

**MINUTES OF MEETING**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall**Present:** Gaenor Berkin(Vice Chair); Fran Patrick(Secretary); John Whittall(Treasurer); Margaret Basley; Sue Wainman; David Carlin**Attending:** 1 member of the public; Lorna Forsyth (CLD); Ken Ledingham (Kembhill Park Flood Group); Cllr Smith**Apologies:** Bill Blackwood; Marie Glendinning; Claire Stewart; Cllr Leslie;

- 1 **WELCOME & APOLOGIES** - The Chair welcomed those attending, and apologies were given as above.
- 2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST/AUDIO RECORDINGS** - There were no declarations of interest/audio recordings.
- 3 **MINUTES OF MEETING 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019** - Minutes of Meeting as previously circulated were proposed as accurate.  
Proposed by J Whittall and seconded by S Wainman.
- 4 **POLICE MATTERS** – No representative from the police attended, but a report had been received prior to the meeting from Inspector Bruce. Encouraging to see that crime in Kemnay has decreased in the past month.
- 5 **KEMNAY ACADEMY PUPIL REPORT** – No representative present.
- 6 **GUEST SPEAKERS** – Lorna Forsyth, Community Learning & Development: Went through the Organisational Health Check with KCC, which helped identify the council's strengths and areas for development. There was some discussion on how to engage more with the community and increase membership of the council, also the need to publicise better the successes and achievements of the council. Lorna suggested the KCC might join with other groups at events in order to reach out to the wider community, but will return at a later date with some more ideas on these areas. (**Action:** L Forsyth to contact KCC to organise a return visit.)
- 7 **KEMNAY RESILIENCE** – Ken Ledingham from KPFG was present and presented a pack of documentation detailing the latest updates on flood risk planning and developments: National Flood Risk Assessment maps; SEPA map showing the Kemnay risk designations & an outline of how SEPA arrived at their conclusions; list of all PVAs in Aberdeenshire; SEPA map showing potential flooding from River Don; Scottish Govt. report on flood prevention; report to Aberdeenshire Council Infrastructure Services, giving the current information on what AC and SEPA have been doing during the 2016-2022 cycle & how AC prioritises flood protection and planning (£15000 has been allocated annually for the Watergate barrier contractor); a history of the Alehousewells development.  
A copy of his pack of documents and maps was given to KCC, to be held by the Secretary. There has been a query to SEPA with regard to the different risk assessments of various locations in Kemnay. However, it appears that now Kemnay is a designated PVA, all areas are to be treated equally, consequently all areas should be given the same priority by Aberdeenshire Council in the event of flooding.  
The water monitoring gauge at Alford can have its polling frequency increased when the river level is likely to cause concern as at the moment it is only polling once every eight hours.  
Ken Ledingham has met with Cllr Leslie and brought him up to speed with the situation in Kemnay and related issues.  
The pollution in the River Don is weathered diesel oil. There is information on this in the Newsletter.
- 8 **OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK** – There are still issues with cars parking on the pavement on Station Road, causing real problems for pavement users, particularly for those with mobility problems. Double yellow lines have been requested, but it was acknowledged that enforcement will remain an issue. It seems there has been resistance from some people to getting the situation resolved, which has caused some disappointment and conflict.  
Parking issues around the village were then discussed. Cllr Smith stated that Aberdeenshire Council is looking to de-criminalise parking, when parking infringements would become the responsibility of the council rather than the police. But this could take some time to go through. In the meantime, complaints should continue to be passed to the police. (**Action:** F Patrick to contact Inspector Bruce and inform him of the ongoing problems re illegal parking in Kemnay.)

## 9 MATTERS ARISING

a) KCC membership & status; election – Aberdeenshire Area Office has now been informed of the full list of KCC councillors and their status has been confirmed (8 Full, 1 Co-opted, 1 Associate, with 1 Full resignation and 6 Full vacancies). There followed some discussion on the official procedure re the calling of an interim election. As one Full member has resigned during the session, this triggers the requirement to find a replacement, either by election or co-option (cf Scheme of Establishment, 7.4b), although KCC's own Constitution makes no mention of the co-option option (cf KCC Constitution 4.4c). The Area Office has set this process in motion, but many members felt this was for the Community Council to do and to choose which route to take to fill the vacancy. F Patrick has contacted Alison Cumming at Area Office for further clarification on this and is awaiting a response.

It was finally decided that, since the election process had already been set in motion, with an election date agreed for Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, KCC might as well use this as an opportunity to try to fill all 5 vacancies, all the while acknowledging some concern with Area Office's interpretation of the Scheme of Establishment. (**Action:** F Patrick to contact A Cumming about getting an advert in next month's Newsletter and will see that posters, etc. are put up around the village.)

It was also suggested that KCC could perhaps be more proactive in the recruitment of new members, reaching out to other local groups, for example.

b) Calor Gas Awards – An advert is to be put in the Newsletter about Calor's Rural Community Fund. (**Action:** F Patrick to place advert in Newsletter.)

c) New format for summary of Minutes in Newsletter – In the light of feed-back from a Kemnay resident and following discussion at a recent forum re how to reach out to the wider community, a new and hopefully clearer format is being trialled. Any feed-back and/or suggestions would be appreciated.

d) Participation Request Workshop feedback – The Participation Request procedure is a useful tool if a community council were to identify a public service (eg. hospitals, schools, transport) that it feels could be improved in some way. This forms part of the Community Empowerment Act, which 'gives people the new right to have their say about what improvements they would like to see to the public services they use'.

10 **TREASURER REPORT & DONATIONS RECEIVED** – No new money added to any of the accounts; usual payments made.

11 **PLANNING MATTERS AND APPLICATIONS** – G Berkin attended the Aberdeenshire Council planning event in Inverurie and spoke to the Head Planner re Birley Bush, the need to preserve the kame (from which it is thought Kemnay gets its name), and the Scout hut. On his advice, a letter has been written to Aberdeenshire Council about the need for a new Scout hut, which will get it added to the Vision Statement for Kemnay, part of the Local Development Plan process. Steve Young, 1<sup>st</sup> Kemnay Scout Leader, has been informed of this.

A letter has also been written about the plans for the former toilet block in the car park opposite the Village Hall, expressing concern over the additional pressure on parking in the village it may cause and also concern about access for deliveries, etc.

An e-mail is also to be sent to Anthony Robertson at Infrastructure Services, Aberdeenshire Council, supporting the proposed bike racks in the car park, but also suggesting an alternative location within the car park to the one suggested. (**Action:** F Patrick to send the relevant information to G Berkin, who will then send an e-mail to Anthony Robertson.)

## 12 REPORTS –

a) Defibrillators (PADs) - The account is very healthy, so funds are available for replacement equipment. It seems the alarm is not working in the defibrillator box at KVH. (**Action:** F Patrick to contact K Stewart.)

b) Safety Group - Minutes have been circulated

c) Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF) - The Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan was discussed; the state of the path at Place of Origin was raised as it is designated a Core Path, so two people should be able to walk side by side; there will be a 'light touch' review of the Scheme of Establishment and community council elections were also discussed; the annual Networking Event will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

d) Community Planning – A meeting to review the Kemnay Futures Action Plan has been held. A lot of progress has been made, but more work is to be done on Place of Origin, a report on which is being written for the Newsletter. It was noted that there is both Aberdeenshire Council and volunteer work going on in the village to decrease isolation.

e) Greener Kemnay – People are encouraged to comment on the Main Issues report, which shows all of the Birley Bush Depot site as earmarked for housing – there will be a report on this in the Newsletter. GK has made their first venture into collective buying, making a saving for the members and giving a donation towards work on the site.

f) Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP) - No report.

g) KAPC – No report.

h) Press Reports – A ‘flashback’ article on a 1979 winning photo of Bennachie; a very good inspection report of Alehousewells School nursery.

**13 ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS** - Cllr Smith – Both primary schools are to have extensions; the planning application for housing at the top of Bremner Way has been recommended for refusal; the dangerous tree on Bremner Way due to be felled has, in fact, only been pruned, so this is still an ongoing issue; Garioch Area Committee pop-up grants – funding is to be made available for LED Christmas lights; the collection point for the seasonal (April-November, Saturdays, 8am-11am) garden waste scheme is the Birley Bush Depot.

**14 CORRESPONDENCE**

**a) Correspondence from the Council** - was circulated prior to the meeting.

-Information on the Connel Community Council liability case.

-Information on Resilient Community workshops being organised by Scarf.

-Animal Health and Welfare Act Amendment consultation.

-Proposed Off Street Parking Order 2019 Public Consultation.

-Updated Service Contacts for Community Councils in the Garioch Area.

**b) General Correspondence Received** - was circulated prior to the meeting.

**15 OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** - an application for funding has been made for the Kemnay Art Project; the second edition of the Kemnay walking map is at the design stage and Kemnay will be included in the next edition of treasure trail maps in Aberdeenshire – this is collaborative work involving Greener Kemnay, Positive Steps and Aberdeenshire Council; a planned meeting with Ian Mitchell of Landscape Services to discuss the planting of permanent trees at either end of the village had to be postponed, however the application to the Garioch Local Planning Fund for funding for a Christmas event has been successful; a Court of Session decision has been made re the legal status of community councils, which clarifies that no individual councillor can be held liable for any incident/accident associated with CC business, the community council is seen as an entity – however, CCs do need to check their insurance cover carefully if they organise any events.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 7.30 pm, The Friendship Room, Kemnay Village Hall. All members of the public welcome – Agenda will be available on the KCC website <http://www.kemnay.info/>