

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING held on 27th NOVEMBER 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Sheila Simpson (Chair)(SS), Bill Blackwood (BB), Eric Pashley (EP), Gavin Adam (GA), Janet Newberry (JN), Annie Ferries (AF), Margaret Basley (MB), David Evans (DE), Douglas Laing (DL), Bob Ingram (BI), Kate Rigby (KR), Sheena Lonchay (SL)

Attending: Cllr Sheena Lonchay, 1 member of the public.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** John Hern, Vaila Spencer.
3. **Police Matters:** There was no police presence and no report available.
4. **Opportunity for members of the public to speak:** Mr Bob Jones' comments would be heard under item 13. (Planning Applications)
5. **The Minutes of the meeting** held on the 30th of October were unanimously agreed and accepted. Proposal made to add an Action column to future minutes.

6. **Matters Arising from the minutes:**

Donations totalling £93 had been received, and sent to Gordon Renal Dialysis in memory of Margaret Christie, with the support of her husband. Janet was thanked for her work on this.

A report had been submitted on Community Council Scheme of Establishment. Play-park Consultation – Vaila has emailed Douglas Milne for a report of the outcome of this meeting (not available yet) and KCC continues to have concerns over the funding cuts.

The skate park was adopted by the Council some years ago but the council continue to investigate who is responsible for its upkeep.

The Armistice service went well, and those involved were thanked.

Sheila has spoken to the Academy regarding pupils attending the meetings, and Bob Jones offered to take this to the Parent Council.

A letter has been sent to the Council regarding the Deveron planning consultation.

There is no evidence of a Wood chipping plant at Harthills, and no application has been submitted.

7. **Street cleaning:** There has been some evidence of street cleaning in the village this week, but not in all areas. Academy pupils were involved in a litter pick last week in areas around the Academy, but this does not impact on the debris in gutters blocking drains etc. Sheila will write to Douglas Milne asking to see the 'plan for cleaning', including concerns over broken glass at the play-park, and also seek support from the councillors. Cllr Lonchay will also take this forward, checking the minutes of the Garioch Area Committee meeting of 11th November. A television programme suggested a poster campaign of "We are watching you" had good results; Sheila will seek these posters to try this.

ACTION

8. **Post of secretary:** Rita Custard does not wish to continue after the trial period, and a new secretary must be found. This does not need to be an elected member of the KCC. Bob will ask someone he has in mind. Post will be advertised in the Newsletter (MB), on the Noticeboard (DL), on the website (DE), on Facebook (KR)

9. **Review of Community Council Scheme of Establishment:** see 6 above.

1. **Play Park Consultation:** see 6 above.

1. **Web Page:** David reported that the web counter activated in February shows 9,500 hits, and positive feedback has been received. Cost of re-naming and hosting the site £100. It was noted that it is more efficient, for example, to look at Kemnay planning applications on the local site rather than the main council site. Sheila commended David for his work.

2. **Kemnay Academy pupils' input:** no pupils had come forward. Sheila commented that involvement with the school through the litter initiatives reminds one of the enthusiasm of the young folk, and this is to be encouraged on the KCC. To gain experience perhaps two pupils attending per term would be a good idea. Bob Jones will follow up with the school. ACTION BJ this

3. **Planning Matters and Applications:** Two householder applications have been made. Blythewood, High Street, construction on approx. 1/3 of the site. There are a lot of good ideas on this proposal – re-use of stones, very ‘green’ development, a ‘shadow plan’ has been prepared showing loss of light etc. Bob Jones, living directly opposite the proposed development, said the plan contravened the requirements for Infill Developments which must not interfere with neighbouring property, as well as affecting Blythewood and its future for private sale. It could set a precedent for Infill Development in the centre of Kemnay and this would not be in keeping with the historic sites in Kemnay.

Douglas Laing said that Church Lane (where the proposed property would exit) is not big enough for more cars, and the road would not take more wear and tear (it being an unmade road and continues to be so for natural speed control). There were felt to be major concerns over loss of sunlight. David pointed out that many of the arguments are not necessarily valid objections – eg there is already traffic use on the lane and the plot ratio is acceptable. Sheena commented that the only ground for refusal of consent is if a plan is against planning policy. Use & safety of the road is not a planning matter, but a Roads Department matter. There is a ‘degree of judgement’ used to determine whether a plan is ‘out of character’, and if the impact on neighbours is considered tolerable. ACTION BJ

Bob was recommended to send his letter of objections to the three local Councillors. He thanked all for advice, saying he appreciated the Council’s time. He will send details of the Infill Development Policy to David to ensure he has all the headings for a letter from the KCC. There was a second application, no problems seen.

6. **Reports:**

7. **Christmas lights:** Will be put up and lit on Thursday 28th November, and trees on 30th November.
8. **Safety Group:** Reflectors have been distributed to P1 pupils at the primary schools, including Kinellar, funded by Garioch and North Mar Safety Group.
9. **Community Learning and Development:** No meeting was held.
10. **d. GACCF:** Meeting cancelled.
11. **Community Planning:** Sheila was unable to attend this.
12. **Kemnay Academy:** No report.
13. **g. Press Report:** No report
14. **Garioch Partnership:** No report.

7. **Aberdeenshire News:** A full Council meeting was held – procedural matters, social care matters, electoral matters and property values – (effects of the referendum). Electoral roll responsibility changes to the individual. At the Bennachie Centre, the toilets are to be open all year from 10-4, the doors controlled electronically. There is a new Small Grant scheme: community groups can apply for up to £5000 for health related projects.

Correspondence:

1. Grampian Regional Equality Council and the Scottish Human Rights Commission are holding an event in Inverurie 2nd December at the Acorn Centre.

