

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2013

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Gavin Adam, Margaret Basley, Bill Blackwood, David Evans, Annie Ferries, John Hern, Bob Ingram, Douglas Laing, Eric Pashley, Sheila Simpson.

Attending: Cllr Sheena Lonchay, Cllr Patricia Oddie, Mr Mike Macaulay, PC David Calvert, PC Jennifer McNulty and three members of the public – Jenny Spratt and Lorna Forsyth (Greener Kemnay), and Sammy Dey.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Allison Grant, Margaret Christie, Fraser Lamb, Janet Newberry, Kate Rigby.

3. Police Matters: There had been ten offences this month, including one of shining a laser at an aeroplane. There had also been a case of shoplifting from the Co-Op in the High Street, three thefts, three assaults or abusive behaviour and two other offences. The need for home security was stressed, as a lot of crime could be prevented if simple measures were taken, such as not leaving car keys in view. Last month's car problems at Bogbeth had resulted in cars and owners being given ASBOs. This could result in the confiscation of the car if the offence was repeated.

Although some youths had been interviewed in connection with the invasions of the hall and church centre reported last month, it would seem that these incidents had not been recorded as formal complaints. Surprise was expressed at this, as this had been the intention when they had been reported. It was felt that any call to 101 should be regarded as a formal complaint unless stated otherwise.

Mr Macaulay said that he felt that the Police were doing a good job; incidents at the quarry were few and far between.

4. Breedon Aggregates: We welcomed Mr Mike Macaulay, the North East Regional Director for Breedon, to our meeting, and he summarised Breedon's activities in the area. Breedon was not a huge company, but was taking over those activities which the giants felt to be uneconomic. The future of the Kemnay block plant was secure, although it was unlikely that more granite would be taken from Kemnay.

Tours of the plants were offered, both of Craigenlow Quarry and of the Kemnay Block Plant, and a number of members expressed interest in going on one. He gave us two keys to the bird hides and, bearing in mind that it would be imprudent to leave the hides open permanently, he agreed to have keys in the weighbridge office which could be drawn on signature. These will be made available to anyone.

He agreed that the Community Council could plant a few trees each year at the Place of Origin which, in the fullness of time, could be used as Christmas trees.

Mention was made of lorries speeding through the village, and he said that he would investigate.

He was warmly thanked for his most positive and helpful attitude to village affairs.

5. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Speak Jenny Spratt and Linda Forsyth, of Greener Kemnay, introduced themselves. Their reason for attending was to try and strengthen liaison between the Community Council and Greener Kemnay; the sale of local forestry some time ago was cited as an example of such liaison not taking place. It was agreed that such contact could only be of benefit, and it was also suggested that they join the Garioch Partnership, as Anne Simpson forwarded a lot of general information which could be relevant.

6. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 October 2013: Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2013 was proposed by Eric Pashley, seconded by Sheila Simpson and approved unanimously.

7. Matters Arising from Minutes:

a) Mavis Wainman Memorial: Work on the stained glass window was now in hand. Fraser Lamb had provided Janet with his colour suggestions.

b) Kemnay Website: There had not been any significant progress, so it was agreed that the simplest solution would just be to abandon the old site (kemnay.org) which was now very out of date and start again from scratch. David Evans undertook to speak to Chris Brown, who had volunteered to help, about this. Jenny Spratt said that Greener Kemnay would appreciate space on the new site.

c) Remembrance Sunday: There was an excellent turnout of the public as well as Community Councillors. Thanks were expressed to those attending. There had been comment about the slack timing of

proceedings, with the service starting late and traffic roaring past during the silence. These factors were outwith the control of the Community Council.

d) Aberdeenshire Design Awards. Other than Mill Farm no entries were suggested. There was a difficulty in that ownership of the Mill Farm site had changed and some required information was not now to hand. It was suggested that we ask for a copy of our last entry; this will be done.

8. Planning Matters and Applications: No controversial Applications had been submitted. The Local Development Plan MIR was discussed. David Evans had prepared a very thorough brief and given his recommendations, which generally supported the report although opposed the inclusion of the area on the corner of Bremner Way and Aquithie Road as a potential housing site. His proposals were discussed and a submission agreed, a copy of which can be made available on request. David was warmly thanked for his work on the report which was considered to be a model of clarity.

9. Reports:

a) Christmas Lights: The lights had been put up on the lamp posts and would be switched on on Saturday. The trees would be erected on Sunday 1st December. Alan, the electrician, had still not submitted a bill for his work and would be pressed to do so, as we were not sure how much money would be available to buy more lights next year.

b) Safety Group: Bob Ingram drew attention to a YouTube clip on a Community Resilience exercise, where a community got involved in the successful hunt for two missing children. Police Road Safety Advisers have been holding Child Car Seat Clinics in busy car parks across Aberdeenshire – recently in Inverurie. These clinics give parents an opportunity to check if their children’s car seats are fitted properly. Overall, the results indicate that 68% of car seats were fitted incorrectly. Since the funding was increased to £150 there has been a slight increase in interest in Pass Plus although the numbers are not as high as a few years ago. This may be due to a drop in numbers of youngsters taking their driving test.

The latest citizen’s viewpoint survey indicates that Road Safety was a high priority and that there was considerable concern regarding anti-social behaviour.

The Fire and Rescue Service intend to send representatives to local flu vaccination clinics to talk to people about home safety.

Councillor McKail has written to all MSPs in the area and to the Chief Constable. The chief Constable replied that Police Scotland is still committed to the following initiatives: Operation Zenith [Motorcycle safety campaign], Car Seat Clinics, Bikeability, Crash Live, Be a Safer Driver, and A947 Safety Campaign.

c) Community Learning and Development: There have been two recent meetings of the Community Development Group when the main topic of discussion was the recent decision of Aberdeenshire Council Education, Learning and Leisure Committee to discontinue Community Development Groups across Aberdeenshire. There is currently a consultation taking place with the Groups on how to move forward from this, but it clearly has implications for the Group which has been extremely pro-active in the Kemnay area for nearly 30 years. The residual funds of the CDGs will revert back to the authority to be used as grants to community groups to support sustainability and used to support learning and leisure activity through culture and sport. There is also a concern about the future of the Youth Cafe, whose lease is coming up for review. It is thought the police may be wanting to reduce their property holdings.

d) Community Planning: Sheila Simpson circulated a report on the last meeting, held on 18th October, in advance of the Community Council meeting. Nothing directly affected Kemnay, and the full minutes will appear on the Community Planning website in due course.

e) Press Report: There had been nothing of interest in the Advertiser, although an article on a Green Butterfly Award to St Anne’s Church Greener Initiative was expected the following day.

Greener Kemnay AGM: Greener Kemnay intended to act as the “green conscience” of Kemnay. They had had visits from Aberdeen Forward – Zero Waste, Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum, ICAN, Woodlands Trust and Chris Menzies (Aberdeenshire Council) Access Officer. Involved in a permaculture course, approximately 30 volunteers planted 420 fruiting trees (Hazel, Crab Apple, Blackthorn, Elder & Dog Rose) funded by Woodlands Trust in liaison with Aberdeenshire Council’s Landscaping Services.

A Facebook page had been set up and a logo, designed by Kemnay Academy, had been adopted. Funding from Aberdeenshire Council and Shell had allowed the purchase of tree covers, a Gazebo and a banner. In hand, with the help of Chris Menzies, Infrastructure, was the creation of a map indicating walks for various abilities, both local and further afield to Inverurie and Kintore. The Big Lunch, held at the Place of Origin, had been a success, as had been a woodland walk through Fetternear Woods led by a local herbalist, author and group member.

Links had been made with Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum, ALOAF, Kemnay Community Council, Tarland Development Group & Udney Development Group, Woodlands Trust & Greenspace.

It was intended to create a memorial for Mavis Wainman in the form of a seat to be installed in the Place of Origin, to be made from beech or oak from a suitable naturally felled tree. The Chairman suggested that they contact John Maine, the artist who designed the site, before deciding on a location for the bench as he may wish to comment. A visit to investigate composting was to be made to the Tarland Development Group.

10. Aberdeenshire News: The Fraser Place sign had still not been replaced although work was in hand, but Keep Left signs on Aquithie Road island remained intact.

There was concern at the increase in obesity, with levels of up to 30% in some categories.

Concern was felt about the possibility of the Fire and Rescue Service reducing the number of Scottish call centres down to two, probably Dundee and the Central Belt, although Inverness has also been mentioned. This would mean that the relatively new and purpose built centre at Mounthooley would be closed.

The Infrastructure Services Committee had been discussing the problem of invasive non native species of flora, such as Hogweed or Japanese Knotweed.

11. Consultation on Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill: It was agreed that the report was disappointing and proposed giving minimal extra powers to communities. Rather than respond to the 75 questions, as it would have so little impact it was agreed just to write and record our disappointment at the paucity of the proposals and the missed opportunity to make a real change.

12. Donation in memory of Craig Grant: A donation of £500 in memory of Craig Grant had been received. Part would be allocated to fireworks and Christmas lights; members were asked for ideas for the balance of £300 – £400.

13. Correspondence: 23 items had been received, most having been circulated to members of the Community Council. Details had been posted on the Post Office notice board. Bob Ingram indicated that he might be able to attend the Garioch Partnership Winter Forum, and Annie Ferries, John Hern and Chris Hunneyball would attend the Garioch Area Community Council Forum.

14. AOCB: Sheila Simpson observed that the white lines in the village had not been repainted after the road resurfacing. Cllr Lonchay agreed to take this up, although it was pointed out that road painting in winter did not usually result in a satisfactory long term result.

Sammy Dey complained about overcrowding on the early 420 bus to Aberdeen. She was advised to take this up with the Public Transport Unit at Woodhill House.

Bob Ingram complimented the Council on the excellent job they had done clearing ditches on the Dalmadilly road, which should cure the flooding problem.

Gavin Adam asked if the steps leading from Bridge Road to Boat Croft, which were crumbling in places, could be repaired. It was believed that these were unadopted so not the Council's responsibility. Cllr Lonchay undertook to try and find out who did own them.

Chris Hunneyball indicated that, for personal reasons, he would have to stand down as Chairman at the next AGM.

It was agreed that office holders could act on behalf of the Community Council over the Christmas period.

15. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 30th January 2014.