

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 2013

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

Attending: Cllr Allison Grant, Cllr Sheena Lonchay, PC David Culvert, PC Stewart Gibbon, Lorna Forsyth, Kathleen Morrison.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. Apologies for absence: Fraser Lamb, Douglas Laing.

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.

4. Greener Kemnay: Lorna Forsyth outlined the aims and objectives of the group which hoped to promote green issues in the area: promoting community composting was high on their agenda, as was the planting of native fruiting trees and the linking of footpaths to create networks.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2012 was proposed by Bob Ingram, seconded by Sheila Simpson and unanimously approved.

6. Matters Arising from Minutes:

a) Tree Preservation Orders: These had been placed on a number of trees in the area around the foot of Parkhill and down Victoria Terrace to Bogbeth Road. Members of the public had four weeks in which to object, after which time the matter would proceed to the next stage.

b) Disposal of Leschangie Wood: This was now to be sold. The Community Council had been informed, but was unable to act, as they would have to find the market price. They had, however, been assured that public rights to access would not be compromised.

c) Community Payback: We had been told that we could not have the Place of Origin tidied under this scheme as it was privately leased land. Other examples of work being done on privately owned land were given and it was decided to pursue the matter further.

7. Planning matters and applications: There were no controversial new applications. Cllr Lonchay was to establish who should be informed about the flooding in Fyfe Park. Consultation was to start on the next Local Development Plan.

8. Ward Forums: These were intended to link main providers and the voluntary sector. A Forum meeting would be held in Inch on 26 February 2013, and a drop-in session at Newmachar on 6 February 2013. The Newsletter had been received.

9. The Community Council Short-Life Working Group's final report: This was commendable, stressing, as it did, the need for greater co-operation and consultation between Community Councils and local councils, but it remained to be seen whether it would be implemented.

10. Village Hall Open Day: It was agreed that Kemnay Community Council should be represented. Bob Ingram, Eric Pashley, David Evans, John Hern, Annie Ferries and Chris Hunneyball agreed to be present at a table.

11. Old Tennis Court at Kembhill Park Kemnay: Bob Rose had e-mailed to say that the existing shrubs and trees around the old wall of the courts were to be heavily thinned out to reduce the risks to children who might be using the shrub area. A number of large Poplar trees were to be felled or reduced in height as there had been a number of large branches which had fallen during wind or snow. The old concrete block walls were to be demolished and the court area covered with new soil to form a landscaped area where a colourful wild flower meadow would be planted to reduce the need for excessive grass cutting on what was generally a very wet area. Approximately 60 new trees would be planted to help to soak up the water and to provide an improved look to the whole site. It was agreed that this was an excellent proposal.

12. Memorial to Mavis Wainman: Some ideas were discussed, and it was agreed that an article would be placed in the March newsletter seeking suggestions for a suitable memorial and inviting contributions from those who might wish to make appropriate donations..

13. Community Council/Area Partnership Questionnaire 2012: This questionnaire sought the views of the Community Council on its relationship with Aberdeenshire Council. It was completed.

14. Scottish Police Authority – consultation on draft Strategic Police Plan: It appeared that this would make little difference to the police team at the local level, although there might be fewer officers at a higher level.

15. Reports:

a) **Safety Group:** Pass Plus funding had been increased to £100 per entrant. The Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group had supplied a further 54 safety flashing lights to Alehousewells Primary School.

b) **Community Learning and Development:** Kate Rigby had attended a meeting of the Community Learning and Development Group on Monday 21 January 2013 at Kemnay Academy. The main items of interest to the Community Council were that a report on the Community Learning and Development (CLD) accommodation in Kintore and Kemnay highlighted that CLD would be losing their rooms at Kintore Primary School as the space is required by the School. The accommodation for CLD at Kemnay Academy was being moved to a portacabin on site and this would be the case for a two year period from 31 May 2013 when the part of the academy currently used by CLD was to be demolished. However, after all building work was complete, the CLD staff would be allocated space within the new building. CLD staff were currently doing work with Primary 6 and 7 at Alehousewells School after being asked by the school staff for some assistance.

There were plans to extend the Youth Cafe by using part of the courtyard at the rear of the building and providing a large room for use by the various youth groups using this facility.

The Hip Hop Group were to be holding a concert in Kemnay Village Hall on 23 March 2013.

Librarian Moureen Power had reported that the libraries in Aberdeenshire are currently using ICT volunteers to help people apply to become Commonwealth Games volunteers. Information sessions on welfare reform/benefit changes are also being held throughout Aberdeenshire. Paul Smith, author and journalist from Kintore had visited Kintore Library to give a presentation and he is to be going to the Academy to speak to senior pupils on report writing. Deborah Leslie, author, is going to be attending the Knit and Natter Group and Carol Ramsay, Crime writer is to come to Kemnay Library on 26 March 2013.

c) **Community Planning:** This meeting had been held in Inverurie Police Station. Unfortunately there had been a number of apologies, including those of the Community Planning Officer, so the meeting was inevitably less satisfactory than usual.

The main topic for discussion had been an assessment of how the Group was performing. They had been invited to do a PESTELO assessment, but on this occasion had confined themselves to the broader picture. On the whole it had been felt that the group was functioning reasonably well. The group had been responsible for a number of initiatives; the Inverurie kitchen and the Westhill Men's Shed being just two; but the follow up monitoring of their impact could have been better. It was felt that partners individually were performing well, although inter-organisation liaison could be improved. More contact with communities was wanted, and the participation of Newmachar in the Local Plan preparation was mentioned as an example of how a good partnership between a community and the local authority could produce a workable outcome that satisfied all. In this context the report of the Community Council Short Life Working Group – [CCWG Final Report and Recommendations](#) – was mentioned as well worth reading.

d) **Kemnay Academy:** The school was absorbed in prelims at the time of the meeting but there was to be a performance of Rock Challenge in the Academy on Thursday 7 February 2013, ahead of the competition in Aberdeen. Tickets could be had from the school.

e) **Press Report:** Funding for expanding the Academy had been formally approved. There was to be a period of consultation on the new Local Development Plan.

f) **GAP Event at the Primary School:** On 30 January Sheila Simpson had attended Kemnay Primary School as a member of the Community Council. The organisation was one of several groups to support the initiative *Children's Community Voice (CCV) – Community Engagement and Delivery*. This was a platform for community leaders such as elected and community councillors to be “grilled” by the school children on important issues. The Garioch Area Partnership received funding from Aberdeenshire LEADER (Liaisons Entre Actions de Développement de L'Économie Rurale) which is part of the [Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013](#). It is a £1.6 billion programme of support for rural Scotland, funded by the Scottish Government and the European Commission. This funding has enabled the CCV project in rural primary schools in the Garioch area by funding Penny Downes as a Development Worker. She spent an interesting

morning answering questions such as “when can we get the Bogbeth Park toilets back?” and “can you slow down the traffic” and “can we have more resources in the Bogbeth Park for our age group?”. The children were a delight, and specific requests were brought to the meeting on their behalf. Cllr Lonchay agreed to follow up a number of points that were brought up in discussion at the school and at the meeting; these included toilets for Bogbeth Park (in conjunction with Cllr Grant), pre teenage play equipment such as a climbing wall and tyres, a pedestrian crossing opposite Milton Meadows, No Dog signs for Bogbeth Park and graffiti removal (although there was some doubt as to whether this was a serious problem).

16. Correspondence: The following correspondence was received: Garioch Community Planning Group updates (December 2012 & January 2013), Aberdeenshire Council – consultation on housing policy, Budget Briefing Paper nos 1 & 3, Coping with Emergencies, Third Sector Early Intervention Fund, CVSA November-December 2012 Newsletter, Garioch Community Kitchen – Classes & Course For 2013, Inverurie Speakers Club, Local Policing Team Update – Garioch, Garioch Partnership, Roxburghe House, Spotlight on the Pavilion, Community Resources Network, Community Energy Scotland.

17. AOCB: Thanks were given to Eric Pashley for his organisation of the Christmas trees and lights. Congratulations were offered to Aberdeenshire Council for their efficient snow clearing.

18. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 28th February 2013.