

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE MEETING ON THE 26th May 2005 AT 7.30PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball, Alan Davies, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman, Pat Findlater, Susan Milton, Roger Dunham, David Evans, Janet Newberry, Bill Blackwood, Neil Johnson
Attending: A McArthur. I Fowell. Insp D Allan

- 1) Introduction – CH opened the meeting and welcomed Council members and visitors
- 2) Apologies - Hazel Al-Kowarri, Cllr Leitch & Cllr Saluja tendered apologies.
- 3) Police Matters - Insp. Allan apologised for his poor attendance at recent meetings, but hoped that changes in shift patterns would make it possible for him to attend more meetings in the future. He outlined a variety of new initiatives and improvements to policing in the Kemnay area, including:
 - The police station in the village is now being manned on 4 out of 5 shifts. The assignment of a probationer would see this increase still further in the future.
 - The post of Community Police Officer would be filled by the autumn, with Community officers no longer being drawn away from local policing for response work. This should see a big increase in police presence around the village with key targets of reducing youth crime, vandalism and the reduction in traffic accidents.
 - Local crime statistics were outlined and Kemnay's place near the bottom of these crime figures was well received.
 - Changes in the way Special Constables were recruited and the payment of Specials has led to an increase in recruitment. There are now several Specials around the village and this would also lead to an increase in 'visible policing'.

Alan Davies asked about the role played by alcohol in youth crime within the village. Insp. Allan explained that the problem was no worse in Kemnay than anywhere else – and was in fact better than many other areas. He outlined a trial initiative being run in Inverurie by Barnardos to reduce alcohol-related crime and would report back on the outcome in the future.

Jim asked about the policing of parking in the village – in particular on the High Street. Insp. Allan replied that the role of Traffic Wardens had been the subject of review within the force and that they were now under the control of local inspectors. It was therefore likely that they would be visiting areas such as Kemnay more often in the future.

Chris asked about the system for the provision of speed limits on rural roads. Some seemed illogical (the length of the 40mph limit on the Kemnay to Kintore road was cited as an example). Insp. Allan responded that this was a matter for local authority and the Executive rather than the Police. Pat reported that Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group were writing to the Executive requesting a reduction in the national speed limit for rural single-carriageway roads without a centre marking.

- 4) Minute of Meeting held on 26th May 2005. Mavis asked that forenames be used in the minutes rather than initials.

Adoption Proposed - Susan **Seconded** – David

- 5) Question Time – nothing raised

- 6) Any matters to be raised under AOCB or at a future meeting to be tabled.

a) Office bearers of community council forum (Jim)

b) “The Glebe” street sign (Jim)

- 7) Matters arising from Minute –

a) Christmas Lights - Jim suggested using some of our area top-up budget to help fund Christmas lights. Iain Fowell suggested that Aberdeenshire Council might be willing to fund the provision of sockets on lampposts. Iain Fowell conformed that if it were KCC who were putting up the lights, it would be covered by Aberdeenshire Council's public liability insurance and that the value of the lights could be added to the council's policy, which would be cheaper and easier than KCC arranging insurance. Alan disagreed with the idea that local people should have to organise the actual erection of the lights – from the point of view of safety and ability. Iain Fowell said that Aberdeenshire Council would do it – but at a charge.

- 8) Aberdeenshire News – in the absence of Cllr's Leitch & Saluja, Iain Fowell summarised some recent developments in Aberdeenshire and took questions:

a) Changes would be made in the way that wards were represented by 2007; Ward sizes would increase with multiple councillors responsible for these larger wards. Kemnay would be within a large ward reaching as far as Echt and Inch, and would have 4 councillors under the new system.

b) Mavis asked about the possibility of an opening ceremony for the Point of Origin. Iain Fowell explained that there had been some difficulties regarding the handover of the facility to the Council as parts of it did not meet with their safety and amenity guidelines. Any opening would have to wait until this was resolved.

c) Pat asked about the mechanism involved in changing responsibility for communal areas from the Green Belt Company, as they were not performing well. Iain Fowell explained that the only way the Council could become involved would be if the Green Belt Company were to pay the Council a capital sum sufficient to maintain the site in perpetuity. In effect that would mean at least 30 times the annual upkeep cost. This is the standard mechanism used by developers when handing over common areas to a third party for future upkeep. He urged Pat to keep up pressure on the green Belt Company to fulfil their obligations.

- 9) Planning Applications

a) David outlined 4 applications for extensions, which were discussed. 2 had already been agreed and one which produced no dissent. 1 application for a house adjacent to 'Tyrone' Aquithie Road provoked considerable discussion. Neil tabled a letter he had received from neighbouring residents, citing 8 reasons why the residents felt that

this development should be opposed. The Community Council have voiced concerns for some time about houses being 'shoe-horned' into very small plots, often in gardens, to the detriment of the majority of the residents of Kemnay. David reported that permission for development at this site had been refused in the past and that each time the plans had been revised. Although there did not appear to be immediate grounds for objection it was agreed that an objection in principal would be lodged to this development.

10)New Business

- a) Planning Application, Site A - Chris spoke about the forthcoming appeal on the application by Barratt to build on land adjacent to Bogbeth Road. This was due to be heard in the village on 15th June and was expected to last for 3 days. Jim Piggins complained that the burden of providing multiple copies of the precognitions fell to the objector and that the requirement for a summary of the precognition to be provided suggested that the whole document might receive cursory inspection.
- b) Swimming Pool – Jim has yet to find out what happened at the meeting of 12th May.
- c) Community Council Grants – Chris outlined the current years grant would be £454.60. The Community Council top-up grant for the year is £2,183.90.
- d) We are able to bid for funding from the Area Top-Up grant which totals £40,500. Jim thought it worthwhile bidding for some money from this to pay for Christmas lights.
- e) Chris proposed that Roger should continue as our representative on the Village Hall committee. Agreed, *nem. con.*

11)Report from Safety Group Representative – Pat reported that the AGM was inquorate. A new RoSPA booklet was ready to be distributed to the schools in Kemnay. The first responder scheme was now up and running in Westhill and Newmachar.

12)Unfinished Business

- a) 21st Century Schools improvement - Janet outlined the initial plans for the upgrading of Kemnay Academy she obtained after attending the 21st Century Schools Improvement Programme. £14million had been allocated to the extension and refurbishment. This would not cover a pool, and as yet the funding was not available.
- b) A96 Roundabout – discussed under item 3, although Chris was due to attend a site meeting with BEAR Scotland to look at this further.
- c) Litter bins – no response from Tom Mitchell as yet. Neil to copy letter to Ian Fowell.

13)Correspondence

- a) 5 items tabled for information, as per agenda.

14)AOCB

- a) Jim asked if we intended to nominate anyone for the Community Council Forum. Neil explained that this was discussed at the last meeting and that Chris had been nominated.
- b) Jim asked Iain Fowell if the street sign for the Glebe was to be replaced as this had been promised this year. This would be done at some point this year.

15)Date of Next Meeting – 29th September 2005