

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27th MARCH 2003

7.30 PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

1. Present:-

Mr A. Davies, Mr D. Evans, Mr P. Findlater, Cdr C. Hunneyball, Mrs S. Milton,
Mrs J. Newberry, Dr J. Piggins, Mr A. Thomson, Mrs M. Wainman

Attending:-

Mr P. Aikenhead, Ms H Al-Kowarri, Mr W. Blackwood, Mr D. Duncan
(Inverurie Herald) Mr R. Dunham, Mr L. Fettes, Mrs J. Fettes, Mr D. Fyffe, Mr
A. Hinton, Cllr A. Leitch, Mr K. Milne, Mr I. Morgan, Mr G. Paterson, Cllr G.
Saluja, Mr C. Simpson, Miss S. Taylor

2. Minute of Annual General Meeting held on 28th March 2002

The Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on the 28th March 2002 was approved.

Proposed: Mr D. Evans Seconded: Mrs S. Milton

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report, which is at Annexe A to this Minute, was presented.
On completion, Councillor Leitch moved a vote of appreciation for the work done by
the Chairman, which was universally approved.

4. Financial Statement

The Financial Statement was presented by Mr. Davies. It showed a closing balance of
£743.50, compared with £536.61.

The statement was approved.

Proposed: Mr A. Thomson Seconded: Mrs S. Milton

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2002 – 2003

It has been a busy and varied year for Kemnay Community Council, in which Planning matters were once again important, but thankfully not quite as dominant as I had to report last year.

To begin with Planning, the finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan was at last published last summer, and was discussed at our September meeting. It had been so long in preparation that some of its proposals had already become reality! We were able to support some of its proposals, but opposed others, such as the medical centre at “Site B”, which we felt to be too far from the village centre, industrial land at the Aberdeen end of the village, and of course the residential development off Bogbeth Road originally imposed on us by the CALPS Inquiry. It is frustrating to report that the responses recently published by Aberdeenshire Council rejected all our objections bar one: our objection to allocation of Kemnay planning gain to Auchleven Primary School. That at least was admitted (unsurprisingly) to have been a “drafting error”!

A Public Inquiry into the Aberdeenshire Local Plan is now inevitable, and is expected to take place this summer.

Youth issues in Kemnay were a major item this year. In May, three Kemnay Academy pupils gave the Council an excellent video presentation of young people's views of the facilities – or lack of them – in Kemnay. Over the rest of the year, the proposed skate park, conversion of the former Police House to a youth café, and youth shelters all featured at various meetings. We agreed to apply to Aberdeenshire Council for a Community Council Project Grant to be used toward the youth café, and were delighted last month to be awarded £750 for that purpose. It is hoped that some particular feature in the youth café will be identified as due to that funding, rather than the Grant simply becoming a contribution to the much larger overall costs of the whole project.

Sport is another topic that has occupied the Community Council from time to time this year. Aware of the disruption at the Pleasure Park due to drainage work, and of the difficulties this was causing for users, the Community Council organised a special meeting in February. Representatives of all the sports clubs in Kemnay were invited to meet with officials from Aberdeenshire Council. This clarified many issues not only about the Pleasure Park, but about possible alternative play areas at the Green and at the Academy. I hope, and believe, that it was a useful meeting for those whose normal facilities are temporarily disrupted by the very necessary work at the Park. It was disappointing that nobody from the Pavilion Committee responded to our invitation, but from what I have heard since, it may be that revitalisation of that Committee will be a positive outcome of the meeting that we organised.

The Police have regularly attended our meetings this year, and indeed our April meeting was hosted by them in their new premises at Inverurie. We are grateful to the Police for their time, and we have been gratified to learn from them of an encouraging downward trend in crime statistics for Kemnay. That of course does not mean (yet!) that there is no crime, and we have been regularly updated on the incidents of vandalism etc. that have occurred.

Beyond these and many other local matters, we have again had an input to national consultations. In June, we discussed and responded to a consultation on “Renewing Local Democracy”, submitting our view on matters such as eligibility for election as Councillors and voting systems in local elections. We emphasised the special role of community councils in the process of representation, since the tone of the draft document seemed to us rather dismissive of community councils as just one of many bodies who might be consulted. We also commented, in November appropriately, on a proposed Bill to control the sale of fireworks in Scotland. As always in national matters, we can only hope that our contributions tip the balance of the final documents in the way we would like.

Visiting speakers have perhaps not been as numerous as in some previous years, but have been informative. I have already mentioned the presentation in May by young people. In June, Mrs Walker from Aberdeenshire Council spoke to us about the draft Area Waste Plan, a topic of which I know we shall be hearing a good deal more in the coming year.

The Community Council has been represented at many external meetings, including an evening conference on “Transport North-East” in April, and the annual meeting of the Association of Scottish Community Councils in June. Other bodies at which we are regularly represented are the Safety Group, the Garioch Area Community Council Forum which is always a valuable channel for sharing information with other communities, and the Bus Forum. In view of the difficulty of getting to Bus Forum meetings by bus, we suggested that they hold one of their meetings in Kemnay, and as a result this did indeed happen only yesterday evening. A very lively discussion between Stagecoach Bluebird officials and some clearly disgruntled Kemnay passengers took place!

I thank those members who give up their time for these and other meetings, in addition to attending our regular monthly meetings.

During the year, the Community Council lost its youngest member: Ahmed Al-Kowarri whose career has taken him away from our village. I suppose such moves are inevitable for many young people in these days of mobile employment and international commerce. I thank Ahmed for his contributions during the time when he was able to attend our meetings.

As this Council now approaches the end of its three-year term of office, I thank all members who have attended our meetings regularly. I congratulate Mavis Wainman and Susan Milton on the well-deserved long-service awards granted them by Aberdeenshire Council during the year. As last year, I must record a special word of thanks to David Evans for monitoring planning matters on our behalf. Finally, and by no means least, I thank Councillors Leitch and Saluja for attending our meetings and updating us on their activities, whenever their commitments have permitted.

Jim Piggins
Chairman

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Mr P. Aikenhead, Ms H Al-Kowarri, Mr W. Blackwood, Mr D. Duncan (Inverurie Herald) Mr R. Dunham, Mr L. Fettes, Mrs J. Fettes, Mr D. Fyffe, Mr A. Hinton, Cllr A. Leitch, Mr K. Milne, Mr I. Morgan, Mr G. Paterson, Cllr G. Saluja, Mr C. Simpson, Miss S. Taylor

Dr Piggins welcomed the Councillors and members of the public, and, in particular, those who will be joining the Community Council.

2. **Police Matters**

There was no police presence, but the problem of speeding motorists was raised. On occasion Bremner Way was being used as a racetrack, but when the police arrived the perpetrators left the scene. The new island in Aquithie Road seemed represent a challenge to “boy racers”, with them doing hand brake turns around it, rather than it acting as a traffic calming measure. The behaviour of some was positively dangerous, and particular concern was raised about the safety of children on their way to school. It was agreed to ask a member of the Roads Department to speak at a meeting and explain what calming measures could be taken, as the perceived logic of the Council was not understood.

3. **Minute of Last Meeting**

The Minute of the meeting held on Thursday 27th February 2003 was adopted.

Proposed Mrs Newberry Seconded Mrs Wainman

4. **Matters Arising from Minute**

a. The Glebe Obstruction

There was no further information about the obstruction, which looked like a pile of subsoil, at The Glebe, but Cllr Leitch was trying to establish its ownership. It was thought to have first appeared when the house in the grounds of Bennachie Lodge was being built.

b. The “Water Carrier” Fence. Cllr Leitch had reported the problem of the fence, and was waiting a reply.

5. **Community Council Elections**

There had initially been 16 nominations to fill the 15 available places. However, one individual had withdrawn so, as the number of nominations was the same as the number of places

available, no election would now be necessary.

6. Garioch Area Bus Forum

A lively meeting, attended by some 40 to 50 people, had been held in the Village Hall on 26th March. The meeting was dominated by complaints from Kemnay, but it was made clear by Stagecoach that financial constraints prevented an immediate improvement to the service. It had been disappointing to learn senior management had not been made aware of all the complaints made. However, the many points from the floor were noted and would be considered, and Stagecoach would try to improve the service when finance allowed. On a positive note, Stagecoach and Bain's Coaches undertook to provide a special bus to allow Kemnay residents to attend at least the next two bus forums.

7. Garioch Area Community Council Forum

Two meetings had been held. At a special one to consider the Area Partnership it was agreed in principle that the Area Partnership would be formed, and a specimen constitution was being prepared. All Community Councils in the area (10 in total) were being asked for their views. The partnership would concentrate on youth issues.

At the main meeting it was reported that the top-up budget for 2003/4 would be £35,000, to be aimed at projects which improve appearance.

The village orderly scheme would be continued, but unfortunately not during term time. The number of orderlies was being increased from four to six, with Westhill and Kintore/Port Elphinstone being included in the scheme.

Representatives had been asked to sound out their Community Councils as to which day of the week was the most convenient day for meetings. Kemnay members expressed no strong views, other than that they should not be held on the last Thursday of the month.

There had been a presentation from Clair Wright, of the Recycling Advisory Group, who said that £63m over 17 years had been set aside to introduce recycling schemes. People were being trained to become "Master Composters", and they in turn would train other people. It was decided that her presentation would be better aimed at residents in general, rather than just the Community Council. She would be asked when she could give such a presentation, perhaps in May or June.

8. Unfinished Business.

a. Aberdeenshire Local Plan

This now looks like being the subject of an Inquiry. It was felt that, if this were to be the case, it would be more effective to give evidence verbally rather than as a written submission.

Cllr Leitch said that further consideration was being given to the location of a possible new medical centre, with The Glebe and Birley Bush being mentioned as possible sites. Mrs Wainman said that the Burnett Arms was on the market, and would be an ideal location, although, as it would be sold as a going concern, it could be too expensive. Cllr Leitch pointed out that any decision taken was up to the practice partners.

b. Mini Waste Recycling Centre

Previous suggestions for a second site for a mini recycling centre had been by the Council garage in Bogbeth Road, or in the car park in Fyfe Park. However, neither of these places was considered to be suitable. Birley Bush and Kemnay Academy were now proposed, but Cllr Leitch said that Aberdeenshire Council had possible plans for the possible locations at both

these places. It was decided that the best option would be to ask for the existing site, which was central and convenient, to be enhanced instead.

9. New Business

a. Provision of Broad Band Internet Access

Mr Fyffe, of the Netheron Business Centre, gave a presentation on Broadband Internet Access. He said that Inverurie Business Association had put a plan together to encourage registration for broadband, and had held a well attended meeting when the matter was discussed with BT. He felt it important that Kemnay was not left as a backwater, and so a leaflet was being distributed to all Kemnay households urging them to register. Around 350 expressions of interest were needed within a radius of around 5.5km from the exchange before BT would consider upgrading it. Registering did not commit one to installing broadband. There would also be an article about broadband in the newsletter.

b. Community Care Plan

The draft Community Care Plan Review Consultation Draft 2003/4 had been received and circulated. As comments were required by 21st April they would be made by individual members.

c. Swimming Pool

A resident had asked about the possibility of building a swimming pool. This had been requested before without success, so Mrs Wainman had given her the background papers and asked if she could see any new avenues to explore.

10. Report from the Safety Group

The "Bicycle Stamping" morning had been most successful. Special thanks were due to the two constables who assisted.

The Blood Pressure Testing Awareness programme had been well supported, with a number of people being found to have high blood pressure and being advised to consult their doctors. It was reported that from 1st April the Aberdeen Ambulance Control Centre would be closed, and all calls would be dealt with in Inverness. Assurances had been given that this would not affect the service provided.

The anti litter campaign in Inverurie was now over.

There was a limited supply of smoke alarms for the deaf, but the cost was quite high, at £60 plus £30 for fitting.

11. Press Coverage

Kemnay had featured in connection with the CALP enquiry, and the award of £25,000 to the skateboard project had been front page news in the Inverurie Advertiser.

12. Aberdeenshire News

Cllr Leitch reported that the potholes in Bremner Way had been repaired, Gordon Green had been resurfaced and work was being done to the footpath in Kendal Road. The wet area was being drained, as it gave cause for concern when frozen. The paths over the village green had been welcomed, although unfortunately the lighting posts were not all well positioned. It was noted that there were still no double yellow lines in Grove Road opposite the nursing home, although the poles for the signs had been erected.

13. Planning Applications

Mr Evans reported that five applications had been submitted. They were:-

99/8193/1 GARAGE Mr M Paterson, Millbank, Aquithie Road, Kemnay

99/8214/1 ALTER & EXTEND Mr Morrice, Brackenlea, Kemnay - APPROVED

99/8223/1 CHANGE US OF PART OF POLICE HOUSE TO POLICE STATION at Police Station, 26 Aquithie Road, Kemnay. Grampian Police, Queen Street, Aberdeen. Front central area to remain as Police Station

99/8008/4 TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS Alehousewells Primary School, Kemnay.

Aberdeenshire Council. Two units measuring 7m x 15 m in total

99/8220/1 CONSERVATORY Mr Knight, Horner Croft, Kemnay

No objections were raised to any of these applications.

14. Correspondence

All correspondence, none of which was contentious, had already been forwarded to members.

15. A.O.C.B.

A resident in Paradise Road had asked about the possibility of trimming back the trees on the green, as they were blocking the light to the houses. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting after members had had an opportunity to pay a site visit.

The bench outside the chemist had been broken by a dog tugging on a lead attached to the arm. Repairs were being attempted, and a dog hitching rail would be fixed outside the chemist's shop to prevent a recurrence.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kemnay Community Council will be held in Kemnay Village Hall on Thursday 24th April 2003 at 7.30 pm.