

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY
24TH NOVEMBER 1994**

Present:: Mrs S Milton, Mrs S Shrago, Mr D Evans, Mr L Shrago, Mrs M Wainman, Mr M Moss, Dr J Piggins, Mr A Davies, Mr E Pashley, Mrs L Marco, Mr R Marco

Attending: Cllr R Hunter, Mr A Farmer (Inverurie Herald) Ms S McDonald (Evening Express), Commander G Wilson (Chairman, Cluny Midmar and Monymusk Community Council), Mrs P Wilson, Mr J Mitchell (member of the public), Mr R Bisset (Rector, Kemnay Academy), P C N Shand (Grampian Police)

Apologies: Mrs J Newberry, Mr F Wainman, Cllr J Elrick

1. Mrs Milton welcomed everyone and the apologies were read.

1 (a) Mrs Milton said she had altered the Agenda and put in number 1(a) to discuss an urgent matter of importance, namely allegations in the local press originating from Cluny Midmar and Monymusk Community Council. She then asked Commander Wilson to address the meeting.

Commander Wilson thanked the Chairman and said he was glad to have this opportunity to speak. He read a letter from Sir Archibald Grant which stated that he had been blatantly misrepresented by the Press. Commander Wilson said he unreservedly apologised for the damage that had been caused. He was speaking on his own behalf and had not had time to confer with the other members of his Community Council. He then read a letter dated 27th September from Sir Archibald to the Chief Executive of Gordon District concerning an application to build houses in Sauchen, which included the offending paragraph. It would seem that the matter became public knowledge after arriving at Gordon House as all correspondence relative to planning applications is circulated to the press. Commander Wilson said that he greatly regretted the distress and damage that this has done to the school and the community and he again apologised unreservedly on his own behalf, and, he was sure, on behalf of his Community Council. He asked if the Press had considered what effect reporting this matter would have on the school and the community and whether they felt at all responsible. Mrs Milton thanked Commander Wilson very much.

Mrs Milton then invited Mr Richard Bisset to address the meeting.

Mr Bissett thanked Mrs Milton for inviting him to the meeting. He stated that he first heard about the article in the Herald at 7.40 a.m. on Friday 18th November when he received a telephone call asking whether he had seen the paper. He obtained a copy and then immediately contacted the Press to ask where the story had come from and was told that it was the result of a letter that was sent to Gordon District Planning Department. He obtained a copy of the letter and saw its direct reference to Kemnay Academy and

the context in which this statement was made. It would seem that the quotes in the newspaper article are direct quotes from Sir Archibald who freely spoke to the Press. Mr Bisset had a two-hour meeting with Commander Wilson and Sir Archibald on Wednesday, 23rd November where he put his concerns about the school and asked Sir Archibald to explain and substantiate his claims. At the end of this meeting he had not provided any satisfactory explanation or substantiation. Mr Bisset read out a letter from Sir Archibald, received after this meeting, in which he expressed his sorrow for the distress caused by press misrepresentation. He did not retract or apologise for his remarks. Mr Bisset said he could quite categorically state at this moment in time, that no drugs have been found on anyone in Kemnay Academy. Mr Bisset said that the story has been carried in most of the national press today. Mr Farmer of the Herald said that when he contacted Sir Archibald about the paragraph in the original letter he happily agreed to answer every question asked. PC Shand was asked whether the drug problem was any worse in Kemnay than in Inverurie, Alford or Westhill which were the other communities mentioned in the original letter. P C Shand said that it was not. It would therefore seem that Sir Archibald is wrong. Mrs Milton then read a letter she had received on the 23rd November from Sir Archibald Grant in which he did not attempt to apologise for, or retract his remarks. She said that in her opinion the apology must go public just like the original story. Commander Wilson said he would take such action as he can to put the matter right. Mr Pashley said he felt the Community Council should write and demand a public apology. Mrs Milton then thanked Commander and Mrs Wilson and Mr Bisset for attending and they then left.

It was agreed to send a letter to Sir Archibald Grant asking for an unreserved retraction of his remarks and an apology both to Kemnay Academy and the whole village. Mr Shrago read out a suggested firmly-worded censure motion which attracted some support but it was decided to withhold the motion in favour of the letter to Sir Archibald. It was also agreed to send copies of the Minutes and the letter to the Press.

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read. After a minor spelling alteration, Dr Piggins proposed adoption, seconded by Mrs Wainman. Passed no dissent.

3. Matters arising:-

(A) Ideas on how to celebrate the millenium. AGENDA ITEM - January meeting.

(B) Play areas. Cllr Elrick had left a message that this matter was coming before the Leisure and Recreation Department on the 22nd November. On the 23rd November an article appeared in the local press reporting on the future upgrading of play areas in Gordon District. It seems that in view of the money required to upgrade these areas it might take several years before they are all brought up to standard.

4. Unfinished Business. There was none.

5. Correspondence Received. This was outlined by the Secretary. Mrs Milton said she had received a telephone call asking for a contribution towards the Community Minibus. After discussion it was decided to contribute £20 towards the minibus.

6. New Business. There was none.

7. District News. In the absence of Cllr Elrick there was none.

8. Regional News. Cllr Hunter said there had not been any Regional decisions pertaining to the village since the last meeting.

9. Planning Applications. Mr Evans reported eight in all. With regard to an application to erect a house at the Horner it was proposed by Mr Evans and seconded by Mr Shrago, to object to the application in similar terms to our letter of the 31st May 1991. With regard to the application to build a house at the Lang Stane of Craigearn a letter to be sent to Gordon District asking for clarification of future access to the Lang Stane. A letter to be sent to Gordon District re naming of the two roadways at the Boat development. After discussion the two names suggested were Craig Lea and Loch Way, in view of the fact that this land used to be a loch.

10. A.O.C.B. (i) Crime Prevention Panel. Mr Shrago asked if anyone else would be willing to be our representative as the meetings are always on Mondays and he is unable to attend on Monday evenings. The matter was left in abeyance - Mr Shrago will still receive the Minutes and notify the Community Council of anything important.

(ii) Mr John Mitchell who is the tenant of 12 Kembhill Park showed the new plans that have been drawn up following the previous meeting and his discussion with Mr D Evans. The plans have been resubmitted. He mentioned 69 Kembhill Park who also want to extend their garden and have apparently been told that they should wait until Gordon District becomes the new unitary authority i.e. another eighteen months! He asked for our support for this application. Mr Mitchell to let Mr Evans have a copy of the letter. Mr Evans to write on behalf of the Community Council.

(iii) Mrs Marco said she had received complaints about the buses outside Kemnay Taxis and asked whether they were allowed to park there. PC Shand said they are not allowed to park either on the road or on their property but only in a designated parking area. The Council is taking this matter up with the company.

11. Next meeting. Mrs Milton said that as the Community Council do not meet in December the next meeting will be on 26th January 1995. In the meantime she wished everyone a Happy Christmas and confirmed the Office Bearers will deal with matters in the usual way. There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 9.35pm.

Proposed adoption:

Seconded:

Signed: