

# KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE 26<sup>TH</sup> OF June 2003

### Present

Mrs J. Newbury, Mr A. Davies, Mr D Evans, Dr J. Piggins, Dr R. Dunham,  
Mrs M. Wainman, Cdr C. Hunneyball, Mr A. Hinton, Miss S. Taylor,  
Mr B. Blackwood, Mr P. Findlater and Mr I. Morgan.

### Attending

Inspector D. Allan, Cllr A. Leitch, Cllr G. Saluja, Mr D. Duncan (Inverurie Herald),  
Miss A. Ferries and Mr R Rose (Aberdeenshire Council, Landscape Services)

### Apologies

Mr A. Thomson, Mrs S. Milton, Ms H. Al-Kowarri and Mr T. McKay

1. POLICE MATTERS - Inspector Allan advised us of the events of the last few weeks and that a 17 year old has been charged in connection with the vandalism of the picnic benches and planters. And they have received a name in connection with the vandalism of late to the Pavilion, Bowling Club, Shop and Church Centre, etc. He also told us about his plans for more visible policing for the village and he has identified a police officer that will patrol on foot. This Officer will cover Kintore, Monymusk, Fintry and Kemnay approximately 60% of the time will be spent problem solving to ease situations and build relationships within the community but they will also have other police duties and this will complete the rest of the time. They had been a similar initiative in place in Inverurie and seem to work well so it is hoped that there will be enough manpower to sustain this role long term.
2. LANDSCAPING - PRESENTATION BY ROBERT ROSE - Mr Rose kindly accepted our invitation to come along and tell us about the plans for the village and what he has undertaken already. The council had noted in previous meeting the work being carried out within the village and expressed their thanks to him for this. Mr Rose explained that his job covers the whole of the Garioch area but he had allocated part of his budget this year to Kemnay hence the work being undertaken. He explained several initiatives he has planned for Kemnay in the next 18 months these include upgrading and general tidy up of Bogbeth Park and the drainage, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of this drainage will take place in August/September when more

drilling and sand will be completed. Bogbeth Park is to get new play equipment that will cover two age groups (Toddlers & Juniors) and in the future more equipment and there will be new safety surfacing. The old shed at the end of the playing field is to be demolished as it's roof is collapsing but permission has to be sought to do this as it contains asbestos. He is planning to extend the path to link all round the park and more trees to be planted as well as more shrubs; this will probably take place next year now. He also plans to paint the gates and give a general tidy up and thin out the tree canopy. The wetland area on Bremner Way has had new Willow trees planted and some of the water has had to be drained to allow the safe removal of the rubbish that had been dumped in it. The Village Green also has had various work carried out and he plans to plant more trees and bulbs next year. The council have put in new paths and lighting to the area and have put in new goals for the five a side football pitch the have also added basketball hoops and a shelter. The plan is to put 12 Oak trees along the front once the budget for this is approved to give a better look to the area. The reason for Oak is they are something a bit different from the trees normally planted and the look nice, majestic and it is all good for the environment. The old play areas in Alehousewells are being transformed with consultation and the approval of the residents and in conjunction with TRAK, to gardens or planted out areas and this work will continue into next year. Alehousewells Primary is also to have work carried out on the football pitch and playing field, the ground here is very compacted and hard so not ideal as a play area. The plan is to dig the entire area over to loosen the soil and remove the stones as much as possible then replant the grass, also plan to have an aerial runway with safety surfaces and rubber tiles and also to create a dry play area however this is all still to be approved. The War Memorial will be upgraded also but this will be towards the end of the year as the pavement is to be widened and the wall and railings will be replaced at this time also permission already sought from the British Legion for this. Lastly to add some colour to the entrances of the village areas have been identified to put in some bedding plants in the grass areas. Also the grass areas on the roads into the village will be cut in a scalloped shape to give a better appearance to the entrances into the village. Several questions were then put to Mr Rose and the are detailed as follows - Verge cutting is undertaken by contractors who are told which designated areas to cut these are determined by visibility issues and the importance of each on these roads. He informed us that he takes up to

7 phone calls a day complaining about this issue and he passes all complaints to the roads department who draw up the verge cutting policy and set the timings and routes the contractors need to take. Bogbeth Road - ditch appears to have been filled in by residents and dog rose hedge removed - not his dept letter to be sent to roads and planning. Area between Kembhill Park and the Academy is extremely wet but has football goal posts on it - any plans to drain this area? The 3 pitches at Kemnay Academy are to be done but no other plans for any other sites at this time also no budgets allocated to this task. Toilet facilities at Bogbeth Park - you are improving facilities and increasing the amount of usage of the park but there is nowhere for a parent/guardian to go with a child if and when they need the toilet - no plans but has been requested of Aberdeenshire Council. Greenbelt Co in Glasgow look after the estate at Kirkstyle but are not doing a god job of it what can the council do about this. When a new development is complete the maintenance of the green areas go out to tender by the developer and he has the final decision on who is to look after the site so any complaints would need to be directed through the developer.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2003.

Adoption Proposed By Mr A, Davies and Seconded by Dr R. Dunham

Correction- Mr Tim McKay was in attendance (name not in the book)

Item 10 F - not Scottish Executive but Community.

4. GRAIOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM -

REPORT BY Cdr HUNNEYBALL - see separate attachment.

5. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

A. Signs to Prohibit Golf Practice & Ball Games- It was felt that people do not pay attention to these signs and therefore would be a waste of funds that could be better used. We respectfully ask members of the community to act in a responsible and safe manner on the open areas and to take into consideration not only their own safety but that of others.

B. Induction Day for New Community Council Members - The G.A.C.C.F are to confirm dates for this. Details covered in report - see item 4.

C. Swimming Pool Assoc. - meeting planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> of July.

D. Website - committee members details to be updated shortly.

- E. Youth Café - plans still with the Scottish Executive for the change of use.
- F. Mound at the Woods on Aquithie - The roads department have left all the waste and rubbish from stone chippings and resurfacing work in the small car park into the woods. Cllr Leitch advised this is to be removed and he will look into when this is to happen.
- G. Community Council Constitution - Cdr Hunneyball is updating this in line with the new guidelines in the Community Council Handbook - we will have a copy of this shortly.

#### 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Trees under the Don Bridge - still there currently in hand.
- B. Glebe Obstruction - It will be moved shortly.
- C. Calor Gas Awards - Fresh entries drafted, New drafts received from Mavis Wainman and Jim Piggins, David Evans and Alan Davies to return theirs to Chris Hunneyball who will then put the entry together and submit it.
- D. Reserved Parking for the Doctor's surgery - Letter of approval sent.
- E. Broadband in the village - currently 261 registrations - trigger point is 350.

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Countryside Access Strategy Workshop - most attending were land owners and not many of the people who would be using this policy to however it was a very good and interesting workshop. A lot of core paths already exist but it is unknown how much funding will be given by the Scottish Executive for this. The Access Code will carry the same weight as the Highway Code does. Please find below some of the notes I received for Bill Blackwood who attended on the council's behalf -

I was able to attend the Countryside Access Strategy workshops on 18 June 2003 at the Kintore Arms in Inverurie. Here's a report of sorts; Following a brief presentation to what they said was one of their best attended meetings--around 25-30 people plus 5 representatives from the land reform people--there was a brief discussion regarding some of the issues of countryside access. We broke up into discussion groups of seven or eight plus one of the "staff". Here concerns from the farming community were expressed. These included (in our group):

- A double standard for animal health--farmers have to worm their dogs and take stringent care that animals don't spread disease, whereas ramblers/walkers from town have no such restrictions on their pets, which means visiting pets could spread disease.
- A feeling of loss of control over their own property--All too often ramblers

lack common sense or courtesy when around a farming environment, endangering themselves, the farmer, his crops, and his livestock. Education, if available, is either ignored or too late.

-Concerns re: liability--Who pays if someone gets hurt on their property. Who pays for signs to go up and improvements and repairs that would inevitably need to be made?

-Concerns re: security--the Code is extremely vague in dealing with potential vandalism and problem visitors.

The discussion leader took all this on board, and assured us that these issues had come up at previous meetings, and were being sent to the Executive to work out.

The second workshop on core path development was a little more positive. Although there is no funding, and no means for funding has been defined for core path development and maintenance, the Countryside Access group has been given the responsibility of developing a set of plans for core paths throughout Scotland over the next three years. To meet this responsibility, they need input from local communities. One suggestion for the Aberdeenshire planners was that there be a "core group" of planners. Aberdeenshire will be divided up into geographical areas, and the core group will have periodic meetings in these planning areas. These meetings are attended by "working groups" from the area who have the task of recommending routes for core paths. The meetings should be open to the public, for valuable input from outside sources.

Concern was raised re: a lack of credibility on the part of the Aberdeenshire planners--they have a poor track record for listening to the desires, concerns, and recommendations of local groups and community councils, and have been known to make decisions completely opposed to a community council's input. The Countryside Access planners said they would listen to the community recommendations. There is no funding or plans in place for actually developing and maintaining these core paths at this time.

This was all taken on board by the member of the Countryside Access planners who was "chairing" our workshop. The plan is that after all the regional workshops have been completed, the planners who conducted these workshops will compile their material into a single report which will be sent out to interested parties.

I believe there may have been others from the Kemnay area there, and I did see councillor Gurudeo Saluja.

B. The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award - proposal for the Kemnay Newsletter - Cdr Hunneyball is to put forward this recommendation.

C. R.I.A.S. Grant - article to be out in the newsletter to open it up for people to apply, as it is not aimed at Community Council but at individuals for example to provide assistance on a book on the

history of Kemnay. Part of the agreement is a compulsory seminar in Glasgow to be attended, deadline for completion, mentor for the project and a complete breakdown of costs. Hence it would need to be a specific project that was applied for not a general application.

- D. Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group - letter of support sent.
- E. Community Environment Renewal Scheme - not relevant to Community Council when looked into in more detail
- F. Toilet Facilities at Bogbeth Park - These have been requested from the council and we await their response. Suggestion regarding portable toilets or the pay to enter and timed door toilet to prevent the risk of vandalism or could the pavilion be made assessable from the outside for visitors to the park to use.
- G. Village Hall Nomination for a representative - Mrs Janet Newbury expressed her interest for this and was proposed by Cdr Hunneyball and seconded by Dr Piggins
- H. Park Pavilion - This building is seriously in need of repair as nothing has been spent on it in a long time. We received a copy of the letter detailing the list of repairs required that was sent to Aberdeenshire Council and the reply from the Council explaining that due to budgets and funding they could only carry our essential repairs at this time. As we now have a working committee once more to maintain it once the work is undertaken we propose to apply to the Area Top Up Budget for funding for this facility to help with more repairs. To allow the playgroup to use this facility it will need upgrades to the cost of £3000.

8. SAFETY GROUP - Initiatives are all ongoing and Mr Findlater has recently given all the schools the new ROSPA booklets on safety to be given out to all the new intakes for August. The next meeting of the group will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

9. PRESS REPORTS - several articles recently both good (recent events - Wildlife Explorers) and bad (vandalism) covering Kemnay.

10. ABERDEENSHIRE NEWS - REPORT BY CLLR. LEITCH -

- A. The traffic calming plans for Bremner Way have been released and show 16 'cushions' to go round Bremner Way as the road itself is a mile long this would result in a speed bump approximately every 110 yards - this is still under discussion as there is some

concern over the loss of parking facilities outside houses on Bremner Way due to the number of 'cushions' planned. In addition the whole of the Alehousewells estate will become a 'Twenty's Plenty' Area. The community council had a quick discussion on the number of cushions and whilst we sympathise with the residents who need to park on the street there it was felt that a reduction in the number would defeat their purpose as it would allow cars to speed up between the 'cushions' and may be even more hazardous than at present.

B. Not much else to report as the council is just going into the summer recess.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - all ok.

A. Install air cooling system at Kemnay Academy

B. D Forsyth, Berrywell, High Street - extension

12. Correspondence all in circulation

13. A.O.C.B

A. Smell for Dundas Bros once again - reported each time.

B. Kemnay Clean up - date set for 24<sup>th</sup> of August

C. Gas board digging up in the small car park on Pitmunie Place has been a hole in the car park for some time causing problem to parking.

D. The bus service to Kemnay and in particular the changing buses to get to Kemnay is causing issues once again for a child who attends a special school in Aberdeen. The fact that some busses go to Kemnay and others don't is very confusing - will need to be raised at the next bus forum in October.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 25<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER