

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1997 IN KEMNAY ACADEMY

Present: Mrs S Milton, Mrs S Shrago, Mr and Mrs F W Wainman, Mr D Evans, Mr L Shrago, Dr J Piggins, Mr E Pashley, Mrs J Newberry, Mrs J Campbell, Mr A Davies, Mrs G Hinton, Mrs L Moss

Attending: Cllr A Leitch

1. Mrs Milton welcomed everyone, especially Mrs Hinton and Mrs Moss the new members. There were no apologies.

2. The **Minutes** of the previous Annual General Meeting were read. The Minutes of the previous meeting were also read. **Proposed adoption:** Dr Piggins, **Seconded:** F W Wainman. **Passed** no dissent.

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** Mrs Wainman said that of the six trees planted last May, and mentioned in the AGM minutes, five were still growing but one had been completely vandalised.

4. **Unfinished Business.** Dr Piggins asked whether the potholes outside the Mace had been patched. The Secretary read a letter from Aberdeenshire Council saying that the work had been done. Mr Wainman to check.

5. **Correspondence Received.** The Secretary read a letter from the North of Scotland Water Authority confirming that they will be attending the next meeting. Cllr Leitch mentioned that there will be new sewage works in Inverurie. This will cope with houses up to the year 2000. A presentation has been on display at Inverurie Town Hall and will end tomorrow. The Secretary to write to Norswat with some questions for them to research before the meeting. A letter from Aberdeenshire Council re Community Council Insurance policies. After discussion Cllr Leitch to take this up and report back to the next meeting.

6. **Community Council Election.** The Secretary read the statement from Mr Duffus, the Returning Officer. There were twelve nominations. Mr Pashley's nomination was too late for inclusion. Mr Pashley said that he will not be here for the next three months and had been undecided as to whether he should stand as he will be away a great deal in future.

7. **Chairman's Report.** Mrs Milton read her report a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

8. **Treasurer's Statement.** Mr Pashley reported that this year we carried forward a balance of £227 and the Council gave us £288 which made just over £500. Normally we pay the Community Association for the Newsletter £200. There are a few other outgoings. Because of the cutback in our income from the Council we were only able to give the Community Association £100. At the moment we have £198 in hand. Normally we audit the accounts in January and he had asked the Council for the appropriate forms in February but so far he has not received them. He will however do the audit in April and send it in and see what happens.

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**8. New Business.** (a) Mr Wainman mentioned the noise of the ventilation fan in room 103 of the Academy where we have our meetings. Cllr Leitch to investigate. (b) Dr Piggins said that at the far end of the High Street there is a sign saying "parking 400 yards". When you reach the end of the High Street there is not a sign to show which way to turn for the Car Park. Neither is there a sign at the Car Park. Cllr Leitch to investigate. (c) Mrs Wainman asked whether toilet in the park could be opened from now until the end of the summer holidays. (d) Mr Shrago asked members what time their post arrives in the morning as in Paradise Road it does not arrive until midday or even later. It was agreed to write a letter to the Royal Mail mentioning this and other problems. (e) Mr Pashley mentioned that we used to pay £10 to the Association of Scottish Community Councils for which we got nothing in return. Since we stopped paying we are getting a lot of paperwork. Defer until the next meeting - AGENDA ITEM. (f) Mention was made of the fact that the Nursery School will be taking in children from Bucksburn and Hatton this autumn and some of the local children will not get places.

**9. Aberdeenshire News.** Cllr Leitch reported that we are to receive the two Special Grants for which we applied. He also reported that the Budget had gone through also the Draft Strategy Plan has gone through.

**10. Planning Applications.** Mr Evans reported only one which was not contentious. He said that the Indian Takeaway application was refused on the grounds of parking, noise etc. Cllr Leitch has asked for an impact study on that corner.

**11. A.O.C.B.** (a) Mrs Wainman said that the Spring Clean will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. If anyone has any ideas about how to get people to help please let her know. Gathering points will be Kemnay Academy, The Pleasure Park and Paradise Green. Notices to go out to the schools and in the Newsletter. (b) Mr Davies said that he would like something said to Balfour Beatty about the tree-felling on the A96 between here and Kinellar. The trees have been there at least 100 years and a lot are Beech trees. He feels very strongly about the way they have been hacked down and just left there. Cllr Leitch said this matter was raised on Tuesday at the Council meeting. A letter to be sent to Balfour Beatty asking for the trees to be cleared away.

**12. Next Meeting.** This will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1997 when the new Office Bearers will be appointed, bearing in mind that Mr Pashley would stay as Treasurer if so desired. He would have to be co-opted to the Community Council. Mr Evans proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman and to the retiring Secretary. There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

**Proposed Adoption:**

**Seconded:**

**Signed:**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MARCH 1997

A year ago saw the demise of Gordon District and Grampian Region and we thanked those councillors for their efforts on our behalf at the same time welcoming our Aberdeenshire Councillor, Alister Leitch. He has attended our meetings regularly and has been an excellent advocate for Kemnay. The Council, and indeed the people of the village, can consider themselves lucky in their new Councillor and give him grateful thanks.

We have had visits from two of the Aberdeenshire Council officials. Mr Bob Davis of the Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum gave an interesting presentation at the last March meeting and advised us to contact them if there were any environmental problems we felt they could assist us with. They were responsible for the planting of six trees in each of the six areas of the new Aberdeenshire Council; Kemnay's trees were planted at Alehousewells Primary School. The second speaker was Alan Grant who is the Manager of the Garioch District in Aberdeenshire Council. Mr Grant gave us a talk on his new role as Area Manager and emphasised the intention of the new Council to work with the community and the Community Councils in particular. He looked forward to a lot of community contact and promised an attitude of co-operation and partnership. A year later one wonders if this has been fulfilled. On studying the minutes of the past year's meetings it seems that the most frequent reply to many of our queries has been negative, due to the financial cutbacks over which they have little or no control.

Our Treasurer, Eric Pashley, who has been a very competent one over the last six years, regretted having to announce that our usual Local Authority grant of £478 had been cut to £288. An explanation requested resulted in the answer - "sorry - that's it." Our administrative expenses for the year are £380 - and due to careful management there was an amount carried forward from last year. As none of our expenditure is in any way extravagant, serious thought will have to be given as to how we can meet our commitments in the future.

Jim Piggins has done valiant work pressing the subject of a Swimming Pool for Kemnay which the village is very keen to have. But again it is the same story - finance - and hopes that Project 2000 would favour us were dashed. The only way at the moment of getting a pool would be with half the money coming from private funding and maybe the other half could come from Lottery money, always bearing in mind that running costs would have to be met as well. Present estimates, based on the cost of a pool at Westhill, were in excess of £500,000.

There have been the usual amount of Planning Applications over the year and David Evans has proved once more that he plays an invaluable part in obtaining all possible details of the various proposals. A special meeting of Office Bearers was called during the Summer recess last year to discuss the Glebe development which had caused a lot of concern over the proposed felling of a number of mature trees which residents rightly felt would alter the whole character and appearance of Victoria Terrace. The Community Council have done all they can to ensure the retention of as many trees as possible and the planting of the new ones, and to try to ensure a safe exit from the development and no loss of parking facilities for Bogbeth Park.

A delegation from Milton Meadows attended a meeting to express their concern that the roads in the complex should be adopted and work finished before the building of the next number of houses begins. They voiced worries regarding flooding upheld by most explicit photographs. Regarding

future expansion of the village in various areas it was unanimously felt that there should definitely be some planning bain for Kemnay.

We have been very happy and encouraged to have had a police presence at most of the Community Council meetings. We were very sorry to lose PC Shand who had been so good, but Sgt Massie and PC Lamont and latterly PC Thom have been most helpful. I would like to thank Grampian Police very much for their eyes, ears and knowhow. It is sad though that there has been an increase in malicious damage to property - even the Christmas Tree has had to be abandoned as the costs involved were not worth the risk. Sad too that the seat opposite Windlestralee which had been beautifully refurbished by the Venture Scouts should have been vandalised.

Looking back over the minutes of the last seven years, the same old stories pop up every time..... The rose beds in Kendall Road, the parking of lorries in the village, public toilets, cars parked at the Bank corner, litter, the Swimming Pool had its first mention back in March 1991. In March 1990 the Council approved the motion that an official representative who was an elected member of Kemnay Academy School Council be co-opted as a non-voting member and Miss Souter became a fairly regular attender, but since her leaving school an invitation for another representative to be appointed has never been taken up which is rather a pity.....

We have welcomed more members of the general public during this last year including the members of Alehouseswells Residents Association as well as the others already mentioned. I hope local residents will always feel welcome to any of the Council meetings.

Sandy Shrago, who has been Secretary of the Community Council for 12 years, has decided she will not stand for reappointment. I think we are all well aware of the fact that the secretary's job is the most arduous of any and Sandy has done a terrific job willingly and most efficiently. I know I would have found it very difficult to be Chairman without her. Now you will have a new Chairman who will begin fresh with a new Secretary who I am sure will prove as great a success as her predecessor.

It just remains for me to thank Bill Wainman for standing in for me on many occasions and for his support during my term of office and to thank all members of the Community Council for their attendance and commitment to the village of Kemnay. I have occupied the chair since the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1990 and it is high time I vacated it. Thank you all for putting up with me for seven years and may Kemnay's eighth Community Council be a dedicated and successful one.

SUSAN MILTON.

Mr. David Elms  
Cards  
Forthill