

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26th October 2000
7.30 PM IN THE WAINMAN ROOM KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

1. Present:-

Mr A. Davies, Mr D. Evans, Mr P. Findlater, Mr C. Hunneyball, Mrs S. Milton, Dr J. Piggins, Mr A. Thomson, Mrs M. Wainman.

Attending:-

Inspector D. Allan, Mr J. Pollard, Councillor G. Saluja.

Apologies for Absence:-

Mr D. Caney, Ms L. Gibb, Councillor A. Leitch, Mrs M. Michie, Mrs J. Newberry.

2. **Police Matters**

Inspector Allan said that whenever possible there would be a representative from the police attending Council meetings, but that a constable was not necessarily aware of policy matters, and so it was more appropriate for a more senior officer to attend. This obviously made it more difficult to arrange coverage.

He said that the Inverurie Police Control Room was manned from 7.00 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily, but as there were only two people whose job it was to actually man the room there would inevitably be occasions, when either one or both were occupied on other tasks, that the telephone would not be answered, particularly as reliefs could not be provided during annual leave periods. If there was a real emergency members of the public should dial 999.

There had been three officers covering Kemnay, but the aim was to staff Kemnay Police Station with six officers on a shift basis as the particular problems of Kemnay were appreciated. He hoped that this level of manning would be maintained. After 1 a.m. the line was switched to the Aberdeen Control Room.

The current police house was not now really suitable for its role, and the police were hoping to find better accommodation. Members were asked to contact him if they heard of suitable premises.

A person had been charged with an attack on the evening bus, but the danger remained and the operator was not prepared to put its vehicles, drivers, or other passengers at risk. There seemed to be little hope of it being re-instated.

A complaint about drivers using fog lights in clear weather was made. Inspector Allan said that this was illegal, and, particularly at this time of year, police were on the lookout for this and other lighting and tyre offences.

Inspector Allan was asked if anything could be done to cut down on graffiti and vandalism. He said that many problems could be dealt with by foot patrols, but the police simply did not have the manpower to mount these.

3. **Minute of Meeting held on 28th September 2000**

The Minute of the meeting held on Thursday 28th September 2000 was approved.

Proposed: Mr D. Evans

Seconded: Mrs S. Milton

4. **Matters Arising from Minute**

It was not known why Mr Hutchison had not been able to attend the last meeting to give the presentation on Economic Development. He had now been invited to attend the January meeting, but had not yet replied.

5. Unfinished Business

a. One to One Communications Mast

No constructive alternatives had been agreed to the proposed quarry location. The possibility of placing the aerial on the tower of the new church hall spire was raised, but it was felt that it would take too long to get agreement, even if the location was suitable. The Council recognised that the quarry had been their original suggested site as they did not want to have a mast located in the village. The matter had now been ongoing for a considerable time without any progress being made, and a decision could not be postponed much further. One to One had offered to disguise the mast at the quarry as a Cypress tree, and as the alternative could be to have it sited in the village centre it was, following a vote which was unanimous, decided not to oppose their application further.

b. House at Craigearn.

Some members had looked at the site of the proposed house at Craigearn. The general feeling was that the acreage available did not mean that farming could be viable. The fact that the house which had been on the property had been sold did not seem to be sufficient reason to break planning guidelines. The Council decided to continue to oppose the application for the new house.

c. Victorian Lamp Post

Dr Piggins had been in contact with Mr Youngson who thought that the lettering on the protected side of the lamp post could simply be repainted, but more work would be needed on the weather side. He was happy to do this, but the work would probably have to be left until the weather improved.

6. New Business

a. Draft New Constitution.

A submission had already been made about the constitution. A further submission about the electoral procedure would be made, and comments would then be awaited.

7. Report from Safety Group by Mr Pat Findlater

Mr Findlater said that the Safety Group now had a secretary.

A outdoor skateboard rink had been proposed to be built at Inverurie, although it was also intended to be for the use of residents of outlying villages, with the aim of keeping children off the streets. However, volunteers were needed to organise the project. It was also pointed out that, without an evening bus service, it was unlikely to attract Kemnay children, and as Inverurie was already well provided with recreational facilities it might have been better to have sited it in Kemnay.

The Garioch Safety Group Seminar is to be held on 13th March 2001.

The study into school transport was continuing. The report would look at, inter alia, safety on buses, seat belts, and weatherproofing.

Scottish Ambulance Control Stations were going to be reduced from eight to two or three. This was due to happen in November, although locations of the actual ambulances would be unchanged. The Safety Group was not happy with this, and intended to write to Susan Deacon, the Health Minister, registering

disapproval. It was pointed out that, when a similar proposal was implemented with the Fire Brigade, lack of local knowledge was found to be a problem.

A suggestion was being progressed for an emergency data link for the elderly. The idea would be to provide a container in which important details, such as emergency contacts and medication details, could be enclosed. This would then be kept in the person's fridge, and a sticker put on the window notifying people of its existence in the event of emergency.

8. Report from Press Scrutiniser

The Press scrutiniser was not present.

9. Aberdeenshire Council News

Councillor Saluja said that little had happened. Work had begun on next year's budget, and it is hoped that the grant will be bigger than this year, although a large increase is not expected.

The protests about charging for school buses seemed to be dying down.

The Ballater Field Studies Centre had been closed, but it was hoped to reopen it.

The application for planning permission for a hostel in Inverurie is to be discussed at a meeting on 7th November.

10. Integrated Transport Policy

Mr Eric Guthrie, of Aberdeenshire Council, gave an informative presentation on the proposed integrated transport policy. The strategy is open for comment until 31st October, which meant that there was not time for the matter to be discussed by the Council and a consensus view submitted. Those present were therefore invited to submit individual written comments.

10. Planning Applications

A planning application had been received for an improved access to a house in Bogfur Gardens. This seemed very sensible and no objection was raised.

An application was in hand to turn the old betting shop at 9 Station Road into an Indian fast food takeaway. Some concern was expressed at the very small waiting area that was planned for customers, and it was agreed that comment should be made about this.

An application for a house and garage at Aquythie was opposed on the grounds that it breached policy guidelines and could lead to further ribbon development.

No objections were raised for a proposed double garage at a house at Dalmadilly.

It was understood that Mr Wyness was planning to convert a steading at Glen Allan, Fraser Place to a domestic workshop, garage and store. Part of the proposal involved raising the roof by 2 metres. It was felt that this would affect the neighbour's (Mr Ritchie at Birchdale) light and also have an overbearing effect on this property, and so the application should be opposed unless the building was kept at the existing height.

11. Correspondence Received.

a. It had been proposed to erect bus shelters in the High Street and outside Alehousewells School, with extra stops near the Milton and Kirkstyle developments. These proposals were agreed.

- b. No waiting zones were to be marked out in Bremner Way outside the Academy and Alehousewells School. No mention had been made about similar zones outside the Primary School, and it was agreed that this omission should be brought to the attention of Aberdeenshire Council
- c. The Joint Community Care Plan review had been received, and was available for examination.
- d. An invitation to a Fuel Poverty and Sustainability Conference had been received. Mrs Wainman hoped to attend.
- e. An invitation to attend the Inverurie Paths Strategy Meeting had been received, and Mr Caney was attending.

12. A.O.C.B.

Mr Pollard said that he served on an airport charity committee which provided grants for educational or environmental projects. They were keen to help rural areas, and were actively looking for ideas which they could support. A possibility could be a cycle path or walkway, but he emphasised that the project would have to be undertaken by the community and needed a dedicated organiser.

Dr Piggins suggested mentioning this in the newsletter, encouraging proposals. He also thought that this could be linked to the wetlands project near the Academy.

13. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 30th November 2000 at 7.30pm in the Wainman Room at Kemnay Village Hall.