

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Margaret Basley, Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, Sammy Dey, David Evans, Annie Ferries, John Hern, Bob Ingram, Douglas Laing, Fraser Lamb, Janet Newberry, Kate Rigby, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Patricia Oddie, PC Stewart Gibbon, Scott Gordon, Anna Gilbert, Keith Leighton, Anne Simpson, Jim Thomson.

Apologies: Cllr Allison Grant, Cllr Sheena Lonchay, Sheila Simpson.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present, particularly Jim Thomson and Anne Simpson.

2. Police matters: Since June, there had been five assaults, three having been detected and two with named suspects. There had been 10 incidences of Vandalism, the majority of which were in July. There had also been three incidents of Breach of the Peace and one of Fire-raising; three persons had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal and one was being investigated. One person had been reported in relation to Misuse of Drugs offences and one was to be interviewed in relation to theft by shoplifting. There had been two instances of persons attempting to enter vehicles or premises for the purposes of theft. One driver had been charged with speeding, three with various motoring offences, another with having no insurance and two with drink-driving. Parking tickets had been issued on Station Road and High Street. Police were aware that youths had been riding mini motos and off road motorcycles near the Place of Origin; two individuals had been named as being responsible and were to be traced in relation to this. Operation Zenith continues its work of tackling fatal accidents in relation to motor bikers.

3. Opportunity for Members of the public to speak: Two members of the public were concerned about the planning application for flats at Bennachie Lodge. David Evans informed them of the objection made by the Community Council and the reasons for it. He stressed that it was necessary, in objecting to planning applications, to make reference to the rules and regulations published on the Aberdeenshire Council website. He conceded that this was an extremely difficult exercise, as the advice and regulations were often difficult to find.

4. Jim Thomson, Kintore Rotary: Mr Thomson pointed out that Kintore Rotary included Kemnay. Rotary was a world-wide organisation, and the organisation as a whole tackled global problems: they had matched Bill Gates' funding in the programme to eradicate polio. As part of a national campaign, the local group had collected 150 bikes which were renovated and sent to Africa. At a local level they had, in partnership with the Friends of Saint Andrews, raised £5000 for that school. Mr Thomson's intention was to raise awareness of Kintore Rotary, to appeal for new members (male and female) to attend meetings on a Thursday night at Thainstone, and to inform people that the Rotary Club was open to requests for assistance from local organisations.

5. Anne Simpson, Garioch Partnership: The Garioch Partnership had been set up to assist non-profit-making organisations of any sort. It was hoped that it would be able to help with advice on funding applications, project development and general support. Members were urged to spread the information about it, and to attend the meeting on 10 October 2012 in Kemnay Village Hall. It was agreed that Kemnay Community Council would apply for membership.

6. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2012 was proposed by Janet Newberry, seconded by Mavis Wainman and unanimously approved.

7. Matters Arising from Minutes: There had been no feedback on the Aggregate Industries project. Last year's underspend, which the meeting had suggested could be used for the top-up budget, was to be devoted to capital projects.

8. Planning matters and applications:

a) **New Applications:** There was nothing controversial.

b) **Landscape Character Advice Consultation:** Comment was entirely favourable.

c) **Bennachie Lodge Houses and Flats:** There was a suggestion that a Tree Preservation Order might be placed on three of the trees in the grounds of Bennachie Lodge. Cllr Oddie agreed to investigate this. See also item 3.

9. Updates: The High Street bus shelter had been replaced, although it was still without the seat which had apparently been ordered. Malcolm Allan had felled the dead trees in Milton Meadows. The Saltire Society plaque had been received and was displayed to the meeting; it was to be sited in consultation with

John Maine. The Community Empowerment Consultation had been completed – thanks were due to Michael Christie for his digest of the document.

10. Weeds in Gutters: A complaint had been received about weeds in the gutters in Victoria Terrace and Grove Road. Cllr Oddie agreed to pursue this matter.

11. Drystane Dyke by Welcome to Kemnay sign: There was a suggestion that the offer of voluntary work by Aggregate Industries might be utilised to improve the drystane dyke at the entrance to the village. It was agreed that, in the absence of such assistance, while a prettier entrance to Kemnay would be desirable, it would be too expensive to pursue this.

12. Education Provision in the Garioch: Kemnay had not been represented at this meeting and minutes of the meeting had not yet been received.

13. Reports:

a) **Safety Group:** Owing to the number of accidents on the B994, the road between Ordhead and Sauchen was to be resurfaced and the signage improved. Neighbourhood Watch wheelie bin stickers were to be purchased and distributed. More police officers were to be trained in the use of speed detection guns. The non-emergency phone number for the new single police force would be 101. Pass Plus applications had dropped significantly, and there was a discussion as to how leaflets might be targeted at parents as well as pupils. Reflective safety items were to be distributed to local primary schools. Bill Blackwood pointed out that such items were being produced by Anderson High School in Shetland, and suggested that the school might be approached as a source.

b) **Community Learning and Development:** A review of staff has meant fewer administration staff at Kemnay Academy. This is causing some difficulty. Work is due to start in February on the extension to the academy.

c) **GACCF:** This was a poorly attended but otherwise a successful networking meeting. Groups were able to question Douglas Rennie of Economic Development, who spoke about grants and loans available to small businesses; Bob Grey and Peter McCallum of Transport who answered questions on the possibility of providing cycle/footpaths along busy roads, agreeing that they were desirable but extremely expensive; and Sandy Munro who spoke about the complexities of the licensing laws. The meeting was told that there were as yet no parking charges around Bennachie because of a lack of electricity to power the ticket machines. The next meeting would be held on 28 November 2012.

d) **Community Planning:** The meeting, held in Kemnay, featured a number of speakers. Liz Mackay and Vera Walker talked about the Friday Coffee Shop which was an initiative to get people to socialise on a Friday morning, and get involved in whatever they fancied; on the serious side there was advice on adult literacy available, on the lighter side activities such as “Knit and Natter” and jigsaw exchange. Donna Fairley talked about the Family Support Group, which aimed to help families with problems, particularly when one member was addicted to drugs. Naida Sneddon then talked about Community Learning and Development, based in Kemnay Academy but obviously operating beyond Kemnay’s boundaries. Chris Hunneyball described Kemnay – its good and bad points and the problems of internet communications from Aberdeenshire Council and the Scottish Government. Sammy Dey, Chairman of Kemnay Academy Pupil Council, represented the youth view: she highlighted the lack of late transport to and from Inverurie and the lack of an internet cafe and sports facilities.

e) **Kemnay Academy:** The report by Sammy Dey and Fraser Lamb concentrated on Rock Challenge, a global competition which is pupil-run. It involves groups of pupils mounting an eight-minute musical performance where they are judged on choreography, hairdressing, sets and costumes as well as the quality of the act itself. The competition is alcohol, drug and tobacco-free and aims to highlight some world problem – this year the focus is on child soldiers in Africa. Also this year the school is mounting a trip to Madagascar where pupils will see various aspects of the island, and also act as volunteers working at a school.

f) **Press report:** Every second 307 from Inverurie, renamed 37A, is to be re-routed so that it will service ARI; the alternate 37B will follow the current route, but will go by Hallforest Road. The new service will start on 29th October. Liam Reid from Kemnay Academy was part of the winning team at the Enterprise Business Challenge held in Dounens Outdoor centre, Aberfoyle; the teams, comprising business owners and school pupils from throughout Scotland were tested on leadership, communication and team work skills.

g) **Bus Forum:** The 18:10 420 from Aberdeen had been omitted from the original timetables but not from the latest reprint. There were a number of complaints about buses just not running; it transpired that Stagecoach had shipped a number of their best buses to London for the Olympics, and so had to press some

ancient relics into use; these were not reliable. A lot of concern was expressed about the 07:17 service; this sometimes did not run, on at least one occasion because the driver overslept, and with the next bus not due until 09:01 this caused major problems for commuters; some took taxis to Inverurie, and Stagecoach did refund the fares. The last bus from Inverurie to Kemnay leaves at 18:55 on a normal weekday, precluding Kemnay school pupils from taking jobs in Inverurie; this was to be looked at. There had a been problems about half fares but, providing a Young Scot card was shown to prove date of birth, Stagecoach did not see why there should ever be a problem. The next time table revision was likely to be 29th October.

14. Aberdeenshire news: The police were to organise a crash demonstration in Inch; dates would be announced later. The Gypsy Traveller exhibition was praised. The problem of the toilets at Kemnay Primary had still to be resolved.

15. Correspondence:

Correspondence received throughout July, August and September had been circulated, dealt with and was not, therefore revisited:

- a) Housing in Aberdeenshire (online consultation)
- b) Viewpoint Recruitment CVSA Newsletters (previously circulated)
- c) Community Planning Briefing Note
- d) Maternity Consultation Report
- e) Invitation to Involve NHSG
- f) Garioch Community Planning Update August and September
- g) Direct Patient Service Booking
- h) Freedom of Information resource (previously circulated)
- i) Public Services Survey 2012
- j) Viewpoint Newsletters
- k) Forest Enterprises Consultation
- l) Gypsy Traveller Exhibition
- m) Kintore Station survey
- n) Community Halls event
- o) Request for information on community resilience platforms in Grampian
- p) Free Mediation Service
- q) Police Reform Newsletter
- r) SCSN August Newsletter
- s) £500 Giveaway
- t) The Network .

An intimation of a forthcoming street cleansing survey was received. The survey was to be available from 8 October, and the secretary agreed to circulate the information once the survey was available.

16. AOCB: Mavis Wainman complained about the difficulty of manoeuvring buggies and trolleys round the corner of Station Road and High Street; Cllr Oddie agreed to investigate the problem. Doug Laing mooted a possible cycle path along the old railway line but it was pointed out that much of the line was now in private hands. The problem of the overgrown Place of Origin was raised again by Margaret Basely and the reasons why it remained un-cleared were aired.

17. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be on 25 October 2012.