

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2007 AT 7.30 PM

IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, Annie Ferries, Pat Findlater, Susan Milton, Janet Newberry, Jim Piggins, Paul Smart, Alex Thomas, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Inspector Dave Allan (Police), Nom Wright (ACC), David Fyffe (Fetternear Estate), John Carnie.

1 Apologies: David Evans, Neil Johnson, Cllr Sheena Lonchay, Eric Pashley.

2 Welcome: Chris Hunneyball welcomed those present, and in particular Nom Wright and David Fyffe.

3 Police Matters: Crime figures for the current six months were the best for the last nine years. Unfortunately, the community policeman allocated to Kemnay was on sick leave, and had not been replaced. There had, however, been a high clear-up rate for crimes of vandalism. The Community Planning Partnership had provided money for extra policing of youth activity in the local community over the forthcoming period. A question was asked about test purchasing of fireworks and alcohol. This was being done by the Trades Description officials, but there was an ethical question about the practice. The funds which had been offered for goal posts were now available. A vote of thanks was accorded to Insp. Allan for this. This was Insp. Allan's last appearance at the Community Council as he was leaving the Police Force. Good wishes were extended to him in his new post.

4 Recycling and Waste Awareness: Nom Wright, Senior Waste Awareness Officer, offered to answer questions from the meeting. These centred round waste for re-cycling – any plastic bottle is acceptable, preferably washed and squashed, although if it is not possible to squash it, it should still be accepted. Tubs and other plastic are not suitable. Only thin card can be taken at kerbside collections, and brown card is unacceptable, as the card becomes newsprint, and brown card requires extra processing. All card can be placed in the bin at the recycling point. It had been decided not to have a garden waste collection, as this might discourage householders from doing their own composting and would add to the Council's expense. Concern was expressed about schools' failure to recycle waste. Mr Wright informed the meeting that a waste officer for internal waste – that is, waste generated by the Council itself - was being appointed whose remit this would be. Mavis Wainman expressed concern about food waste at Littlewood Court going into landfill.

5 The Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September was proposed by Jim Piggins, seconded by Susan Milton and unanimously approved.

6 Question Time: David Fyffe from Fetternear Estate wanted to inform the Community Council, in advance of the public meeting to be held on 22 November 2007, of progress on the development of the estate. He detailed the principal issues arising from the previous public meeting and outlined the progress made since the spring. He gave an account of the features incorporated in the draft outline planning application and identified them on a map of the estate. Finally, he summed up the benefits to the community of the proposed plan: it would save the Bishop's Palace from collapse and create a visitor centre to promote its history and archaeology, restore listed buildings at the stables, offer new business and leisure facilities, and create a swimming and fitness centre; there would be enhanced public access to the estate, allotment gardens and a site for an all-weather playing surface.

7 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a) Traffic calming on the east side of Paradise Road: There had been no reply from the Council.

b) Trees in Bremner Way: These were being monitored by the Council, and were at present not a risk to the public.

c) River Verge: The clearance had been in response to complaints, but the vegetation should grow back, and would then be managed in a less extreme fashion .

d) Birley Bush: The machinery (a chipper) was used only occasionally.

e) Skate Park Graffiti: Assurances had been given that this would be dealt with, but hitherto it had not. The Council would be reminded about it.

8 Aberdeenshire News: Solar lighting is to be installed in some rural bus shelters, although the Kemnay area is not at the moment within the project area.

9 Planning Matters and Applications: None of these was thought to be contentious.

10 Community Planning: The Community Planning Board had circulated a list of priorities to be ranked in order of importance. This was done.

11 Christmas Lights Sub-Committee: The sub-committee was re-constituted. Roy Lingard and Ken Manson have each agreed to contribute £50. There was some discussion of the cost of lights and the fact that the need for low-voltage lighting meant that they would be more expensive. It was agreed that this year there should again be two trees using the existing two strings of lights, and plans should be made for expansion of the decorations next year. Hazel Al-Kowarri reported that TRAK would continue to raise funds for the project.

12 Report from Safety Group representative: There had been no meeting and consequently there was no report.

13 Report from Community Learning and Development Representative: The effect of the increase in evening class costs continues to be monitored. Most classes in Kemnay are full, but because of a misunderstanding with Aberdeen College, there are no college classes. Negotiations continue. The community minibus is failing and would cost about £40,000 to replace. £15,000 has been set aside for replacement. The Council is considering upgrading the minibus test which would mean 9 hours training and a test over one and a half days at a cost of £70. This would be expensive for volunteer drivers and community groups. Members of Kemnay Youth Café who participated in the OYT sailing trip in the summer gave a presentation to the group.

14 ASCC Meeting Report: Three councillors from Kemnay were among the 30 or so community councillors present. The morning was taken up with discussion from the floor, with the usual complaints being aired. In the afternoon there was a question-and-answer session with two MSPs. A questionnaire was available and attention was drawn to the fact that the AGM was to take place in Holyrood on 3 November 2007. Neither of these had been publicised. Helen Young (New Deer) had been elected Aberdeenshire Area Representative, although Kemnay was unaware that the election was being held.

15 New Business: There was no new business.

16 Unfinished Business:

a) Conservation Area: A map of the proposed area had been produced by David Evans. After some discussion of practicalities, it was agreed to write to everyone involved explaining the situation.

b) Goal Posts: Bob Rose was to be written to again, since the police money was now available, and it was considered sensible for the Council to select appropriate goal posts and to install them.

17 Correspondence: There had been notification of a consultation on licensing matters. Also received have been the latest Garioch Area Plan, the Oran Group newsletter, an invitation to a NHS meeting, and invitations to the Saltire Society Awards Ceremony. Councillor Grant had written to say that the three Councillors responsible for the Ward had agreed to take lead roles in the various Community Councils, and that Hazel Al-Kowarri would be our lead councillor.

18 AOCB: It was proposed by Margaret Christie, seconded by Jim Piggins and unanimously agreed to confirm Janet Newberry as treasurer and to authorise her to operate accounts.

19 Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 29th November 2007 at 7.30 pm.