

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2013

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Margaret Basley, Bill Blackwood, Sammy Dey, David Evans, Annie Ferries, John Hern, Douglas Laing, Fraser Lamb, Janet Newberry.

Attending: Alistair Thomson, PC Sam Wedderburn, Cllr. Patricia Oddie

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr. Allison Grant, Cllr. Sheena Lonchay, Gavin Adam, Margaret Christie, Bob Ingram, Eric Pashley, Kate Rigby, Sheila Simpson, PC Sandra Duncan.

3. Police matters: Twenty crimes had been reported since the end of November. There had been two cases of assault and three of anti-social behaviour. Suspects or perpetrators had been found for each of these, all of which had been drink-related. A suspect had been interviewed in relation to the breaking of a shop window and theft of items, while a suspect has been identified in the case of several thefts of tools from sheds and garages. There had been four cases of vandalism, and three had been motorists reported for road traffic offences. One person had been charged with drug possession and three had been reported for other offences. Two thefts (one when the keys were left in the lock), one minor assault, one act of vandalism and one drink driving offence have been reported. All have lines of enquiry or have been dealt with, apart from the first. Some anti-social behaviour has been reported and possible suspects have been identified.

4. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Speak: A member of the public raised the issue of the flooding on Victoria Terrace. This was discussed later in the meeting.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st January 2013: Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2013 was proposed by John Hern, seconded by Margaret Basley and unanimously approved.

6. Matters Arising from Minutes:

a) Community Payback: We have now been told that work can only be done for vulnerable people, or for charities. Privately or Council owned land is excluded. This rules out the Place of Origin.

b) Bogbeth Public Toilets: Cllr Lonchay is still pursuing this. She was advised this was Landscape Services but they have now said it's Property or Education

c) Graffiti Removal: Cllr. Lonchay reported that Sandra Kaczmarek is the Mobiles Area Supervisor, Cleaning Services. Sandra says that graffiti incidents should be reported to the Council's call centre – 08456 08 12 0 – and she will be happy to arrange removal. David Evans, who knew the exact location of the graffiti, undertook to contact her.

d) Pre Teenage Play Equipment: Cllr. Oddie has reported that she has spoken to some Primary School children and a new climbing frame is now on order for Bogbeth Park.

e) Pedestrian Crossing for Milton Meadows: It has been reported that traffic levels do not justify this.

f) Bogbeth No Dogs Signs: Maureen Adam (01467 628195) advised that dog fouling signs had been put on lamp posts at Bogbeth and she is checking that they are still there.

7. Planning matters and Applications:

a) New Applications. David Evans said that the only new application was for the first phase of the Academy extension.

b) Bennachie Lodge Flats: The application to build a block of six flats in the grounds of Bennachie Lodge has been refused. Our Councillors were thanked for listening to the views of the village.

c) Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan: This has been published and comment will be agreed at the next meeting. Feedback was asked to be forwarded to Chris/David with our views by 14th March 2013.

d) Deveron Homes Flooding: Graeme Steel, Principal Engineer, Roads Development (01467 628087) advised that his Roads Maintenance colleagues have been in discussion with the developer on this matter. Causes of recent flooding at Fyffe Park/Victoria Terrace were being investigated. It has been agreed that in the first instance, a camera survey of the roads drain should be carried out to determine whether it is possible that silt from the road surface has caused the drain to block, thus preventing the surface water draining away timeously. A member of the public present also raised his concerns about the flooding both in Fyffe Park and Victoria Terrace which, it was felt, could have a more serious cause than just a blocked drain. Cllr. Oddie agreed to look into the matter.

8. Garioch Partnership:

a) Ward 10 Forum. This was held in Inch on 26th February, and dealt almost entirely with local Inch matters, such as the Friends of Inch Hospital. Even people living in nearby villages seemed to feel a bit excluded. Mention was made of Public Sector Equality Duty, which reinforces anti discrimination policies, but would have little, if any, effect on the way Community Councils were run. Kemnay did get a mention as having a good example of an effective Community Council. The Ward 10 Forum will next meet in Kemnay on 2nd May 2013.

b) Inch Drop In Session. This took place before the Ward 10 Forum. No one from Kemnay attended.

9. Village Hall Open Day: Thanks were given to those who manned the stand at the Open Day Event, where residents were invited to indicate their priorities for action for the village from a non inclusive list of suggestions. The only addition made by a member of the public to the prepared list was dog fouling, a problem which no authority seemed to be prepared to address, even by giving a warning to the dog owners who are often identified. The top ten priorities were Parking, Bus services, Snow clearing and gritting, Public Toilets, Memorial for Mavis Wainman, a Village clean up day, and Street lighting reductions (although in this case opinion was split for and against). It was suggested at the meeting that the Litter Pick-Up Day should be reinstated.

10. Memorial to Mavis Wainman: Three suggestions were made, including a granite plaque at the Village Hall, a stained glass ornament and some form of sculpture similar to the bird feeder at the Church Centre. All suggestions to be considered. All Community Councillors were asked to suggest wording for a granite slab. Janet will look into design for a stained glass ornament, and Chris will contact John Maine RA (the Place of Origin artist) to sound him out about the granite plaque.

11. Aberdeenshire Sports Council Awards: A reminder had been received but the date for nominations had now passed, and the award ceremony would be on 8th March.

12. Reports:

a) Safety Group: The annual Safety Group Seminar will take place in Kemnay Village Hall on 23rd March. Requests to attend were required by 16th March, but there were no volunteers.

b) Community Planning: This meeting was held in Kintore on 27th February. Kevin Watt, Chairman of Kintore Community Council, first gave a presentations on Kintore. In ten years Kintore has expanded from a population of around 1,000 to its current 4,500, but its facilities have not kept pace with the population explosion. It is very much a commuter centre for Aberdeen, but that is not felt to be a bad thing. Gateway Kintore is a pressure group hoping to get a commercial facility for the village, which would include a supermarket, play group, leisure facilities and perhaps a suitable building for a large company HQ. Other aims are to work for another Primary School, and later perhaps a Secondary School, the opening of the railway station, improved leisure facilities, and the town park which should include football facilities and a pavilion.

He then spoke about Action Kintore, a charitable company, which has undertaken to build the Bothy, a youth café. Funding was now in place and it is hoped to start work to allow completion towards the end of summer. As the building is made of straw it has to be built in fine weather.

The need for NHS provision in Kintore was highlighted, as implementation would take several years.

The discussion then turned to Emergency Planning; with reference being made to Community Resilience (if this rings a bell check your emails on 26th October last year for more information). Much of the discussion centred on flooding, although in Kintore relatively few properties are at risk. For most, emergency planning may be more relevant when major problems occur, such as a prolonged power cut, heavy snow disrupting food deliveries, and such disasters. Fires, roads blocked by accidents, fallen trees and similar problems are likely to be localised and surmountable. The exception is flooding, but generally those under threat will know this and will, hopefully, have made preparations. Jill Sowdon will be sending further information to Community Councils.

Ward Forums have been judged to be very successful, although the one at Inch very much, and very understandably, focused on Inch. Apparently the Newmachar meeting had more people attending from outwith the village.

There will be a joint meeting with the Garioch Area Committee on 7th March, and the next meeting of the CP Group will be on 10th April.

c) New Garioch Community Plan – Updates Sought: The plan looked to be very comprehensive, and no additions could be offered.

d) Kemnay Academy: Be Your Best Rock Challenge: On Saturday 23rd February, Kemnay Academy participated in this annual regional event at the AECC. This year we won 4 awards – Staging, Soundtrack,

Press Coverage and Concept Originality! Although we did not place 1st 2nd or 3rd we all had an amazing time and are so proud of everyone's hard work!

Kemnay Academy Business Breakfast: Also in February, 5th and 6th year pupils were given the opportunity to speak with around 30 local businesses ranging from supermarkets to oil and gas giants. Pupils benefited by seeing what there is to offer as well as many now having contacts in order to arrange work experience. This is the first time the academy has put on such an event and it was enjoyed by both businesses and pupils.

e) Press Report: This week's Advertiser contained relevant items:

- i) Kemnay Primary pupils presented a cheque for £100 to the "Archie" appeal for Aberdeen Children's Hospital
- ii) On Feb 15th, Paul Lawrie (ex pupil of Alehousewells Primary and Kemnay Academy) opened the 18th hole at Kemnay golf club and was presented with honorary membership.
- iii) It also referred to the event to which we contributed in the village hall, writing of the "vibrant community of Kemnay".
- iv) The refusal of planning permission for the Bennachie flats was also reported.
- v) Graham and Annie Collie, the Butchers, will be going to London to take part in the Countryside Alliance Best Butcher competition.

f) Garioch Area Community Council Forum: The next meeting is due to be held in Gordon House on 6th March.

13. Aberdeenshire News: Cllr Oddie reported that the "A96 Corridor of Education" was under discussion. This included Kemnay although there was no talk of closing our schools.

14. Correspondence: The following correspondence was received: Garioch Community Planning Group updates, Community Council Handbook, Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill, Draft Strategic Police Plan, Shaping the Future of your Water and Waste Water Services – Your Views Count (Consultation), Let the Scottish Parliament Know What YOU Think About Local Issues, Insch Open Session 26 Feb 13, Grants of £500-£2,000 available from the Shell Community fund, Social Firms Scotland Ebulletin (not distributed), The Proposed City and Shire Strategic Development Plan, SSE – Innovating for a Greener, More Efficient Future, SSE Open Day in Aberdeen, The Network.

15. AOCB:

- a) Monymusk Wind Turbines:** Stephen Clark has asked to address the next CC meeting about the Monymusk wind turbines.
- b) Aquithie Road Traffic Island:** It was reported that the traffic island bollards in Aquithie Road were not lit. Chris would report this.
- c) Air Gun Licensing:** Attention was drawn to consultation from the Scottish Government regarding licensing of airguns. This was not felt to be a CC matter.
- d) Academy Public Toilet Survey:** Kemnay Academy is carrying out a survey on public toilets. This, it was felt, could provide useful ammunition for our long running campaign.
- e) Open Day:** Representatives from Kemnay Academy enjoyed participating in the Open Day.
- f) Victoria Terrace:** The unofficial layby just east of Fyffe Park was muddy because the grass just got torn up by cars. Cllr. Oddie asked to be e-mailed to look into this, either to surface it properly or to prevent its use by vehicles.
- g) Kemnay Kirk:** It was mentioned that Rev. John Renton retires in August.
- h) Chairman:** Chris mentioned he had now been in the post of Chairman for 10 years and asked if there were any volunteers to take over from him. So far, no volunteers.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 28th March 2013. This will be preceded by the AGM which will be held at 7.30 pm.