

# **KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2004 AT 7.30PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT** – Alan Davies, Hazel Al-Kowarri, Billy Ridler, Jack Rigby, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman, Pat Findlater, Susan Milton, Sheila Taylor, Roger Durham, David Evans, Bill Blackwood, Janet Newberry.

**ATTENDING** – Neil Johnson, Duncan Lyon, Dr C. Hunter, Cllr Leitch, Cllr Saluja and Insp. Dave Allan

### **1. Introduction**

Alan Davies (Vice Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He introduced Dr Hunter the new Rector of Kemnay Academy and Neil Johnson a prospective secretary for KCC, as well our guest speaker for the evening, Elaine Stewart of Aberdeenshire Council.

### **2. Apologies**

Chris Hunneyball Chair of KCC has tendered his apologies.

### **3. Police Matters**

Insp. Allan gave a quick resume of the crime locally, stating for the period 18<sup>th</sup> October to 15 November there had been 24 recorded crimes in Kemnay. He went on to describe some of the incidents including the shooting of a swan and acts of vandalism.

Insp. Allan spoke of the Safer Community Initiative focusing on Anti-Social Behaviour and alcohol abuse in youngsters.

Questions were asked about future funding for the police, as residents were concerned at the lack of police presence in the village.

Cllr Saluja spoke of the 3 year revenue funding with Scotland receiving a 17% increase, 25% of which would be for the Grampian region, being the main beneficiary. He informed KCC of new recruit levels saying the future will see a move away from police response but more community friendly although not necessarily on patrol.

It was mentioned that everytime there is an increase in police staff; a new initiative is then implemented that uses that staff's time. Community Wardens were seen as a success in both Peterhead and Fraserburgh. The recruitment of special constables bought particular interest as there have been two persons recruited from Kemnay.

### **4. Elaine Stewart, Aberdeenshire Council – Housing Strategy**

Elaine introduced herself as the Strategy Development Officer for Customer Service with Aberdeenshire Council and gave a brief insight into her career in housing.

The Aberdeenshire Housing Strategy is divided into four themes that will cover amongst other things, access to housing, quality of housing, the Scottish Housing Quality Standard, housing for particular needs and sustainable communities. Each theme will have a 'champion' and supported by Elaine and the Strategy Team.

The Housing Strategy covers all tenures and has replaced the Housing Plan. It has been created with other partners, including other councils, developers and Housing Associations. The topic was well received and generated several questions and discussion including:-

- Population projections
- The rural aspect
- Bus service
- Lack of facilities i.e. health centres & banks
- Employment
- Availability of land

Cllr Leitch stated that Community Scotland was well aware of land shortage as they were actively encouraging social landlords to land bank. KCC he said has in the past been reluctant to take on employment land.

A discussion followed about Planning Gain and Council Tax on second homes as additional revenues.

Elaine was asked about the Council's Empty Homes Initiative and grants to encourage the use of solar panels and insulation. Cllr Saluja said a grant of 30% was available towards the use of renewable energy.

Elaine spoke of the Council's Homeless Strategy and it was remarked that there are still homeless persons on the streets of Aberdeen.

Cllr Leitch spoke of the Housing Minister's view that there is no need for homelessness, and the rethink about the Right to Buy.

Elaine Stewart was thanked for an informative talk and she left the meeting.

#### **5. Revised Minute of Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

Adoption proposed by Mavis Wainman and seconded by Susan Milton.

#### **6. Minute of Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2004.**

Cllr Leitch pointed out that there were some inaccuracies under Aberdeenshire News.

Jim Piggins asked that scheme be replaced with voyage under the heading **Youth Projects**.

Sheila to make changes to the original Minute for approval in the New Year.

Adoption subject to changes. Proposed by Susan Milton and seconded by Bill Blackwood.

**ACTION SHEILA TAYLOR**

#### **7. Question Time – An opportunity for members of the public to speak.**

Duncan Lyon who resides in Leshangie introduced himself and raised his concerns about the financing of the skate park, and in particular the recent request for an additional £7,000 from the Council, given that no accounts have yet been paid.

Points he raised where.

- No need for additional costs

- To dig deeper is cheaper not more expensive
- Soil was dumped illegally
- No test hole taken
- Only tractor and dump cart running on red diesel used
- Quarry had donated the hardcore
- Recipient of the grant not vetted
- No invoices paid
- Where has the money gone?
- The Quarry has not been paid
- Recorded letter sent to Leading Edge but returned having been uncollected

Mr Lyon mentioned that Ian Fowell had been to see him regarding his complaint, but he was still very much of the opinion that you only had to be wearing a short skirt to be awarded finances from the Council – he felt the need to repeat this several times. Mr Lyon verbally attacked Cllr Leitch about his involvement in the request for additional finances, and accused him of putting down the phone and refusing to speak to him. Cllr Leitch denied this and asked Mr Lyon to put his complaint in writing to him and he would bring this up with Ian Fowell and the Legal Director, to draw a line under the accusations, insinuations and sexist remarks.

Insp. Allan said that Mr Lyon's son had visited him, and he (Insp. Allan) had satisfied himself that there was no evidence of any criminal act.

It was considered that direct contact with the Council was perhaps the best place for Mr Lyon to direct his concerns, and as the funds have to be accounted for publicly all would be revealed when these are published.

**AGREED KCC to obtain a copy of the accounts as soon as they are published.**

#### **Any other matters**

Village fireworks – Jim Piggins

Letter box on Bremner Way – Roger Durham

#### **8. Matters arising from the Minute**

a) **Increase Program – Decided to leave until our next meeting.**

b) **Post of Secretary** – Neil Johnson has responded to the advertisement for a secretary, and was attending the meeting as an observer. Hazel confirmed that she was unable to carry out all the secretarial duties due to lack of time and welcomed the interest from Neil.

**AGREED To give Neil time to consider the role. To be addressed at the next meeting.**

c) **Walks around Kemnay** – There is still interest to produce a booklet on walks around Kemnay including the fauna and flora, and made available through the tourist office in Aberdeen. It was reported that the newsletter intends to publish a 'Walk a Month' and these could form the foundation to the booklet.

**ACTION Cllr Leitch suggested that contact be made with Linda Mathieson (Access Officer Aberdeenshire Council), as there may be funds available for publication.**

**d) Finance Briefing** – Hazel and Mavis attended the presentation at Gordon House. The speakers were Alan Campbell, Charles Armstrong and Colin MacKenzie. The talk centred around how the Council spends its money and setting the Council Tax for the next financial year.

## **9. Aberdeenshire News**

Cllr Leitch spoke of the Scottish Federation of Housing conference he had attended at the weekend. The speaker being Malcolm Chisholm, Housing Minister, bringing good news about money going into housing. One of the main items on the agenda is the review into the Right to Buy especially in pressurised areas. The SFHA are also campaigning to stop Right to Buy, at present for every one house built two are sold at great discounts.

Public Inquiry in Local Plan – the ‘chunky bit’ is done and now back to the public for opinion.

Kincardine O’Neil Castle – a discussion about tax on second homes with the money going back into the kitty to build new homes. Registered Social Landlords are being encouraged to land bank but there are concerns there will be no money left in the coffers to build.

Cllr Saluja spoke of the Boundary Commission saying some wards would now have three or four members. A special meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November decided to preserve area committees in Aberdeenshire.

The appointment of Deputy Chief Constable was mentioned with interviews taking place on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Saluja also mentioned a recent meeting with the Justice Minister.

## **10. Planning applications**

It was reported that there was nothing controversial. An initial sketch for Craigeearn Wells provided by the Chair generated a discussion about drinking water, sewage and Aberdeenshire countryside. Cllr Saluja said he had explained policy to the developer.

## **11. Unfinished Business**

**a)** Precognitions are now complete and emailed to all for information; Jim will hand them in personally and face the Reporter on behalf of KCC.

### **ACTION Jim Piggins**

A vote of thanks was extended to Jim for all his hard work. Proposed by David Evans and seconded by Bill Blackwood.

### **b) Calor Gas Award**

Program on TV was seen by all and recorded by some, we now have to wait for the outcome on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

### **c) Pavilion Toilets**

It was reported that the Feasibility Study has not been done.

## **12. New Business**

### **a) Rural Community Transport Initiative – Small Projects Fund**

Thoughts were that there was too little money for too much work. Although it was considered that a town bus similar to that, which operates in Inverurie, may be an idea.

### **13. Report from the Safety Group Representative**

Pat Findlater presented his report.

Matters covered: -

- Successful day at Inverurie Town hall
- Kemnay Academy – cheque
- First Responder – Sauchen £300 to each scheme.
- Passplus those taking part in the 6 hour driving course could now negotiate for better insurance
- £200 - £400 donated to Westhill Community Officer for the purchase of a bicycle.

### **14. Correspondence**

**All are in circulation to members or in the pack provided.**

### **15. AOCB**

**a) Fireworks** – Janet was thanked for providing the village with another spectacular firework display. It was remarked however, that there seems to have been an increase in the number of private displays and the increase in noise had proved upsetting to animals.

**b) Letter boxes in Bremner Way – not discussed as R Durham has left the meeting.**

KCC expressed thanks to Alan Davies for conducting the meeting.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2005**

**MEETING CLOSED AT 10.10PM**