

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE MEETING ON

25th JANUARY 2007 AT 7.30PM IN THE KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Hazel Al-Kowarri, Bill Blackwood, David Evans, Annie Ferries, Pat Findlater, Chris Hunneyball, Neil Johnson, Susan Milton, Jim Piggins, Paul Smart, Alexandra Thomas, Mavis Wainman, Ian Wakley.

Attending: Cllr Alister Leitch, Bill Blackie, John Clarke, Paul Dudley, Hilda Hart, Patrick Hart.

Apologies: Cllr Garudeo Saluja, Janet Newberry.

1. Welcome

Chris welcomed those present.

2. Police Matters

The Police will be having an informal event at the Kintore Arms Hotel aimed at improving current multi agency work, under the banner "Total Community", on 14th February between 3.00 and 7.00 pm.

3. Minute of the Meeting held on 30th November 2006.

This was approved.

Proposed by - Mavis Wainman Seconded by - Paul Smart

4. Question Time - Opportunity for Members of Public to Speak

Paul Dudley asked if the Community Council would oppose the extraction of further sand from Dalmadilly, as extraction seemed to be going ahead without any concern for the environment. After discussion it was agreed to write and ask that restoration of the existing site be completed before further applications were granted.

5. Matters arising from Minute

a. Postcomm Consultation. A submission had been made in response to the Postcomm consultation, along the lines agreed at the November meeting.

b. Milton Drive Traffic Calming. In reply to the request for traffic calming in Milton Drive, the Roads Department have said that the planned schemes for the current year had already been approved, but it would be considered next year.

c. Bus Ticket Agency. Mr Manson had heard nothing from Stagecoach about a ticket agency. It was agreed to contact the bus company again, and also ask why the 220 service buses were still routed via the airport, when it had been expected that the route would change around Christmas time.

6. Planning Applications

Eight planning applications and one amendment had been submitted since the last meeting. The Bridgend development had been slightly modified, but the Community Council's original objections had not been addressed and its opposition to the scheme remained extant. This would be going to the Area Committee the following Tuesday, with officials recommending delegated grant, despite 105 letters of objection having been received.

During the holiday period some reservations had been expressed about the internal layout of the “Little Treasure’s” application, but it had been felt that it would be inappropriate to comment.

Ross’s application for a coffee shop, which would incorporate the old newsagent’s shop, was felt to be beneficial. As there was already a take away operating there, there should not be any extra delivery vehicles.

It has been reported that the Infrastructure Committee has rejected the application to develop the chicken shed site despite the Area Committee having recommended approval. The logic behind the refusal could not be guessed at, and the Community Council will write to protest about this refusal of a well considered development.

An outline planning application for twenty houses opposite Fyfe Park had been resubmitted, but was in accordance with the Local Plan.

Other applications were not thought to be contentious.

7. Report from Safety Group Representative

There has been an increase in misbehaviour, resulting in damage to cars, in Kintore.

There will be a Road Safety Forum meeting on 12th February.

The Safety Partnership is looking at suggestions to reduce youth road deaths - 62 last year in Grampian. Ideas include limiting engine size, banning passengers, and “P” plates. Problems were foreseen with some of the proposals, for instance banning passengers could affect travel to, or at, work, and limiting engine size might mean young people not being able to drive their parents’ cars. This could result in an increase in the number of cars on the road. Ideas were requested.

An appeal to upgrade the A96 has been made, bypassing Keith, Fochabers and Elgin.

8. Report from Community Learning and Development Representative

Jim reported that it was Tony Whitehall who had left. They had hoped to continue without a relief, but Rosemary Atkey has now joined and is organising evening classes.

9. New Business

a. Composting Presentation. This was not well attended, with six people at the afternoon session and two in the evening. It was largely a repeat of the presentation given to the Area Forum, but our comments there had been taken on board and Tony Archer now proposed, subject to there being enough interest, to have a centrally organised composting scheme in Kemnay, with garden waste being collected fortnightly. There would be a membership charge of £6 and he would like to see a group formed to liaise with Aberdeen Forward. This proposal was welcomed.

b. “What Can We Do to Help Community Councils” Response. Although Kemnay had not contributed to this consultation because we had been a major contributor to the Area Forum submission, we had seen the response. It was not felt to offer any major breakthroughs, and it was disappointing to note that the two aspects which had been stressed, to give more authority to Community Councils, and to enhance their rights of appeal in planning matters, had been either ignored or discounted.

c. NHS Grampian Consultation Response. The proposals which had been floated last June were broadly accepted. It is to be hoped that the new arrangements will be in place before the old are discarded.

d. Community Planning. Chris is a member of the Garioch Community Planning Committee, representing all Community Councils in the Garioch area. The five themes being considered are Community Wellbeing, Jobs and the Economy, the Environment, Lifelong Learning and Developing our Partnership.

e. Handrail for Boat Croft Path. The Community Council had been asked if it could press for a handrail to be provided on the steps of the path from Boat Croft to Bridge Road. The proposal was supported, and Cllr Leitch undertook to see what had happened to the residents' request.

Jim asked if a reply had been received following the request to resurface the Glebe footpath. Chris did not have an immediate answer. (Post Meeting Note - It was reported at the October KCC meeting that this had been costed and put on the Priority List.)

f. Knackery Visit. Chris, Mavis and Annie visited the Knackery on Wednesday 24th January following November's invitation to the Community Council. They were impressed by the changes that had been made. The cost of the refurbishment was about £6m, which included £1m for a Thermal Oxidiser. This should completely eliminate the smells from the processor, and the bio filters will now only be used to filter the air from the work areas. Oran will also be using their own transport and so will not be keeping any untreated products on site. They made no attempt to duck questions, and said they would welcome contact with residents. Another meeting will be arranged when there is further progress to report.

It is possible the plant, employing about 20 people, will become operational around June, although this will depend on when the operating permit is granted. SEPA, the Veterinary Agency and Aberdeenshire Council had been closely involved in the development.

In the future, at a cost of £24m, they will be developing a generating plant powered by the waste products, which as well as satisfying their needs will be able to supply electricity to the national grid.

Mr Clarke was worried that problems of smell might recur, and expressed concern that the CC had not made any plans to monitor the performance of the plant. He felt that the Community Council should plan regular checks, include the topic as a periodic item on the agenda, nominate points of contact, and check with SEPA quarterly. Those visiting had been impressed with Oran's precautions and no decision about future action was taken. It was also pointed out to Mr Clarke that, strictly speaking, he should be dealing with the Kintore Community Council.

g. Fetternear Meeting. This proved to be extremely popular, with about one hundred people attending. The estate owners gave a comprehensive briefing on the problems they face, both with trying to maintain the Bishop's Palace and meeting the various criteria for grants. Their proposal was to make the Bishop's Palace safe and a visitor attraction, create a commercial centre for varied use, build an accommodation facility and a leisure centre, which could include a swimming pool. This latter initiatives should provide the income stream necessary to provide long term maintenance. To fund the project it was envisaged to allow a few houses to be built in carefully selected parts of the estate. Some could be affordable housing, but this would in part depend on the local authority.

Kemnay residents were encouraged to complete the questionnaires which were distributed.

h. Recycling Site Problems. There had been a build up of rubbish at the recycling site over Christmas, with some thoughtless people leaving ordinary domestic rubbish. Some even left their names and addresses on boxes! Aberdeenshire Council were commended on their rapid response to a request to remove it.

i. Traffic Signs - St Bryde's Rd. The No Entry signs at the High Street end of St Bryde's Road had been twisted through ninety degrees and were hard to see. We were informed that this was caused by delivery lorries, parking close to the kerb by the butcher, hitting them. The Roads Department has been asked to put a crank in the post so that they were clear of the road, or to make them strong enough so that lorries came off second best.

j. Appointment of Secretary

Chris said that Neil had intimated that he would have to stand down as Secretary at the next AGM due to pressure of work. Chris thanked Neil most warmly for his efforts, and said he was surprised that he had managed to continue for so long bearing in mind the pressure he was under. Chris had placed an article in the Newsletter, but asked everyone if they would consider taking on the job.

The possibility of employing a salaried Secretary was considered, but the cost of this would exceed the annual grant by a considerable margin. A proposal to charge Community Councillors an attendance fee to make up the shortfall was also discounted as being a further deterrent to serving on the Community Council.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Christmas Lights. Unfortunately the trees offered by Susan proved to be too big to use. Thanks were expressed to the Forestry Commission who then provided the trees, Bon Accord Landscapes for their transport and erection, and Aberdeenshire Council for their financial contribution and providing the bases. Sadly one could not be lit because the underground wiring had been installed incorrectly and by the time this was discovered the ground had frozen. One light cover had gone missing, and one accidentally broken. These should be replaced in due course, and spare bulbs will also be needed as several had failed.

Chris had obtained a quote for a more extensive lighting arrangement, but at nearly £650 this was felt to be expensive. The Fireworks Fund and Youth Café volunteers were suggested as possible sources of additional funding.

b. Youth Representation on the Community Council. Chris had been in touch with Dr Hunter, but no volunteers had been forthcoming.

c. Agenda for February “Young People’s Meeting”. Although no agenda items as such had been identified, a number of leads for more general discussion had been proposed. Alex produced a poster, and Chris had contacted all three schools and Kemnay youth workers, and had also been invited to address an assembly at the Academy to publicise the meeting.

11. AOCB

a. Association of Scottish Community Councils. Chris had received a copy of minutes of a Committee meeting which had been forwarded to him by the old Secretary. He had not yet heard anything directly from the new management.

b. National Planning Framework Seminar. It is understood that this discussion, to be held in the Conference Centre on 13th February, will consider ideas for the next local plan. Ian volunteered to represent the Community Council.

12. Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 22nd February 2007 at 7.30 pm.