly technical nature, to CALPS. Once again, the timing could almost have been designed to prevent our comment. The proposals were announced in December with comments due by mid-January: the Community Council of course does not normally meet in December. Nevertheless, the Council decided at its January meeting to submit comments on the proposals for "indicative developer contributions", even though the deadline had passed. We have not yet heard whether Aberdeenshire Council will take any notice of what we said.

All of the above matters that have taken up the Community Council's time concern CALPS, which although still being modified in 2002 was supposed to expire in 2001! It was expected to be replaced by the new Aberdeenshire Plans, but we now hear that the new Local Plan is not expected to come into force until May 2004. That will be so long after the summer 2000 consultation that one feels that the "new" Plan may be out of date before it is implemented.

A copy of the draft "finalised local statement" for Kemnay did however come into our hands recently, and we learned that another site on the outskirts of Kemnay was being proposed, this time for shops and small business units. This came as a total surprise to us. It also seems to have come as a total surprise to the owner of a major part of the site, who has (we understand) firmly told Aberdeenshire Council's planners that he has no intention of selling. We hope that this small fact, together with representations made on our behalf by Councillor Leitch, will quash this scheme dreamed up by the planners before it becomes another nightmare for Kemnay.

In the light of all the discussion and disappointment caused for us by planning matters, it was pleasing to hear that the Scottish Executive is at least conducting a review of the planning

system. I thank our MSP, Mike Rumbles, for sending us a copy of the full consultation document "Getting Involved in Planning". The long and involved questionnaire meant an extra meeting on 14th March to formulate our response. I can safely say that our response was blunt, stating that in some respects, more than the Executive's suggested minor "tinkering" with the system is required. From what I hear elsewhere, our views are not unique, but it remains to be seen whether the Executive will take heed.

So, at last, to other matters that have come before the Community Council. We have been glad to have the presence of a police representative at a number of meetings, and concerns over vandalism, traffic problems and so on have been regularly aired. Following a public meeting organised in November by the police themselves, at which there was a large attendance and well-expressed local concern, the Community Council organised a petition in favour of more police resources in Kemnay, which was duly submitted through Mike Rumbles to the Minister for Justice. The Minister's response was to the effect that more money has already been given to the police, and it is up to the police to allocate extra resources as they think best. While this is not as positive a response as we might have hoped, at least Kemnay residents' concern has reached the highest level.

One should of course remember that the great majority of people, including young people, are not vandals but good citizens. In January, the Community Council heard a presentation by young people from the skateboard group "Leading Edge". We complimented them on their successful fund-raising efforts to date, and ambitious plans for further activities. We were very happy to commend their desire for a skateboard facility to Aberdeenshire Council as a good use for any available planning-gain funds.

Another topic on which the Community Council heard a visiting speaker was that of Credit Unions. Many other matters, too numerous to list here, have been discussed at our meetings, which are regularly reported in the Kemnay Newsletter, whose editors do a most useful job in keeping the village informed of our work, amongst many other things.

The Community Council continues to be regularly represented at meetings of other bodies. The Garioch Community Council Forum not only provides a quarterly channel for exchange of information with Aberdeenshire Council, but also organises occasional informative meetings on particular topics. One such recently clarified the structure and function of the Association of Scottish Community Councils, of which Kemnay is a member.

The Community Council was represented at a recent seminar on "Modernising Local Government", at an information session in Aberdeen for community councillors, at a meeting on Countryside Access Strategy, and regularly at meetings of the Safety Group. I thank those members who give up their time for these and other meetings, in addition to attending our regular monthly meetings. I also record a special word of thanks to David Evans, whose monitoring of planning matters on our behalf has been particularly arduous this year. Finally, and by no means least, I thank Councillors Leitch and Saluja for attending our meetings whenever their many commitments permit.

Jim Piggins
Chairman

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st March 2002

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS
9.04.01 Cheque	310. 00	19.03.01 Kemnay Village Hall (104)
10.00		23.04.01 Kemnay Village Hall (105)
10.00		14.05.01 Kemnay Village Hall (106)
10.00		18.06.01 Kemnay Village Hall (107)
20.00		18.06.01 David Evans (Paint) (108)
12.98		18.06.01 Blake Edwards
(109)310.00		27.06.01 Chris Hunneyball (110)
75.00		26.07.01 Kemnay Village Hall (111)
10.00		9.10.01 Kemnay Village Hall (112)
10.00		26.11.01 Kemnay Village Hall (113)
10.00		4.12.01 Aberdeen Council
(114)243.00		17.12.01 Kemnay Village Hall (115)
10.00		20.02.02 Kemnay Village Hall (116)
10.00		11.03.02 Kemnay Village Hall (117)
10.00		28.03.02 Chris Hunneyball (118)
50.00		
Contribution from Aberdeen Council		Payments for Period
26.07/01 Cheque	620. 00	Ending 31.03.02
800.98		£
Interest: to 30.08.01	94	Closing Balance
536.61		£
Opening Balance	406. 65	Opening Overdraft
Closing Overdraft	nil	
nil		
	£1,337. 59	
£1,337.59	£1,337. 59	

Certified Correct-----Treasurer

Date -----

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28th MARCH 2002

7.30 PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

1. Present :-

Mr D. Caney, Mr A. Davies, Mr D. Evans, Mr P. Findlater, Mr C. Hunneyball, Mrs S. Milton, Mrs J. Newberry, Dr J. Piggins, Mr A. Thomson, Mrs M. Wainman

Attending:-

Inspector D. Allan, Mr D. Duncan (Inverurie Herald), Councillor A. Leitch, Mr G. Paterson, Councillor G. Saluja

Apologies:-

Mr Tim McKay, Mrs Sheila Taylor (members of the public)

2. Police Matters

Dr Piggins welcomed Inspector Allan to the meeting. It was reported that Mr Davies and Mr Hunneyball had met with the Chief Superintendent and Mike Rumbles, MSP, to discuss policing in Kemnay. Inspector Allen said that he had, in theory, 26 constables available to him, but for various reasons he actually only had 17 at present. Nonetheless, he produced graphs that showed that there had, in fact, been a significant reduction in crime over the past four years, and he hoped this trend would continue with information led policing.

One of the problems was that there had been an increase in the number of specialised units, but these had been formed at the expense of the numbers of policemen on the beat. He would like to be able to provide a dedicated force for Kemnay, including foot patrols, but this was just not possible.

Clr Saluja asked why there was such a shortage, when he had been told that police numbers had never been higher. Inspector Allan said that coverage was patchy, with some areas being better complemented than others.

Mr Findlater expressed concern about the new roundabout at Midmill. Inspector Allan said that the police had not been involved in the design, so he could not make informed comment.

The matter of speeding motorists was also raised. While speeds were reasonable in the village centre, limits were often ignored towards the perimeter. Inspector Allan said that traffic division priority was given to the main roads, which were statistically much more dangerous, and there simply were not the resources available to have frequent speed traps in villages.

Mention was also made of large vans parking outside Kirkstyle Garage, blocking motorists' view, contractors vans parking on the pavement, and the dangerous design of the Broomhill roundabout, where the sight line was completely blocked by an artificial hump. Inspector Allan took note of the former items, but said that Bear Scotland would not remove the hump, although measures were being taken to slow down traffic approaching from the west.

3. Minute of Last Meeting

The Minute of meeting held on Thursday 28th February 2002 was adopted.

Proposed: Mrs S Milton Seconded: Mrs M Wainman

4. Matters Arising from Last Minute

a. Jubilee Celebrations

Mrs Newberry said that confirmation had been given that Paradise Road and Church Lane could be closed for a street party on 1st June. There would be a mini fair in the afternoon, mainly for the children, a disco, and a beer tent. In the evening there would be less formal entertainment, but there would be a disco and a pop idol contest.

b. Aberdeenshire Local Plans

A special meeting of the Garioch Committee was due to be held on 9th April to discuss the local plan. Cllr Saluja thought that the Parkhill site was no longer being considered for development, and Cllr Leitch said that he would press for Kemnay not to be nominated as a settlement area. It was likely that consideration would be given to development of the Kirkstyle and Milton Meadows sites only.

Dr Piggins commented that all these matters had been considered in June 2000, and he could not understand why sites not included then were being raised now. The Community Council had still not received the promised response to the comments made in 2000.

c. Waste Disposal and Recycling

Dr Piggins said that a consultation document was circulating, although it was looking for, rather than offering, solutions to the problem. Aberdeenshire has to reduce its landfill requirements, and the solution had to be to recycle more rubbish. Cllr Leitch said that the report in the press about collections being reduced to fortnightly was an over simplification; in fact the idea would be to have weekly collections, but every other one would be for recyclable rubbish. It was suggested that a bin for plastic should be added to the present ones in the car park, however Cllr Leitch said that there was not space. He would, however, investigate.

It was also agreed to invite Mr George Niblick to a meeting to brief the Council on the waste disposal problem.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils

There was nothing further to report.

6. New Business

a. Association of Scottish Community Councils Postal Ballot

Dr Piggins said that there were two candidates standing for election to represent our area, Mr Stewart Scott (St Cyrus) and Mr Allan Stewart (West Garioch). It was agreed to vote for Mr Stewart.

7. Garioch Area Community Council Forum

The Area Committee Top Up Budget had been doubled from £15,000 to £30,000. £14,700 out of £15,000 had been spent this year.

An initiative to co-ordinate the websites of all communities in Aberdeenshire was in hand. Mrs Wainman said that Isabel Herron did most of the work on the present site, and it was agreed that she should be asked to attend the co-ordination meeting. The current site can be found on www.kemnay.org.uk.

The Forum had agreed to write to the Scottish Executive complaining that the grant awards system worked to the disadvantage of Aberdeenshire.

The proposals for modifying local government had been discussed. In particular, the scrutiny system seemed to be weak in that it was not fortified by external members. It was also felt that community councils should be allowed greater influence over the decision taking process, rather than just being one amongst many groups consulted.

8. Report from the Safety Group.

The Inverurie skate board park was now operating successfully.

There were problems with school children jay walking in Inverurie, and also spreading litter. A voucher system was being introduced to encourage them to use the waste bins.

£500 was being donated towards car and motor cycle training for 17-24 year olds.

A website was being set up for the safety group, with each area having its own page.

The emergency information refrigerator pots had now been ordered.

Concern was expressed about the new roundabout at Midmill, the layout of which was felt to be dangerous for Kemnay traffic. Cllr Leitch undertook to investigate this, and the Community Council would also write to the Safety Group.

9. Aberdeenshire News

Cllr Leitch said that there was a good deal going on, much of it to do with the new care regulations, and working with children. A carers' course was being held at Kemnay Academy, and Aberdeenshire was the only Council with a budget devolved to care managers.

The Commercial Operations Committee was to be replaced by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, which would have 12 members and have considerable authority.

Woodhill House was to be refurbished, and the spare space let. Mr Davies asked how much Aberdeenshire had paid for Woodhill House. Cllr Leitch said that he would check if this information was in the public domain, and if it was would give details.

Clr Saluja reported that he had been nominated to serve on a prestigious national police information technology committee with a budget of £2.5bn over 15 years. Most meetings would be in London.

10. Planning Applications

There were no contentious planning applications, other than an application from Aggregate Industries to excavate sand and gravel from a site near Dalmadilly. It was felt that they had always acted responsibly with regard to community matters in the past, and no objection should be submitted.

11. Correspondence

Information from Postwatch, NHS, the Community Care Plan, Forestry Strategy, and The Network and SEPA news sheets were being circulated.

Details of winter gritter routes had been received. The Castle Fraser road remained off the Priority 1 list.

There were to be workshops on Forest Strategy in Ellon, Huntly and Aboyne, but no one was able to attend.

A questionnaire on parks maintenance (Best Value Review of Landscape Services) had been received, and Mrs Newberry volunteered to complete it.

12. Any Other Business

a. Allotments

Mrs Wainman said that there were about six allotments near the quarry, but partly due to vandalism, they had mostly been abandoned. The Community Council were generally unaware of their existence, and thought it possible that this ignorance could extend to the rest of the community. It was agreed to advertise their existence in the newsletter.

It was also agreed to ask Mr Tim McKay if there was any chance of pupils being introduced to gardening at the Academy.

b. Kemnay Youth Survey Group

A survey on the youth of today, to find out their view on the provision for young people in Kemnay, had been carried out, and the group wished to present their findings to the Community Council. It was agreed to invite them to the May meeting.

c. Institute of Management Seminar

The Institute of Management was holding a seminar on transport in the north east at Thainstone on Thursday 4th April. Mr Findlater and Dr Piggins volunteered to attend.

d. Pavement in Station Road

It was reported that the pavement in Station Road between Littlewood Court and Alldays was very uneven, posing a hazard to the elderly or infirm. Aberdeenshire Council would be informed.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25th April 2002 at 7.00 pm in the Police Headquarters, Inverurie.