

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

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

Attending: Cllr Sheena Lonchay, PS Alex Allan, Alison Cumming, Gwyneth Hinton, Vera Walker,.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Allison Grant, Cllr Patricia Oddie, Mavis Wainman.

3. Police matters: The following crimes had been reported in Kemnay since 25 October 2012. There had been an assault on a woman by a man unknown to her; a man fitting the description of the suspect had been detained and enquiries were on-going. There had been three reports of vandalism or theft of car aerials and two separate instances of damaged windows. The public were encouraged to support Operation Zenith by reporting any incidents of careless or dangerous driving by motor cyclists. PS Allan was questioned about an apparent increase in vandalism in the village; he responded by stating that there appeared to be much less than there had been in the past. He encouraged members of the public, however, to report acts of vandalism even if they did not want the police to attend, so that all such acts would appear in the statistics and thus provide an accurate picture.

4. Celebration of Kemnay: Gwyneth Hinton and Vera Walker gave an account of the success of the event. It had been conceived in response to the NEOS exhibitions the previous year; the original intention had been to supply A5 boards to anyone who wished to create a picture, and to mount an exhibition of the pictures during NEOS week. To this original idea had been added the chicken chase (where chickens were created and placed in gardens or windows, and participants had to find as many as they could), decorated socks, transient art (where art was created from natural objects, photographed and dismantled) and pavement art. The event had spanned two weekends and the week in between, and had involved a large number of people of all ages in the village. Generous funding had been received from the Community Development Group and the Mary Summers Fund, and the organisers hoped that it might be possible to stage a similar event the following year without further funding.

5. The Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2012 was proposed by Eric Pashley, seconded by Bob Ingram and unanimously approved.

6. Matters Arising from Minutes:

a) Bus shelter: The seat in the new bus shelter on High Street had still not been installed. The Chairman was to write another reminder to Martin Hall.

b) Remembrance Day: Those attending were thanked, in particular Sammy Dey who had laid the wreath on behalf of the community.

c) Community Payback: The Chairman had contacted the appropriate authority on several occasions with a view to having participants work on the Place of Origin, but nothing had been heard. Cllr Lonchay agreed to pursue this.

7. Planning matters and applications:

a) Current applications: The only current application was not controversial.

b) Bennachie Lodge: It was agreed to continue to object to any new developments if, as was thought possible, they were out of keeping with the area.

c) Tree Preservation Orders: It was agreed to consider trees which might merit these. Cllr Lonchay agreed to make enquiries about the process.

8. Reports:

a) Christmas Lights: The lights were currently being tested and would be installed on 1 or 3 December. The appropriate forms had been submitted. The Christmas Trees would be erected on 2 December.

b) Safety Group: One primary school had still to make contact about safety lights. Kate Rigby agreed to investigate Neighbourhood Watch.

c) Community Learning and Development: There had been some problems over the use of the community lounge by sixth year pupils. The current fifth year would be unable to use it the following year as it would be required as a classroom while the extension was being built. The levels of staffing had been reduced, and responsibilities reallocated accordingly. The Library had been very active over the summer, as had work with young people.

d) GACCF: The Forum meeting on Wednesday 28th November 2012 had been poorly attended. Jill Sowdon had discussed Men's Sheds and the possibility of voluntary help with small DIY jobs for the elderly such as changing light bulbs or tap washers and putting up curtain rails. Anne Simpson had talked about grant funding: she had provided a number of hand-outs and said she would email electronic copies so that the various links could be followed more easily. Doug Milne, the area manager, had given information on Community Asset Transfer; this applies not just to buildings, but to sites such as caravan parks and playing fields. The creation of Ward Forums had also been discussed.

e) Community Planning: Attention was drawn to the update previously circulated which included the fact that the Health Improvement Group had approved £492 to Kemnay Community Learning and Development to run Confidence to Cook classes at Kintore Family Centre.

f) Kemnay Academy: The Pupil Council had drawn up its expectations, goals and objectives; it was to have professional help with team-building exercises, with the aim of increasing participation by younger pupils. The Fair on 10 November had raised £800. The Charities Committee had participated in the Jasmine Charity Challenge run by Gordon Townsend and Dannie Cowie; a team from the school had had to make a presentation with the aim of attracting funding for further charity efforts. The Charities Committee also hoped to attend a forthcoming business breakfast with important businessmen from Aberdeen. The Chairman of the Pupil Council and the Head Girl had been invited to a meeting of the Scottish Democratic Alliance at Holyrood. The planned trip to Madagascar had been cancelled, in view of the increasingly volatile political situation there. Pupils who had signed up for the trip would now go to Ecuador.

g) Press Report: The public was asked to be aware of an invasive plant species – Piri Piri – which forms a dense mat, prevents native species growing and poses a significant threat to wildlife habitat. It is spread by burrs.

h) Garioch Partnership: Members were urged to attend the Winter Forum on 3 December.

9. Aberdeenshire news: Funding had been approved for the extension at the Academy.

10. Gas, Electricity and Oil Supplies: Following a letter from Sir Robert Smith MP outlining the advantages of forming oil-buying groups, it was observed that the organisation of an oil buying group would require a committed volunteer. It was agreed that the prospect of cheaper gas and electricity should be investigated. The Chairman was to place an appropriate article in the Newsletter.

11. Correspondence:

a) Just Enterprise Learning Programme

b) Local Development Plan

c) Kemnay Traffic Management ((Previously Circulated)

d) Police Scotland News October (Previously Circulated)

e) Business Breakfast (Previously Circulated)

f) Viewpoint (Previously Circulated)

g) Forestry Commission (Previously Circulated)

h) NEAT – expanding into film

i) Looking for Community Groups (Previously Circulated)

j) Invitation to the Garioch and Formartine Aberdeenshire Council Budget Engagement Event on Wednesday, 12 December 2012 (Previously Circulated)

k) Scottish Water survey (Previously Circulated)

l) NHS Grampian (Previously Circulated)

m) The Network (Previously Circulated)

n) Police Scotland News.

Note: Cllr Lonchay agreed to pursue the lack of response to concerns about the traffic management plan (see item c)). It was also agreed to write to the Forestry Commission suggesting that they refrain from selling Leschangie Wood, as it was used as a recreational area by the people of Kemnay (see item g)).

12. AOCB:

a) Annie Ferries pointed out that Dr Glennie was the First Responder for Kemnay – and that he had been presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in recognition of his work.

b) Margaret Basley complained that the traffic island in Aquithie Road had once again lost its bollard. It was agreed to write to Bob Gray.

c) The Office Holders were empowered to act in the event of urgent matters occurring during the holiday period.

d) It was agreed that the Notice Board should be available for non-commercial organisations only, and that the Chairman should use his discretion where there was any doubt about the status of an organisation.

e) Bob Ingram drew the meeting's attention to National Planning Framework³. As part of a consultation process to engage with regional planners and laypersons a meeting had been held on the 14 November in Aberdeen. A consultation would be open until 14 December. Nationwide regional issues raised included the Borders Railway link, Container Exchange Port at Invergordon, Aberdeen bypass, the Haudagin Roundabout, Joined up Public Transport Links, Road Pothole repairs, etc

13. Date of Next Meeting: The Next meeting would be on 31 January 2013.