

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THE 24TH OF JUNE 2004 AT 7.30PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT – Sheila Taylor, Susan Milton, Chris Hunneyball, Mavis Wainman, Alan Davies, Alistair Thomson, Bill Blackwood, Jim Piggins, Iain Morgan, Roger Dunham, Billy Ridler and Jack Rigby

ATTENDING – Cllr Alister Leitch, Cllr Gurudeo Saluja & Ian Fowell (Garioch Area Manager for Aberdeenshire Council)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Pat Findlater, Hazel Al-Kowarri, David Evans and Tim McKay.

A. POLICE MATTERS – Unfortunately no police were able to be present at our meeting due to an ongoing incident.

B. MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 27TH OF MAY 2004

Adoption Proposed Susan Milton

Seconded Bill Blackwood

Corrections to last minute/agenda – None.

**Please also note were it states that Sheila has contacted someone it is on behalf of Community Council and is either at its request or a request of a member of the community within her capacity as Secretary of Community Council.

C. QUESTION TIME –

a/ Opportunity for members of the public present to address the Community Council should they wish. – No members of the public were present at this meeting

b/ Nominate any matters to be raised under AOCB or for a future meeting to be recorded and timetabled

- **Place of Origin**
- **Giant Hogweed**
- **Community Learning & Development Group**

D. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTE

1. **Consultation on the Report of the Summary Justice Review** – Copy of our reply is attached to the minute of meeting from 27th of May. Group are in agreement that this

is a fair record and no proposed changes in light of the meeting Sheila and Mavis attended of which minutes were circulated in pack and via email.

2. **Rights of Appeal in Planning Consultation Paper** – deadline 30th of July – Cdr Hunneyball is to ask if David Evans would be kind enough to look over this on Community Councils behalf and draft a reply on Community Councils behalf. Having read the document Cdr Hunneyball felt it would be best if David replied to this due to his experience and knowledge of planning rules and regulations.
3. **Village Hall Committee Representative from Community Council** –Cdr Hunneyball and Roger Dunham attended the AGM on Monday the 21st of June and are now on the committee as Community Council's representatives. However, Mavis would like to stress that there is still more help required and if anyone would like to contact her and offer any type of support, it would be most welcome.
4. **Garioch Area Community Forum AGM 17th of June** Report by Sheila Taylor enclosed in pack and sent via email to members.
5. **NHS Grampian – Out-Of-Hours Medical Services in Grampian Information & Consultation Process – deadline for replies 11th of August.** A reply to this was drafted at the meeting and a copy will be enclosed in the next pack to members. Cdr Hunneyball attended the open day which had been held today and in a nutshell – call NHS Direct and speak to a trained nurse who will access you to either go straight to Aberdeen, get the doctor who is on call for the area (up to Midnight) or call an ambulance. They are looking into the problem of how you get to Aberdeen if you have no transport of your own. It is more or less cast in concrete as the current contract with the GP's ends in October. There appears to be a lot of mis-information going about and this needs to be addressed. It is also very concerning that no one has asked how A&E department are going to cope. Also bearing in mind the traffic light system in A&E (green – could wait up to 7 hrs, yellow – could wait up to 4 hrs and red). At the open day the question was raised question “Is this how it is to be?” the reply was ‘it is the preferred option.’ When asked “what are the other options” and “what is the status quo” both were met with silence at the open day. The doctor covering the area although based in Inverurie could end up overlapping areas e.g./ Inverurie to Peterhead and Aboyne to Kemnay. The new system does not take into account weather conditions at certain times of the year in this area. It is estimated that this out of hours care will cost NHS Grampian £5-6 million – money they simply do not have.
6. **Official Opening – Scottish Parliament Building** – Letter submitted for our nomination of Mavis Wainman. We await a reply from David Davidson MSP.

Councillor's Remuneration Progress Group - Meeting 18th of June 2004 in Aberdeen – Report by Alan Davies who attended on our behalf. Alan was unsure what to expect at this meeting and in the end 8 people attended only 2 from a community council perspective. At no time did they ever say a ballpark figure but did discuss should this be a full time role. And a problem arises if they are not re-elected; compare this to a job in other industries. The day-to-day job, severance if not re-elected and the pension scheme were the main discussion points. It was discussed that the salary should start with a 2 then 4 zero's and that it should reflect the structure of the work look at the salaries paid to MSP's and their duties and if it

was a full time position should be a 3 the 4 zero's. This remuneration package should try and introduce younger councillors and indeed more people to be interested in this role and that it is a vocation. With this type of package it will allow more people the opportunity to become a councillor.

We received an email from an attendee Bill –

Thank you. As you say, it does not really answer the points you made. Our rep, incidentally, was not as unhappy with the meeting as you were, although he did not give it an unqualified thumbs up.

Chris Hunneyball

-----Original Message----- **From:** Bill Roadnight [mailto:bill.roadnight@btinternet.com]

Sent: Saturday, July 03, 2004 6:01 PM **To:** hunneyball@v21mail.co.uk

Subject: FW: Councillor's Remuneration Progress Group

I thought you may like to see this reply, which does nothing for me whatsoever. I will forward to my neighbour City Community Councils my e-mail and the reply. Bye Bill Roadnight

6 Earlswells Place, Cults, Aberdeen AB15 9LG Tel: 01224 861350 M: 07740942294

-----Original Message----- **From:** Michael.Cutts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

[mailto:Michael.Cutts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: Friday, June 25, 2004 3:28 PM **To:** bill.roadnight@btinternet.com

Subject: Councillor's Remuneration Progress Group

Dear Bill

Thank you for your e-mail of 18 June to Lord Sewel, I have been asked to reply. I am sorry that you were not content with the meeting and your comments have been noted. I accept your point that it would be useful for attendees to know what other groups have been invited and this is something we will bear in mind for the future. The decision to meet interested groups and bodies separately, such as councillors and community councillors, was made in the genuine belief that this was the best way for the Group to hear the voices and opinions of different groups and I can assure you that it was not made in an attempt to 'divide and rule'. It was considered that a large meeting for all invitees would run the risk of some voices failing to be heard. There was also some concern that some non-councillors might feel inhibited in talking freely about the issues of councillor's remuneration if councillors (particularly their own) were present at the same time. Like you, we were also disappointed by the number of community councillors present at the meeting. We considered it important for community councillors to have the opportunity to be heard. We invited representatives from twelve Community Councils from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to attend the meeting but over half failed to reply to the invite and only two community councils, including your own, were able to send representatives. It would appear we are in agreement that more community councillors present would have been beneficial. We had hoped that the information contained in the letter inviting you to meet with the group was sufficient to inform you of the Group's activities. The intention was for the meeting to be an informal chat rather than following a rigid agenda and that the direction of the meeting would to a large extent depend on the issues raised. However, I apologise if the information we provided left you feeling unprepared and unaware of what was expected from the meeting. Again, this is something we can reflect on for any future meetings that take place. Yours sincerely Michael Cutts

- 7. Concept – 1st Regional Cluster Group Meeting – Tuesday 15th of June at 6.30pm**
– Sheila attended on behalf of Community Council - details of the project are included in your pack this was purely an introduction to what the project is about and a

brainstorming session on what is good and bad about transport and infrastructure in Aberdeenshire. More details and meetings will follow as I receive them.

E. ABERDEENSHIRE NEWS

Report by Cllr Alister Leitch.

Aberdeenshire Council announced additional funding for public transport today.

The repair of the Riverside Footpath is in the programme to be done but a date for the start of works is still to be confirmed.

He was delighted to get some positive publicity for the youth of Kemnay in the press regarding the good works and undertakings for the Youth Café and the Skate Park in Kemnay.

With regard to the Skate Park Cllr Leitch asked that the public to bear in mind that there are a lot of houses and business in Leschangie as well as a working dairy farm and their access must not be blocked by cars parking at the side of the road. The car park at the top end of Bogbeth Park beside the Pavilion and bowling green is a public car park and as much as possible he urged people to use this rather than park at the side of the road. Just stressing to be aware and use your common sense when parking in that area.

Kemnay Academy has a new head teacher and deputy head teacher Mr Charlie Hunter and Ms Alison respectively.

Cllr Leitch has also now on the committee for the Scottish Rural Housing Forum.

F. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – only 3 planning applications for us to look at and none were contentious or of concern to Community Council.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Aberdeenshire Local Plan Update** – We have received the set of first session timetable – 31st of August & 10th of September. The second and third session timetables will follow in due course.
2. **Toilet Facilities at Bogbeth Pleasure Park Update** – nothing new to report at present. Could there be some negotiation with the park & pavilion committee to get more access on a regular basis? Aberdeenshire Council will only provide 1 public toilet per settlement and this in Kemnay is on Aquithie Road – just opposite the Village Hall. If you were to look inside this facility and see the terrible state it is in even when refurbished on a regular basis it soon gets into the same state. When Cllr Reid eventually managed after years of fighting to get a pavilion there was no discussion on the layout and the plans were not released to be discussed therefore a mistake was made which means the toilets are not accessible when the pavilion is not in use. The old toilet block in the park was badly vandalised for years however it was in a dark position hidden from view which made it an idea for vandals and in any case it was not suitable for wheelchair access. It was closed due to cuts and the cost of constant repairs. We have asked that when the council ask us what facilities we require next in the village that it be some toilets based at the park. At this moment

Aberdeenshire Council are unable to fund this as the cost of building and staffing each facility is £100,000. It was suggested that the park & pavilion committee apply for a grant to enable the toilet facilities within their premises available.

3. **Disused Chicken Shed** – Nothing new to report on this issue of concern. Environmental Health is aware of the problem and is in discussions with the owners of the property. SEPA and the Garioch Area Safety Group are also involved in this complaint.
4. **Youth Café Update** – Will open on the 25th of June by invitation only on Friday 6.30 till 8pm then on Saturday will a small charge it will be open to the public 10 till 12noon. The will also be washing cars in the car park opposite to raise further funds for the project.
5. **Skate Park** – Will open on the 3rd of July, the time is to be confirmed but is in the afternoon.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Congratulations to Mavis Wainman** – soon to be MBE.
2. **Aberdeenshire Community Learning & Development Strategy** – enclosed in pack. It was commented that this was all very laudable in its aims and management speak but it was also a very broad brush and would need to be more measurable and was short on practicalities. Could we invite David Sneddon or Isabel Kendrick to attend a meeting about this? We haven't seen our community learning plan. Any chance of commenting on it? It was discussed how Kemnay Academy a 'community school' in joint management as a school and with community education yet the facilities we had are continually cut back. Indeed Aberdeen College ran out of money for evening classes. A review of costings is to be done.
3. **Postwatch** – Revolution in Charges for Mail. Details in pack. It was agreed to contact them regarding the article on proposed postal charges per envelope size as we believe this to be most unfair and the cost implications companies are horrendous.
4. **Dundas Bros** – letter in pack, Kemnay Community Council is to write to Ross Finnie MSP who is the Minister for Environment and Rural Development on the unpleasant and offensive smell which carries for some miles from the plant.
5. **Fraser Place closure** – We received a letter stating for 2 or 3 days during a 4 week period commencing 7th of June however the sign states differently. The position of the sign is also not good as you can be round the corner before you realise the road is closed no warnings on Victoria Terrace.
6. **Bogbeth Road** – This may become an area of concern as children and adults go to and from the skate Park – safety issue, as it is a straight fast road with no pavement. Ask if the roads department could look into this.

7. **Safety Group Funding – This is the ‘local action fund to divert young people away from crime’.** Was advised that with regard to this there have been 7 or 8 applications already.
8. **Draft Housing Land Audit** – details in pack. We discussed the future Baratt development at Bogbeth park with the following points – access to site as the road is very narrow, constrained by the slope, marketability with the noise from the skate park, infrastructure is not in place for the number of houses proposed, Stewart Mine ransom strip and the drainage problem as it could potentially flood due to the run off.

I. REPORT FROM THE SAFETY GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

Pat was not able to attend but did provide the minutes of the last meeting of the safety group. There is a new fund available from the Scottish Executive for a ‘Local Action Fund to Divert Young People away from Crime’. So far, there have been 8 or 9 applications for this years funding and it is hoped that there will be an annual fund available. Community Wardens are in place in Fraserburgh and Peterhead and it is hoped they will be in other areas by the end of 2004. A student from RGU has been appointed on placement to audit the Community Wardens. Swimming Project – Splash or Trash – this project was successfully run in the Easter holidays in Fraserburgh. The Council provided resources to allow youngsters free access to swimming pools throughout the holidays. Community Safety Groups will be approached with a request for funding to help this project with posters etc. ‘Remember – Before you Go Away’ Cards – these cards used to be funded by Thomas Cook and Get Up & Go but this has now ceased. The cards are distributed to persons going on holiday and advise them of safety items prior to leaving their home unattended. The cost of the cards is £40 for 1000. Discussions held and proposed that the Safety Group purchase up to a maximum of £500 and the group are to contact banks, travel agents, post offices etc. to ascertain if they will distribute them. Date of next meeting 6th of July.

J. CORRESPONDENCE -

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

Enclosed in you member pack this month should be the following –

1. Aberdeenshire Community Learning & Development Strategy.
2. Postwatch – Newsletter Summer 2004.
3. Aberdeenshire Council – Transport & Infrastructure – Garioch Area.
4. Letter regarding Dundas Brothers.
5. Newspaper cutting on Mavis.
6. Concept Info.

K. A.O.C.B –

As timetabled earlier

- **Place of Origin** – Be aware the paths are rough and loose stones and can be treacherous especially on the route back down from the top. A letter is to be sent to the Scottish Sculpture Workshop as an injury has occurred to a knee on this site.

- **Giant Hogweed** – this has been reported to Aberdeenshire Council’s Environmental Heath department. It is present on an island on the river and as such poses no immediate danger to the public unless they go onto the island.
- **Community Learning & Development Group** – Youth Café public opening on Saturday the 26th of June from 11am to 12noon, there will be a small charge to help raise funds. They will also be washing cars in the car park opposite in the morning for the Café as well. The Community Room within the Academy has had a make over with new flooring, seats and repainted.

L. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 30th OF SEPTEMBER

Note for your diaries – here is the list of meeting dates for 2004 - No meeting in July or August then 30th of September, 28th of October, 25th of November & No meeting in December.