

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 March 2010 AT 7.30 PM
IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Gavin Adam, Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, David Evans, Annie Ferries, John Hern, Bob Ingram, Ian Murray, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Glyn Jones, PC Craig Currie, PC Caroline Lindsay, Claire Martin, G. Middleton, Gillian West.

1. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. Apologies:

Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley.

2. Minute of Annual General Meeting held on 26 March 2009:

The adoption of the minute was proposed by Annie Ferries, seconded by Bob Ingram and unanimously approved.

3. Chairman's Report:

The attached report was tabled by the Chairman.

5. Financial Statement:

In the absence of Janet Newberry, the Chairman presented the accounts. The adoption of the financial statement was proposed by John Hern seconded by Bob Ingram and unanimously approved.

7. AOCB:

Ian Fowell had approved the alteration of the end of the financial year from 31 March to the last day in February, so that complete accounts could be presented to the AGM.

8. Date of Next Annual General Meeting:

Thursday 31 March 2011.

Kemnay Community Council

A.G.M. 25th March 2010

Chairman's Report

This has been the first year of the new Kemnay Community Council, with the welcome addition of a number of new members. I have been very pleased to see what an interest they have been taking, and how positive their contributions have been.

It has been a varied year, although the major topic was our consideration of the Main Issues Report which, due to the tight consultation timetable, had to be done over a very short period.

We have welcomed a number of speakers to our meetings. Glyn Jones, from Aggregate Industries, gave us a positive presentation on the future restoration of Mill Farm now that the gravel extraction has been completed. David Fyffe has kept us updated on the progress of the Fetternear development, and Kenneth Ross from SEPA explained how the new flood warning system would work. Although this did not take place at one of our meetings, we are grateful to Cllr Allison Grant for arranging a teach in, open to all, by Planning Aid Scotland.

The Main Issues Report, which had to be considered immediately following the publication of the draft Structure Plan, caused us a good deal of concern. The Report had just included every proposal submitted by every developer, without any consideration of the downstream effects of large scale development. We had an open day to allow the village to consider the plans and voice their opinion; unfortunately we did not get as many people attending as we had hoped, but did get enough to allow us to voice our concerns with the feeling that these did reflect the will of the residents.

Public toilets, or the lack of them, remain an unresolved problem. We met with Mr Bill Cassie, Head of Consumer Protection and Support Services, to discuss the possibility of reopening the granite block at Bogbeth Park with alternative arrangements for the cricket club's storage, but the immediate cost was estimated to be £40,000. We also progressed the suggestion that hotels and inns make their facilities available, and were assured that this was already happening at the Burnett Arms. We considered that the lack of toilet facilities was a Shire wide problem, and were successful in proposing that the matter be included in the Garioch Area Community Plan.

The matter of obstructed paths at Beechhill Croft was brought to our attention and we sought advice from the Aberdeenshire Local Access Forum, although we are still waiting for an agreed resolution to this problem.

The state of the paths at the Place of Origin caused a good deal of adverse comment late in the summer. Although we had a meeting with the Scottish Greenbelt Company, who have a lease on the community woodland, it has not yet been possible to find a long term solution to the area's maintenance. Because we were not privy to, nor now have access to, the original agreements it is not clear as to how easy the permitted access should be. We are, however, hopeful that we may see some improvement in the future. The actual hill is still owned by Aggregate Industries and the recent sight of the paths to the cairn, and the broom, being cleared was very welcome. For this we thank Aggregate Industries.

We have appreciated the presence of PC Sandra Duncan, our new CBO, who has attended some of our meetings and has heard the complaints about inconsiderate parking, often in blatant defiance of parking restrictions, which have been raised on a number of occasions. We recently had the opportunity to comment on proposed revisions to road markings, and while we had one or two small points to make we were generally content with the proposals. We have been advised that when the new markings have been laid better enforcement action will be taken. On the subject of roads, a request for a zebra crossing outside Littlewood Court has been honoured, although we still await one across the main road at the entrance to Milton Meadows; this particular request having been made by the pupils of Kemnay Primary School.

We have rather despaired of influencing the Association of Scottish Community Councils. Our proposed resolutions for the annual postal ballot which would have improved transparency were rejected on procedural grounds, and we remain unclear as to what benefits membership of the ASCC gives us, nor how our, and other community councils', views are ascertained. We are surprised that such a remote body should be so well funded by the Scottish Government.

I begin my thanks by mentioning the Christmas lights. Eric Pashley has worked, largely on his own, very hard and we are now getting a quite extensive display in the village, I should also mention the support of Gavin Adam, who sourced Christmas trees, and a number of Community Councillors who braved Arctic conditions to erect them.

Bob Ingram has proved to be an enthusiastic representative of the Garioch and North Marr Safety Group, and Jim Piggins has represented us on the Community and Learning Development Group. We thank them for their work and their regular, comprehensive, reports.

David Evans took the lead in the preparation of our input to the Main Issues Report which involved him in a lot of work at a difficult time, and he has done his usual monthly analysis of planning applications, providing us with succinct and wise guidance. I truly believe that we would not be nearly as effective had we not been able to draw on his extensive experience which he so willingly gives.

Margaret Christie has been an excellent Secretary. Her work is a model of accuracy and brevity, and she has done far more behind the scenes than most will realise; not least by giving me a great deal of support and sensible advice. I am particularly grateful to her and to David and, of course, to Janet Newberry, our Treasurer.

I would like to thank Councillor Al-Kowarri who has managed to attend most of our meetings, and Councillor Allison Grant who has also driven a considerable distance to be with us on several occasions. And finally may I thank all Community Councillors for their work, advice and support over the last year.

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2010

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Gavin Adam, Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, David Evans, Annie Ferries, John Hern, Bob Ingram, Ian Murray, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Glyn Jones, PC Craig Currie, PC Caroline Lindsay, Claire Martin, G. Middleton, Gillian West.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present.
2. Apologies for absence: Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley.
3. Police matters: There had been few serious crimes in Kemnay recently, but vandalism and anti-social behaviour were problems. Police would be tackling these with foot and bicycle patrols, paying particular attention to youth crime and bad behaviour. Jim Piggins raised the problems of vandalism in Kemnay School garden and under-age drinking in Bogbeth Park, and these were noted by the police.
4. Aggregate Industries Presentation: The Place of Origin had been cleared of broom and the paths on the area owned by Aggregate Industries had been sprayed and trimmed. This work had been done by members of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers who had been employed by Aggregate Industries, and it was intended to continue with this maintenance on a six monthly basis. Work on the Mill Farm 2 site was progressing and in two to three months they would be ready to shape the site ready for planting trees in the autumn. Footpaths would be laid out which would be suitable for the disabled, and two bird hides and a boardwalk were planned. A design for the "Welcome to Kemnay" granite sign was shown to the Community Council who considered it most appropriate. A suitable piece of granite would be selected shortly. The Council thanked Aggregate Industries for the very positive work they were doing on behalf of the village.
5. The Minutes of the Meeting: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2010 was proposed by Bill Blackwood, seconded by Jim Piggins and unanimously approved.
6. Question Time: One member of the public, Claire Martin, suggested more play equipment for toddlers in the park. Mr Middleton expressed concern about the proposed car park on Bremner Way, but was assured by Cllr Al-Kowarri that protected areas would not be used for such purposes.
7. Matters Arising from Minutes:
 - a) Fetternear: There had still been no response from the owners about the possibility of locating the new pool on their land on the corner of Bremner Way and Aquithie Road. Claire Martin expressed her concern about traffic flow in the village, should the plans for Fetternear be passed.
 - b) Traffic Management: A further consultation document incorporating the changes already discussed had been issued. It was agreed to comment favourably on this. Parking enforcement action will be taken once the line painting has been completed.
 - c) Garioch Area Bus Forum: The 420 Service was generally liked apart from limited periodicity. Passenger numbers on this service will be provided at the next meeting. Jim Piggins had raised the difficulty of returning from Glasgow by train and bus on a Sunday.
 - d) Beechhill: There had been no further progress.
8. Planning matters and applications: There were no controversial applications.

9. Reports:

a) Safety Group: Community safety in 2010-2011 was to be tackled under three priorities: road safety, violence and anti-social behaviour. Sub-themes would include anti-social driving, domestic abuse, vandalism and wilful fire-raising. Drugs, acquisitive crime and hate crime were to be monitored. The Annual Seminar had been very interesting and positive, covering a number of topics including a keynote address by the Deputy Chief Constable of Grampian Police, who highlighted the fact that although Aberdeenshire was one of the safest areas in Scotland, there was still a need for ongoing vigilance to contain a wide range of law-breakers.

b) Community Learning: There was still no progress on the fitness suite. An instructor had been found, but as four machines had been broken, it was not possible to allow the public to use the suite. The firm which had the contract to maintain the equipment was no longer in business. A volunteer had been found to drive and care for the mini-bus although his test had been delayed because of an accident at work. ITC funding for the library was to be extended – but it was not probable that the opening hours would be increased. The NHS was to run a smoking cessation class at the Youth Café. There would be a Community Learning drop-in on Friday 23 April in the village hall where the public could learn about existing classes and suggest new ones.

c) Garioch Area Community Council Forum: A local version of the proposed national community council scheme would be put out to consultation. Concern had been expressed that Community Councillors might have to undergo criminal record checks if young people joined Community Councils. In view of general apathy it had been agreed to leave block membership of the ASCC in place.

10. Aberdeenshire news: The path along the river had been restored. The lay-by for school buses was almost complete. Some concern had been expressed about bendy-buses replacing double-deckers so that seat belts could be installed, but parents had been assured that bendy-buses could go everywhere that was necessary. Cllr Al-Kowarri was disappointed to announce that TRAK had so few members that it might not be able to continue.

11. Aberdeenshire Parks and Open Spaces Strategy: It was agreed to endorse the proposals for greater provision of open space in new developments and for requiring developers to lodge bonds to ensure that open spaces were maintained. It was considered that, ideally, all open spaces should be adopted by the Council.

12. Correspondence:

a) Aberdeenshire's Licensing Boards Consultation: The consultation concerned gambling. No action was considered necessary.

b) The Network Newsletter: This was passed to Ian Murray of the Community Council.

c) Scottish Health Council Annual Report: This was passed to Bob Ingram, the Safety Representative.

d) Viewpoint – Citizens' Panel Newsletter: This was to be passed to the library.

e) Letter from a member of the public: The Secretary was to reply.

13. AOCB: The Community Council grant next year will be £777.72 which is to include £35 for Data Protection Act registration. It was agreed to donate £300 to the Village Hall towards new flooring in the Friendship Room. Mavis Wainman expressed concern over the complete clearing of a slope, which was a wildlife refuge, behind Leslie Place; Cllr Al-Kowarri agreed to make enquiries.