

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY 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, Jim Piggins, Paul Smart, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Cllr Allison Grant, John Auld, Derek Coulson, Ronnie MacArthur.

1 Apologies: Neil Johnson, Alex Thomas, Ian Wakley.

2 Welcome: Chris Hunneyball welcomed those present, and in particular Hazel Al-Kowarri, in her role as Aberdeenshire Councillor, and Cllr Allison Grant.

3 Election of Chairman: The council applauded Chris Hunneyball's decision to continue as Chairman in view of the many messages of support he had received.

4 Police Matters: No police representative was present, but members noted that parking tickets had been issued in the village and speeding had been monitored on the road to Kintore in recent weeks. Residents in Bremner Way had complained about speeding by heavy lorries and buses, but the council was assured that the police were already aware of such complaints.

5 The Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April was proposed by Susan Milton, seconded by Paul Smart and unanimously approved.

6 Question Time: John Auld raised the matter of the sand extraction site at Dalmadilly. The contractors do not now intend to restore the site to its original state, and would like input from the community about proposals to use the water-filled quarry and the area around it as a wildlife or amenity area or as a fishery. Janet Newberry spoke in favour of a fishery, which she said had been a successful use of other extraction sites, but suggested that the matter be published in the Newsletter, for the information of the wider community. Jim Piggins pointed out that a water-filled hole of uniform depth would not be attractive to wildlife, and suggested that the bottom could be contoured. Paul Smart enquired who would provide stock if the quarry was to be used as a fishery. There was a suggestion that money might be available from the Scottish Office. David Evans was concerned about the safety aspect of the proposal, and Cllr Al-Kowarri considered that nearby residents ought to be consulted. Mavis Wainman suggested that the contractors be invited to a meeting of the Community Council, and that the public be notified and invited to come along. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Council to establish what their position was in the matter, since the original planning permission had stipulated the restoration of the site to its original state.

7 Matters arising from the Minutes:

a. Local Community Health Partnership: There was no report as the Chairman had been unable to attend the meeting and had not received the papers, which had been requested.

b. Litter: Jack Clark of Aberdeenshire Council had claimed not to have received the Chairman's earlier letter which had requested waste bins at selected locations in Kemnay. He had sent another copy. It had been established that the Council were responsible for the skate park.

c. GACCF Office Bearer nominations: Newmachar had nominated Chris Hunneyball as Chairman but there had been no other nominations.

d. Friends of the Earth Planning Training: No-one volunteered to attend.

e. City and Shire Structure Plan: This meeting, held in Kintore on 9th May was very poorly attended, with five Kemnay residents making up over half the audience. The options which had been previously suggested

were explored further, and a feel for timescale was sought. The general feeling at this meeting was that development should be concentrated in the city, and in defined corridors in Aberdeenshire. The A96 out to Inch was a popular choice, with enhancements being made to the railway to make commuting easier. With respect to timescale, the view was that the release of land should tend to be front loaded, that is, making more of the attractive land available earlier rather than in later years. The example quoted was Banchory vis à vis Peterhead.

8 Aberdeenshire News: Cllr Al-Kowarri noted that applications were being sought for Village Orderlies for the months of June to September. The two Councillors present declared their intention of holding surgeries on the basis of one month at Kemnay, followed by the next month at Inch. The first was to be held in Kemnay Academy on 12th June 2007 from 7.30 – 8.30. Both Councillors would be in attendance along with Sheena Lonchay, the third councillor for West Garioch. The meeting was also informed that planning permission had been granted for a coffee shop in High Street.

9 Planning Applications:

a. Aquithie Road appeal by Barratts (Lawrence's old site): The meeting was generally not in favour of this development, since the site had been zoned for a new Medical Centre, and was the only industrial site other than the quarry in Kemnay. It was agreed that Chris Hunneyball and David Evans would represent the Community Council at the appeal.

b. Bogbeth development: Annie Ferries declared an interest in this application and withdrew from the meeting. The general feeling was that the submission appeared much improved. The Community Council would write to suggest the provision of a parking lane along the Bogbeth Road boundary of the development, which might ease the problem of vehicles blocking access by lorries, agricultural vehicles and emergency services.

10 Youth Café Sub-Committee. Two meetings had been held this month. Reservations were expressed about the long term implications of forming a charitable group to raise funds, but the OSCR had been consulted and it would appear to be feasible to form a charity with limited aims, which could then be allowed to lapse when its aims had been achieved. Chris Hunneyball, Jim Piggins, Janet Newberry, Bill Blackwood and Neil Johnston have agreed to be the directors for the initial application, with Naida Sneddon and Hazel Al-Kowarri attending in an ex officio role. It was hoped to have a draft constitution ready for the next meeting in two weeks time.

11 Christmas Lights Sub-Committee: No meetings had been held.

12 Report from Safety Group representative: 100 Fluorescent Safety Vests had been purchased at a cost of £4.50 each, and were to be made available to pupils at the nominal cost of £1. ROSPA booklets were to be made available to pupils in Kemnay. A Community Stroke Awareness Day was to be held. Four Kemnay pupils had been chosen for the Pass Plus Scheme and were to find instructors who would be willing to administer the test.

13 Report from Community Learning and Development Representative: At the recent meeting of the group there had been considerable discussion about the increase in charges for evening activities. The situation had been made worse by the announcement that tutors on such activities were now to be paid at the same rate as swimming-pool supervisors, that is, £9 per hour rather than the £15 per hour which they had previously been paid.

14 New Business:

a. Complaint from Bremner Way residents: Residents were still concerned about the noise of a cockerel coming from the garden of one resident. The cockerel was kept inside, but was still very audible as soon as it was light. The matter had been referred to Aberdeenshire Council but the community council agreed that they would offer the residents any support they could.

b. Traffic Arrangements for events at Pleasure Park. The football tournament on 19th May 2007 had been a most successful event, and had brought a great number of people to the village. Unfortunately, it had also caused chaos, as the many visitors had been unable to find anywhere to park, and had left their cars on communal grass, on paths and on double yellow lines. Bogbeth Road had been totally blocked near to the skatepark, such that the milk collection vehicle had been unable to get to farms to pick up their milk. Emergency vehicles would have been equally unable to get through to farms and cottages in Bogbeth Road. It was appreciated that the organisers had made enquiries about the possibility of using a field as a car park, but that none was available. Mavis Wainman pointed out that the event had originally been held at the school, but that it had become too expensive. Annie Ferries suggested re-routing through traffic by the B993 and the Quarry Road, to avoid the critical area. There was general consensus that more parking could be provided along the edge of the Pleasure Park. The Chairman agreed to write to the organisers of the event, suggesting parking marshals, to the police, suggesting that a police presence might have been helpful, and to Aberdeenshire Council, suggesting that more parking was required in the vicinity of the Pleasure Park.

15 Unfinished Business:

Handrail for Boat Croft: This matter appeared to have “got lost” . Cllr Al-Kowarri agreed to pursue it.

16 Correspondence:

a. Community Planning Executive Representative appointment: Isabel Page of Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot Community Council has been elected as the member to sit on the Community Planning Executive. She has sent out a report, following the meeting on 9th May, which can be made available to those who wish to see it. Robin Blyth has sent a report of the Board meeting of 7th March, and this is also available to those who would like a copy.

b. Community Planning Executive Report 9th May 2007: There was information available from this report to indicate that Shell had funded a number of youth projects in the North East. This might be of interest to members of the Youth Café sub-committee.

c. Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils: This had been received. The model orders contained therein seemed to be overly complicated and restrictive for use by Community Councils and so were unlikely to be used, which meant that Community Councils would continue to use existing practices. This matter will be raised at the Area Forum.

d. Recycling and Waste Issues: The Senior Waste Officer for South Aberdeenshire had written introducing himself and offering to speak to interested groups in the area. He was to be invited to speak to the community council, and members of the public would be encouraged to attend.

17 AOCB

a. Kemnay School Garden: Jim Piggins drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that this project, which had been vandalised and neglected of late, had been revived by a group led by Mrs Pashley. Volunteers were invited to assist on the night following the meeting.

b. Rubbish Collection: Susan Milton was concerned that elderly residents on the south side of Paradise Road had been told to wheel their bins across the road for collection. It was decided to advise them to ignore such instructions.

c. Resignation of Treasurer. Hazel Al-Kowarri intimated her resignation as a member of the community council and as its Treasurer because she was now an Aberdeenshire Councillor. Chris Hunneyball proposed and Jim Piggins seconded the appointment of Janet Newberry as Treasurer, and Susan Milton proposed and

Paul Smart seconded the co-option of Margaret Christie as a full member of the council. Both proposals were unanimously agreed.

18 Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting was to be held on Thursday 28th June 2007 at 7.30 pm.