

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE MEETING ON

30th NOVEMBER 2006 AT 7.30PM IN THE KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Bill Blackwood, David Evans, Annie Ferries, Chris Hunneyball, Susan Milton, Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley, Jim Piggins, Paul Smart, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: David Fyffe, John Whittall, Sean Young, Lesley McKinlay, Peter Gedge.

Apologies: Alexandra Burnett, Pat Findlater, Neil Johnson, Cllr Alister Leitch.

1. Introduction

Chris opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He said that David Fyffe had joined the meeting this evening, and would give a short presentation on plans for the future of the Fetternear Estate after we had covered police matters.

2. Fetternear Estate

David Fyffe gave a brief presentation on the plans for the Fetternear Estate. They were keen to preserve the Bishop's Palace, prevent further deterioration of the stable block, and improve the facilities for visitors and residents. To do this they needed to raise capital, and thought was being given to some residential development and also turning the stable block into a centre for residential and other courses and activities. This could incorporate a leisure and fitness centre with a swimming pool. They plan to hold an open meeting on 22nd January to sound out village opinion, and would also be distributing a questionnaire.

3. Minute of the Meeting held on 26th October 2006.

This was approved subject to A92 in Para 13 being amended to read A96, and the inclusion of the lists of those present and attending. These were:

Present: Chris Hunneyball, Neil Johnson, Mavis Wainman, David Evans, Bill Blackwood, Susan Milton, Ian Wakly, Hazel Al-Kowarri, Eric Pashley, Paul Smart, Annie Ferries Janet Newberry.

Attending: Cllr Alister Leitch.

Proposed by David Evans Seconded by Bill Blackwood

4. Question Time

Sean Young raised the problem of cars, and particularly vans, speeding in Milton Drive, where there were grassy areas used by children at play. He suggested that a 20 mph limit should be imposed. It was pointed out that experience indicated this would only be effective if speed cushions were built, and he was happy with this. The Community Council agreed that this request would be put to Aberdeenshire Council.

5. Matters Arising from Minute

a. Postcom Consultation. The consultation on post collection and delivery times was discussed. In general it was felt that the last collection should be towards the end of the afternoon, and deliveries in the morning. Consistency of timing was important, and if the service was to be downgraded prices should also be reduced. Chris agreed to make a formal response.

b. Bus Ticket Agent. Chris had spoken to Ken Manson who supported the idea of the Post Office becoming an agent for Stagecoach tickets. Stagecoach were pleased and will pursue the matter.

c. Planning Applications. The Newsletter had received a letter from a resident near the quarry who was unhappy that the Community Council had not commented on the application by Aggregate Industries to extract sand and gravel. The reply, to be published, will point out that planning applications are posted on the village notice board, details of Community Council meetings are published in the Newsletter, and anyone is welcome to come and attend them to express their views.

6. Planning Applications

An application to provide a disabled access to the Library was discussed as it was felt that the proposed solution was unnecessarily complicated. It was agreed that David Evans, Eric Pashley and Chris Hunneyball would have a look at the building and suggest an alternative plan if it seemed to be feasible.

Other proposals were not contentious. The possibility of having a footpath in front of the house opposite the village hall was discussed, but agreed to be a separate issue.

A modified plan for the development at Bridgend had been submitted, though not yet seen. It was agreed that David Evans and Chris Hunneyball would look at the plan and put in an objection if our original concerns had not been resolved. They would keep Community Councillors informed, who could then call for a meeting if they felt it necessary.

7. Report from the Safety Group Representative.

Pat Findlater had submitted a report following the meeting of the Safety Group on 7th November 2006.

Westhill Kids Club.

Chairman read a letter received from Westhill Kids Club — a non profit making school group for children 5 —15 years. They requested assistance with funding to supply (48) either vests, wrist bands, bibs, caps etc.

Discussions held regarding this items and agreed the only safety equipment coming under our heading of Road Safety was safety vests.

A further request had been received from Westhill Play Group requesting assistance with funding for 30 children's safety vests, The approximate cost per vest £3 .55 + vat.

A96 Road Campaign.

Suggested by Chairman that a petition be placed on the website regarding the safety of A96. Also suggested a questionnaire, for members approval for the website.

Safe Driving.

Three projects are being held in Banff, Turriff, and Banchory regarding safe driving. Young people in Alford would be the first target. It is a 30 hour project and can be set up on road safety, car maintenance, engines, how to get your licence, general safety etc. The last part of the test would be on general driving and off road driving.

The 30 hours can be undertaken in blocks and is aimed at non school persons aged 16 — 25.

8. Report from Community Learning and Development Representative

Jim Piggins had not been able to attend the last meeting, but said that Tony Whitehead had left.

9. Garioch Area Community Council Forum

Not a great deal came out of the meeting held on 2nd November. One of the main topics was the relationship with and future of the ASCC. No notification of the changes to the Council had been received. It was agreed to do nothing for the time being but, if no information was forthcoming we would, in due course, ask how we can be represented.

The Finance Briefing was held on 27th November. Alan Campbell spoke about the general problems facing Aberdeenshire which was one of the faster growing areas in Scotland, although demographics were not on its side. Over the next twenty years it was predicted to have the highest rate of growth of elderly people (+58%), and the lowest of children (-15%), in Scotland, and although the central grant was enhanced depending on the number of young people, it was not increased for older people who actually needed more support. There was some discussion about the next elections, but nothing new came out.

Charles Armstrong spoke about the budget which was under pressure, but he did not make any forecasts for next year.

The Area Managers briefed on their Local Plans, looking back and forward. Mavis made the point that house styles were becoming increasingly boring and inappropriate, and put in a plea for more vernacular styles.

A new "Customer Service Centre" had just been opened and worked without having to press half a dozen buttons before one could speak to a human. An emergency number card had been produced and the numbers would be included in the new Yellow Book.

Annie Ferries had found the brief very interesting, and thought that all Community Councillors should make a point of attending one.

10. New Business

a. Young People's Meeting. Chris had again spoken to the Rector who remained behind the initiative. Chris said that we should discuss the agenda for this meeting in January.

b. Knackery Visit. The knackery would be reopening under the auspices of the Oran Group. It is being completely stripped and refurbished and the Community Council had been invited to a discussion about the future of the plant on 24th January. Chris, Pat, Susan, Annie and Eric would attend.

11. Unfinished Business

a. Place of Origin Opening. Chris reported that the opening had gone extremely well, and the Duke of Kent gave every impression of enjoying himself. He had had letters of thanks from the Palace and several other individuals. After allowing for various other contributions the cost to the Community Council came to just under £400, which seemed very reasonable considering what had been achieved. He thanked Aberdeenshire Council for their financial contribution, the Police for loaning a piper, the Church Centre for the catering, and the artists for the whole concept and execution.

b. Christmas Lights. After we had bought the lights Chris had been told that the Council would not approve ones with a voltage higher than 24v. The lights had therefore to be returned and low voltage ones bought at an extra cost of £120. The council agreed to approve this expenditure. The trees would be erected ten days to two weeks before Christmas; Jim, Eric, Bill and Chris volunteered to help.

Aberdeenshire Council was thanked for their contribution towards the cost and for putting in the stands.

12. AOCB

a. Jim said that he had received a massive report on Local Government Financing following an earlier consultation. The key recommendation was that financing should be based on a tax linked to house values, which sounded just like the old domestic rates.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 25th January 2007