

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2013

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Margaret Basley, Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, David Evans, Annie Ferries, Bob Ingram, Douglas Laing, Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley, Kate Rigby.

Attending: Alison Cumming, Cllr Allison Grant, Cllr Patricia Oddie, Vaila Spencer.

- 1. Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed those present, in particular Alison Cumming from Aberdeenshire Council.
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Sammy Dey, John Hern, Fraser Lamb, Sheila Simpson, Cllr Sheena Lonchay.
- 3. Police Matters:** There was no police presence and no report, but the Chairman drew the meeting's attention to a recent spate of lock-snapping elsewhere and suggested that members take note. [Note: a police report was supplied after the meeting.]
- 4. Opportunity for Members of the Public to speak:** Ms Spencer intimated that she wished to speak under item 9.
- 5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2013 was proposed by Bob Ingram, seconded by Eric Pashley and approved unanimously.
- 6. Matters Arising from Minutes:**
 - a) Mavis Wainman Memorial:** The design had yet to be provided. It had been promised for the next day. It was agreed that it should be photographed and sent round members for approval. [Note: a design was subsequently provided.]
 - b) Public Toilets:** The Council was to be reconsidering the Aquithie Road toilets. The possibility of running them as Community Toilets was discussed.
 - c) Kemnay Website:** A newsletter article was to ask for volunteers to set this up. The editor of the newsletter intimated that this could be inserted in the October edition.
 - d) Road Surfacing:** A fault with the chipping distribution had been acknowledged by Aberdeenshire Council who had arranged for the excess chippings to be swept up.
 - e) Bird Hides:** Breedon Aggregates had not supplied a contact for the Mill Farm Development. It was hoped that one would be provided in early course, so that the matter of the locked bird hides could be addressed.
- 7. Planning Matters and Applications:** There was nothing controversial among the planning applications. Consultation would be opened shortly on the Local Development Plan. It was agreed that Kemnay might wish to ask for an extension of time to produce a response.
- 8. East Garioch Community Council:** The allocation of sections of the East Garioch area had not yet been finalised. When this was complete, funds would be split among the new areas. The electoral rolls would be changed to reflect the new division. Kemnay might be able to co-opt a member from that part of the East Garioch area assigned to it. Alison Cumming agreed to contact the Chairman of East Garioch Community Council to this end.
- 9. Kemnay Primary Parent Council:** Ms Spenser pointed out that since the death of Jim Piggins, the Kemnay Primary Parent Council no longer had a member who represented the Community Council. Bob Ingram agreed to serve as the relevant co-opted member.
- 10. Reports:**
 - a) Safety Group:** RoSPA Home Safety booklets had been ordered and distribution to S1 and S2 pupils at Kemnay Academy would take place the following month. A letter had been sent to all area MSPs regarding the discontinuation of Road Safety Education by Police Scotland. Several MSPs had responded and advised they would be questioning Police Scotland about the policy change. Talks were in place regarding the appointment of a Road Safety Education Team within Aberdeenshire Council, although a budget was not in place for this. Aberdeenshire Council had received a grant of £20,000 to train existing members of staff to deliver Bikeability training to P6 and P7 pupils. Garioch Safety Forum was part-funding a series of adverts on local radio stations, Northsound 1 and 2, which warned drivers of the dangers of using mobile devices, such as satellite navigation systems and hands-free kits for mobile phones, whilst driving. Christine Herron, a Health Promotion Officer from the NHS, had given an interesting presentation on Alcohol and its effects on people in Aberdeenshire. Alcohol was the third greatest contributor to ill health and premature death. It was hard to find the true cost of alcohol to the NHS in Aberdeenshire but the latest estimate was £347 million. Funding had been secured to offer grants of £150 to applicants for Pass

Plus training. There were currently 17 insurance companies listed offering discounts to young drivers with a Pass Plus Certificate.

b) GACCF: The Garioch Community Council Forum met on 18 September. The meeting was in two sections. The first part was a presentation by Piers Blaxter from Aberdeenshire Council who presented an overview of the next Local Development Plan. He explained that the Main Issues Report would be published on 28 October, when it would be open for public consultation. Forty public meetings had been arranged; dates and venues would be posted on the Council website shortly. The consultation was to end at the end of January. He urged Community Councils to consider approaching him should they wish to contribute their views but required more time than that allocated. As Kemnay Community Council meets at the end of the month it might well benefit from asking for additional time to submit a response. The plan would be adopted around July 2016, after other opinions and objections had been considered. There were 17 main issues being considered ranging from climate change to housing for those with modest incomes. Aberdeenshire Council was taking seriously the public's concerns about the impact of developments on view or landscape, as well as local nature conservation. Transport issues were raised by members at the meeting. These would not be addressed in the Report but by Transport Scotland. Within the following month, local community councils would receive a pack about forthcoming meetings which would give the public an opportunity to comment. The second part of the meeting included the presentation of a list of community groups prepared by Douglas Milne; the request was made that should members know of any other groups or of groups who had disbanded but appeared on the list, then he should be contacted. A mission statement for the GACCF was presented by Sir Archibald Grant. Since the members had not had an opportunity to see it before the meeting, it was decided to discuss this at the next meeting of the group in December. An alternative produced by Chris Hunneyball, Kemnay, was read, and it too would be circulated. A decision about the adoption of parts of the East Garioch Community Council area by other Community Councils would be taken on 8 October. The group was grateful to those Community Councils who had volunteered to give their support. Consultations about the Council budget plans, and their implications for current resources would take place on 30 October. More details about venue were to follow. The next meeting would take place on 4 December when the main topic would be roads and transportation.

c) Press Report: Jim Duncan, who had worked at the Academy for seven years and at Alehousewells for the previous 30 making him one of Aberdeenshire's longest serving janitors, had retired. Kemnay Academy S1 pupils had attended a demonstration of electro-fishing by the River Don Trust. The "Green Initiative" at St Anne's Church will continue to allow those with surplus produce to operate an exchange. John Renton had retired as minister of Kemnay Parish Church.

d) Bus Forum: Attending were Steve Walker, who is the new MD for Stagecoach Northern Scotland (which includes Orkney and Shetland) and who is based in Inverness, and Bob Hall, the Commercial Director for Bluebird based in Aberdeen. Steve Walker acknowledged that there had been failings in the past but gave an upbeat assessment of changes to come, although he did acknowledge that there would still be problems. An example of change was having a spare driver and supervisor based in Inch till 1900 hrs, which should help with local problems. He had looked at the fleet and replaced many of the articulated vehicles (which appear to be the coach type buses) with low loaders for easier access. There were also network reviews to try and improve co-ordination of services, by Stagecoach and other operators (but not to the same extent with Scotrail – they are a competitor for Megabus!). Neil Stewart (Aberdeen Council) gave some background to timetable changes. These had to be submitted to the Traffic Commissioners in Edinburgh for approval 56 days in advance, and to Aberdeenshire Council 14 days before that. This had not always been done in the past, but things were now looking up. Thereafter no change was allowed for 90 days. Later, in discussion, it was asked why buses so often waited at a stop to lose time if early when everyone just wanted to get home. The reason is that the timetables for the Traffic Commissioners had to be prepared to allow for all conditions, so inevitably a worst (or, if not worst, a typically bad) scenario had to be used. Timings were checked every 15 minutes and an allowance of five minutes late or one minute early was allowed. If these limits were consistently broken swingeing fines (tens of thousands of pounds) could be imposed. The Council Transport Strategy was being reviewed and comment would be invited, probably in three to four weeks' time. The Westhill A to B service had run out of capacity, and two new contracts were being sought. Dealing with local issues, it was noted that there was a big gap in the X20 service to Aberdeen after 07.20; this was being looked at. A request was also made for a circular route Kemnay – Kintore – Inverurie – Kemnay. Comment was also made about the frequent late start of the 16.10 "420"

service from Aberdeen; this was often 10 minutes late but now and again on time so one had to be ready to board on time. A new bus shelter was requested, to be sited opposite the bowling green to cater for the Bogbeth residents who used that stop. Unfortunately the pavement was narrow so that could cause a problem. Side screens could not be added to the High Street shelter; a smaller design has had to be used as the old full size one had suffered frequent damage. Other discussion centred around local issues other than those affecting Kemnay. The next meeting would be held in March 2014, probably in the Ashvale Hall, Westhill. Transport would be provided.

e) Self-directed Support Roadshows 2013: The Self-directed Roadshow had been held at the Hopeville Club on Friday 20 September. The range of care agencies participating was impressive. A consortium of care providers, ARC Scotland, has been awarded funding by the Scottish government to build the capacity of provider organisations in predominately rural areas to work individually and collectively to develop and deliver self-directed models of support. ARC operates within four Local authority areas: Aberdeenshire, Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, and Fife. In its basic form the intent is to tailor the needs of each individual requiring care into a funded personalised service that is self-directed or provided on an individual case-by-case basis through a dedicated service provider and moving away from organised care organisations receiving block contracts to a funded service for each individual.

11. Aberdeenshire News: Cllr Oddie drew attention to the Provost's Challenge and the open doors day at Inverurie Police Station on 28 September. There would be a budget briefing on 30 October. The Community Council Action Plan was to be submitted to the Area Committee for funding.

12. Correspondence: 42 pieces of correspondence had been received, most having been circulated to members of the Community Council. The Chairman drew the attention of the meeting to the intention of the Forestry Commission to demolish the buildings at the Don View Centre. It was agreed that there seemed no reason to oppose this.

13. AOCB: It was agreed to donate £35 to the British Legion fund for a wreath which was to be laid at the War memorial. Aberdeenshire Council were to be commended for replacing the skip on Bogbeth Road with appropriate bins. There was a complaint about dog mess on Paradise Road, although it was agreed that little could be done about this. It was agreed to refurbish the bench outside the Post Office. It was noted that the new speed indicator on Grove Road was malfunctioning; it was agreed to inform Aberdeenshire Council of this. The sign on the East side of Fraser Place had been demolished. The Keep Left sign on the island on Aquithie Road had vanished. Cllr Oddie agreed to make enquiries about both these problems.

14. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be held on Thursday 31 October.