

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2008 AT 7.30 PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, David Evans, Annie Ferries, Pat Findlater, Susan Milton, Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley, Jim Piggins, Alex Thomas, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Cllr Allison Grant, Jackie Coull, Malcolm Edwards, Alan Elphinstone, Stuart Mess, Andrew Radcliffe. Louie Rae, Elizabeth Ross, Alistair Stephen, Christine Stephen, Graham Stephen, Marion Stephen.

1. Apologies: Neil Johnson, Paul Smart, Cllr Sheena Lonchay.

2. Welcome: Chris Hunneyball welcomed those present, and in particular the large public attendance.

3. Police Matters: There being no police presence due to reorganisation, there was no report.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting

held on 29 November 2007 was proposed by Mavis Wainman, seconded by Annie Ferries and unanimously approved.

5. Question Time: All the members of the public were present to discuss the conservation area.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a) Christmas Trees: One act of vandalism had occurred to the tree near the War Memorial when the covers for the bulbs had been removed. Thanks were expressed to Graeme MacDonald, of Bon Accord Landscapes, who had felled and erected the trees without charge, and to the Forestry Commission who had provided them. Bill Blackwood proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, who had arranged the whole operation, and this was unanimously approved.

b) Goal Posts: There was still no progress. The chairman had contacted the council, to ask that the new goalposts replace those already on the Green; but had received no reply. Cllr. Al-Kowarri agreed to pursue the matter.

c) Waste Container Collection: In view of the fact that there seemed to be no concern about containers being at times left overnight by the Pleasure Park, it was agreed to pursue this no further.

7. Aberdeenshire News: Cllr. Al-Kowarri stated that the football pitch on Bremner way was being drained. She also noted that there might be money available for Christmas lights at the end of the financial year in this year only, but it would have to be applied for.

8. Planning Matters and Applications:

a) Current Applications: There were no contentious applications. There was some discussion about the application to install a soft play area in the basement of Sidelines. but it was agreed that any Health and Safety concerns would be addressed by Aberdeenshire Council.

b) Impact of Bogbeth Road Development: There was some discussion of the impact of the Bogbeth Road development on schools and the GP practice. Councillor Al-Kowarri stated that she had been unable to establish where the planning gain was to be utilised, but it was generally agreed that it would not be

sufficient to make a useful difference to the school or GP situation. She had been told that Strategic Plannino, would have considered the matter. It was agreed to apply under the Freedom of Information Act for information about the use of the planning gain. Cllrs Al-Kowarri and Grant were also to try to obtain more information.

9. Community Planning: The Chairman had attended the Area meeting. He reported that the criteria for the Shell awards were less stringent than had been thought. The Police force was undergoing reorganisation.

10. Christmas Lights Sub-Committee: There had been no meeting, but donations of £5 from a pensioner and £300 from the TRAK bingo sessions had been received. Cllr Al-Kowarri agreed to deliver the cheques to the treasurer. It was established that this money would be separately accounted for. It was agreed to apply for a grant under the terms mentioned by Cllr Al-Kowarri in item 7. should such be available.

11. Report from Safety Group representative: There having been no meeting, there was no report.

12. Report from Community Learning and Development Representative: There having been no meeting, there was no report.

13. New Business: There was no new business.

14. Unfinished Business:

a) Conservation Area: There was some frank discussion on this topic, during which the reasons for considering applying for conservation area status were aired and several objections considered. There was considerable input from members of the public attending the meeting, many of whom felt that the presence of a conservation area would unduly restrict their freedom while not necessarily achieving the desired objective. A motion to abandon the idea of seeking conservation status was proposed by Eric Pashley, seconded by Margaret Christie and supported by five members of the community council. A counter-motion to organise a public meeting was proposed by Bill Blackwood, seconded by Alex Thomas and supported by three members. It was agreed, therefore, not to continue with the process of applying for conservation area status.

b) Handrail at Boat Croft: The developer had refused to finance the handrail. Cllr. Al-Kowarri was to establish whether a grant might be available.

15. Correspondence:

a) Budget Briefings: These had been received from Aberdeenshire Council, but contained little new information.

b) Community-owned shops and post offices: The council considered this not relevant to Kemnay.

c) Induction Training: Five members of the Community Council agreed to undertake induction training.

d) Area Forum Minute of 1 November 2007: This had been discussed at the November meeting.

e) Parliamentary Report: The contents were noted.

f) The Network: The contents were noted.

g) Aberdeenshire Design Awards: It was agreed to make an application for an award for the Place of Origin.

h) Aberdeenshire Local Access Forum: This had been previously circulated. since applications to become a member of the forum had to be submitted in January.

i) Annual Public Performance Report: There was some discussion of the disappointing waste recycling and composting figures contained in the report.

16. AOCB: Reference was made to the high cost of vandalism in schools. following an article in the "Press and Journal-. It was pointed out that vandalism in Kemnay had been decreasing. A seminar on 'Strengthening Scotland's Communities' was to be held in Aberdeen in March. Three members of the council agreed in principle to attend.