

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25th JANUARY 2001

7.30 PM IN THE WAINMAN ROOM KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

1. Present:-

Mr A. Al-Kowarri, Mr D. Caney, Mr A. Davies, Mr D. Evans, Mr P. Findlater, Mr C. Hunneyball, Mrs S. Milton, Mrs J. Newberry, Dr J. Piggins, Mr A. Thomson, Mrs M. Wainman.

Attending:-

Ms P. Alexander, Ms L. Gibb, Mr R. Hutchison, Councillor A. Leitch, Mrs D. McGregor, Ms H. Miller, Councillor G. Saluja.

2. The Minute of meeting held on Thursday 30th November 2000 was adopted.

Proposed: Mr A. Thomson Seconded: Mrs S. Milton

3. Economic Development Presentation

Mr Reid Hutchison, the Community Development Advisor for Aberdeenshire Council, gave the Community Council an interesting presentation explaining his role. He explained that his job was to look at needs of communities, and try and marry requirements of adjoining settlements so that there was not unnecessary competition for scarce resources and funding. Acting together they had a greater chance of success, although they had to get their spadework done first, and it was up to them to actually identify their needs. He also sought to avoid clashes between events - for instance, it made sense for festivals and other events which might attract tourists not to be held on the same day, and ideally within a timescale that could allow visitors to attend more than one event. He stressed that he was not there to help compose applications for grants, but to act as a communicator and a conduit to Aberdeenshire Council, and to give what advice he could.

Mr Davies expressed surprise that the Council was not aware of communities' needs, and he also thought that more lottery money should be awarded to communities rather than be used on government projects.

Mrs Wainman suggested that Mr Hutchison might be able to give advice on how to attract companies to set up business in Kemnay, where there was a ready pool of workers with a variety of skills.

4. Police Matters

There was no police representation at the meeting.

5. Matters Arising from Last Minute

a. Building Site Debris

It was not known what action had been taken by the contractors, Crombie Developments, to clean up the site behind the Burnett Arms, nor, indeed, were members certain exactly what the developer's obligations were. Councillor Leitch undertook to investigate.

6. Unfinished Business

a. One 2 One Communications Mast

One 2 One had now made formal application to erect a mast, not exceeding 15 metres high, at the quarry. From the drawings provide it appeared that the mast would actually be about 10 metres in height.

b. Trees in Bremner Way

Aberdeenshire Council have said that they hope to plant 20-30 trees in Bremner Way to replace those destroyed by storm or other accidents, but final approval was awaited.

c. Late Night Bus Service

Aberdeenshire Council would look at the possibility of subsidising the late night bus service, but had pointed out that one of the major problems in the past had been the attacks on the late bus from Inverurie, which had led to that service being withdrawn. This made them cautious about recommencing the service.

d. Fyfe Park Speed Humps

Aberdeenshire Council had replied to the query about speed humps in Fyfe Park, and said that the proposed layout had been agreed by the Garioch Area Committee. The reason for the lack of humps was so that the road could also serve existing housing to the west of the site, and they recommended that the police be involved if particular individuals who were speeding could be identified.

e. Lorry Parking in Fyfe Park

The owners of the lorry which had been parking in Fyfe Park had been contacted, and it was reported that it was no longer using the car park.

7. Garioch Area Community Council Forum held on 29th November 2000

a. Project Grant Allocation

It was not known what progress Mr Pollard had made with the plan to renovate the village notice board. Dr Piggins pointed out that this would have to be done in the near future if the bill was to be submitted in the current financial year.

b. Community Council Input to Budget Matters

The Council suggested the following matters as worthy of expenditure should budget funding be available. Mr Evans said that the pavement next to the Primary School was very narrow, and was on a blind corner. This meant that traffic, particularly large vehicles, passed very close to pedestrians. As a result the pavement that side was almost unuseable. One of the consequences was that children attending the Primary School and living in Milton Meadows, instead of just having to cross the main road once, were obliged to walk on the other side and so had to cross Station Road and St Bryde's Road as well. Mr Al-Kowarri also pointed out that, if cars were parked outside the Grove Nursing Home, traffic had to approach the blind corner on the wrong side of the road.

Mr Davies suggested that priority should be given to the provision of a youth centre.

8. Joint Meeting Garioch and Formatine Community Council Fora held on 6th December 2000

This meeting had been devoted to budget matters, and neither Dr Piggins nor Mrs Milton had found it very useful.

Councillor Saluja said that the Council was targeting a few essential public toilets for reopening, and Councillor Leitch added that the matter of public toilets being reopened was under review as part of a larger study.

9. New Business

a. 220 Bus Service. Mrs McGregor said that she had learned recently that the 220 Service

would terminate in Blackburn from mid February, and passengers would then have to transfer to the 307 Service from Inverurie if they wished to continue to Aberdeen. The reverse would apply outbound. This was quite unacceptable, particularly for the rush hour buses which were well used. Even now some employees were being reprimanded for being late, due to the current traffic problems, and Mrs McGregor feared that the change could put people's jobs in jeopardy if they could not travel to Aberdeen reliably. It was agreed to write to Stagecoach Bluebird, with copies to MPs and Councillors. The possibility of a public meeting was also discussed, and Mrs McGregor agreed to talk to commuters about this. It was also suggested that Grampian Midweek be involved.

Councillor Leitch totally supported Mrs McGregor's points, but said that Stagecoach/Bluebird made their decisions on a commercial basis, and the Council did not have the power to intervene. He would, however, write to Stagecoach/Bluebird

b. Road from Kemnay to Midmill

It was reported that there was a drainage problem at both sides of the bridge spanning the A96. The Roads Department would be informed.

c. Recycling Bins

It was agreed that an additional bin for cardboard should be requested.

d. Tree Planting at Kirkstyle

The promised trees, which were awaiting a suitable time for planting, had still not materialised despite a year having passed. Aberdeenshire Council would be so informed.

e. Graffiti

Although the bridge had been cleaned, the garage next to the toilets in the car park was covered in graffiti, probably not having been cleaned because it was privately owned. Mr Evans volunteered to contact the owner and paint the garage himself, providing the Community Council would refund the cost of the paint. This was agreed.

There was also still graffiti on the pavilion. The Chairman said he would speak to the Chairman of the Pavilion Committee, which had reportedly not met for some considerable time.

10. Report from Safety Group

There had been concern about the safety of the playground equipment. Work had been done on the climbing frame and the agility frame has been checked, as have the swings. The rubber safety matting may need to be extended. An audit was now being carried out on all equipment.

Lobbying about the reduction in the number of ambulance control stations was continuing.

There was nothing further to report about the draft action plan, but hopefully there would be some progress by the next meeting.

The Annual Safety Seminar was being held on 31st March 2001 in Inverurie Town Hall. It would feature awards, displays, and four different presentations.

Ground had been acquired in Kellands Park for the skate board rink.

11. Aberdeenshire News

Councillors Leitch and Saluja gave a report. The final budget meeting was imminent, and next year would mark the commencement of a three year budget. A good deal of the money was, in effect, ring-fenced, which meant that the effective increase in budget was only about 1.5%. However, the complement of police officers was up to 1235, the highest figure ever.

The implications of the Sutherland Report were still being considered.

12. Planning Applications

Modifications to an approved application to convert the steading at Dalmadilly had been received, as had an application for an extension at 7 Burnett Road. There had also been an application to build a house at the top of Parkhill. This is actually in an area specified as Countryside around Town on the edge of the settlement envelope, but it could be argued that it would round off the boundary. The Community Council did not feel it should be opposed, although there was concern about the setting of precedents.

13. Correspondence

Nominations, either organisations or individuals, were required for Safety Awards.

The Census Office had offered to give a talk about the census to interested groups. They were particularly interested in addressing the young, the elderly and ethnic minorities. The Community Council were unable to offer any suggestions.

A letter had been received about the LSVT Feasibility Study. Aberdeenshire Council will retain ownership of the housing stock, and a 30 year business plan will be implemented. This will involve rent increases of RPI+3% for the first five years, thereafter RPI+2%. Dr Piggins pointed out that, over thirty years, this would amount to almost a doubling of rents in real terms. It was commented that other funding systems might well need similar increases.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd February 2001 at 7.30 pm in the Wainman Room at Kemnay Village Hall.