

**MINUTES OF MEETING**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 7.30 pm, virtually via Zoom

**Present:** Bill Blackwood (Chair); Gaenor Berkin (Vice Chair), Fran Patrick (Secretary); Sue Wainman; Margaret Basley; Richard Lamplugh; Lee Aitken; Suzanne Bunton; Claire Stewart; Sasha Brydon; Joseph Myles; Cllr Smith; Cllr Leslie

**Apologies:** John Whittall; David Carlin; Kayleigh Wallace; Pauline Paterson

**Attending:** Two members of the public

**1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES** - The Chair welcomed those attending and gave apologies as above.

**2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/AUDIO RECORDINGS** - None

**3 MINUTES OF MEETING 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020** – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh, seconded by S Wainman.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Police Reports have been received and circulated. Further to discussion at recent Community Council Forum, KCC felt it was well supported by local police. People are encouraged to report any incidents to the police by phoning 101, as lack of reporting has been an issue and affects police information gathering and response. Kemnay remains an area of low crime, although the recent police report did indicate incidents of youth disturbance and vandalism.

**5 KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE** – *Lend a Hand Kemnay* had a very busy Christmas with the distribution of over 30 food and gift parcels, supporting more than 100 people, in addition to the festive food selection gifted to Littlewood Court. *LaHK* is finding its services in increased demand again, with requests for prescription collection and shopping to be done as well as a continued need for food parcels.

The Village Hall is being used for Covid-19 vaccines for the over 80s and this seems to have gone smoothly; residents at Littlewood Court have now all received their vaccinations. A reminder that contact may be made re appointments via telephone, by a number prefixed with **033 (033 128 9919)**, so people should be aware of this and not block the call. It was noted that Kemnay Surgery has been very good at reaching older residents about their vaccinations. The main vaccination site for the majority of people is to be in Inverurie and volunteers are being sought to help with transport – members of Kemnay Parish Church have already contacted the Transport Unit at Aberdeenshire Council offering their services and will be given guidance re Covid-19 protocols.

**6 OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK** – None.

**7 MATTERS ARISING:**

a) **Phoenix Fund** – An update on progress has been requested by Aberdeenshire Council, but as the Kemnay plan revolves around an outdoor event with stalls, etc to launch the paths around the village, things have been put on indefinite hold due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, Aberdeenshire Council is encouraging groups to try to progress their plans in some way and may well extend the spending deadline beyond the current September date. (**Action:** F Patrick to convene the original group of interested people to see if any planning can be usefully started.)

b) **Christmas Lights** – The batteries of the tree lights at the Green lasted pretty well, although there was an issue with the new star decorations as they didn't seem to last as long as they should. (**Action:** F Patrick to check the operation of the stars for next year.)

R Lamplugh organised a meeting of the Christmas Lights sub-committee where it was decided that there needed to be a rolling programme to replace the ageing lamppost motifs. These will be ex-hire, refurbished motifs, which are sold at a more reasonable price. Although there is still some money in the KCC Christmas Lights Fund, it won't be enough to replace many motifs, so it was also agreed that local business should be asked if they would like to sponsor a light, with their name displayed on the lamppost. Ann Overton at Garioch Area Office has been contacted to see if there is matching funding available for lights. (**Action:** Committee members to conduct research on possible replacement motifs for next meeting in March. **Action:** L Aitken to draw up a letter to businesses re possible sponsorship.)

Update on the trees for the roundels at each end of the village: these are now at Birley Bush and will be planted as soon as the weather permits.

c) **Garioch Area Manager** – Ann Overton has now been appointed permanently in the post

**8 TREASURER REPORT** – J Whittall not present, but the statement and Treasurer's comments were circulated prior to the meeting: all web hosting, ICO fees, etc have been paid; all accounts have a healthy balance; a breakdown of expenses for the £1000 grant from Aberdeenshire Council to *Lend a Hand Kemnay* has been requested and records have been submitted.

In response to the Treasurer's query re the merging of the two *LaHK* accounts, it was agreed by the *LaHK* organising team that this would be a good idea.

## 10 PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** - No action to be taken on

**Alterations to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Garage and Carport (Part Retrospective)**

Ref. No: APP/2020/2597 – Parkhill, Kemnay

**Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse**

Ref. No: APP/2021/0014 – Croft Road

**Erection of Agricultural Building**

Ref. No: APP/2021/0031 – Craigeam

**Demolition of Building and Erection of Class 1 (Shop) and Associated Works**

Ref. No: APP/2021/0019 – Station Road

Generally favourable response to this proposed development, although there are still questions about issues with parking on Station Road. This is to be a bigger shop, with the upper floor to be used as storage space.

(**Action:** G Berkin to submit a comment on current lack of disabled parking.)

b) **A96 dualling: Preferred Option Consultation**

Two representatives from KCC are to attend a CC Forum meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, when there will be a presentation & discussion on this. There is to be no extension to the consultation period, which began on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and will last 8 weeks. (**Action:** J Whittall and S Wainman to attend virtual meeting.)

A representative from Kemnay Paths Group present at KCC meeting indicated that this group will be making a representation on the proposed plans re provision for active travel, especially with regard to the core paths between Kemnay and Inverurie.

(A communication has been received about **The Circular Economy and the Planning System**. One or two members of KCC expressed an interest in attending the training session on this. Information from the Scottish Government on **National Planning Framework 4** has also just been circulated by the Secretary. Initial study of the document by G Berkin and S Wainman notes the emphasis on 'green' projects and the "20 minute community", whereby people should be encouraged to work no more than 20 minutes 'green' travel from where they live. S Wainman has sent round a summary of the main points to KCC members.)

## 11 REPORTS

a) **Public Access Defibrillators (PADs)** – K Stewart has reported that there are no issues, although she still has not managed to get in touch with the resident at Benview Retirement Village about the installation of a unit there. Renewed efforts are to be made to contact the Benview resident, with KCC kept informed of progress.

b) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – Although it has now no representative on this, KCC will still get agendas and minutes.

c) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – No update available.

d) **Community Planning** – report has been published and circulated. Regular information updates are received and circulated by the Secretary. (**Action:** F Patrick to post these on Facebook.)

e) **Greener Kemnay** – GK is also putting in a comment to the consultation on the dualling of the A96. There is also some spare niger bird seed available for distribution. Otherwise, not much happening due to Covid-19 restrictions.

f) **Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP)** - Meeting next Tuesday.

g) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** - **KAPC:** A well attended virtual meeting, with a lot of praise for how the school has been working during the pandemic. The teachers are under a lot of pressure, especially re exams. Approximately 20 children of key workers are attending the Academy ( 30 at Kemnay Primary; 12 at Alehousewells) The Christmas cards sent to residents at Littlewood Court went down very well and pupils have also been doing great work on a project based on roller-coasters in conjunction with a real company.

Interesting insights were given by the KCC Junior Member, J Myles, on how lockdown learning was affecting young people. Pupils cope fairly well in short bursts of lockdown, but it is very hard when it is an extended period of time. Praise, however, for the Academy's awareness of and response to potential mental health issues amongst young people. It was noted that the Academy will have a counsellor and the school nurse has also been helping with these issues.

(Action: W Blackwood is going to post on FB a useful article written by his daughter, who also works in this field.)

**h) Press Reports** – Article on the *Lend a Hand Kemnay* help-yourself tent on Paradise Road.

**11 ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS** – Cllr Smith – Ward meetings are dominated by Covid-19 issues and response and looking at the budget, which is coming up very soon.

Cllr Leslie – dealing with a lot of Covid-19 concerns re parents and children and has received a lot of correspondence about the A96 dualling proposals.

### 13 CORRESPONDENCE

**a) Correspondence from the Council** - was circulated prior to the meeting.

- Information on Scotland Loves Local (Aberdeenshire) marketing campaign
- Online event for EU citizens in Scotland
- Request for KCC meeting dates
- Guidance for the Festive Period
- Educational Psychology Service Helpline
- Digital accessibility
- Additional Connection Scotland Support
- The Circular Economy & Planning System Training Event
- Scottish Empty Homes Partnership Conference
- Annual Scottish transport Conference
- Transport to Vaccine Centres
- Website Accessibility Regulations
- Information on National Planning Framework 4

**b) General Correspondence Received** - was circulated prior to the meeting.

- Health Improvement Scotland – regular updates
- Information re SEPA river level monitoring
- Parking issues on High Street opposite Kemnay Primary

**14 OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** - *F Patrick* contacted the Academy about the routes school buses should use around the village and her concern was also passed on to John Vickers at Aberdeenshire Council. The situation will be monitored when normal school resumes and AC contacted directly if there should be an on going problem. *G Berkin* sent a letter of thanks and appreciation to Mr Still at Kemnay Primary. *S Wainman* reported that there had been an item at recent Infrastructure Services Committee meeting about green corridors and paths, but Kemnay is still waiting for signs and information boards for its paths and Dalmadilly and also waiting for progress on Kemnay-Kintore cycle path – a feasibility study has been done, but everything is connected to the proposed A96 plan. *L Aitken* and *C Stewart* both expressed their thanks to everyone involved in the Christmas lights display – even though no event 'switch on' could be held this year, the lights cheered everyone up. *S Bunton* noted that icy paths around the village are proving to be a real problem. As AC only has resources to grit essential paths, the only solution for residents is to make use of the grit bins located around the village and to let AC know via their website if they need filling up. (Cllr Smith pointed out that grit bins are only placed on strategic roads or those roads on an incline.) *J Myles* felt that maybe it was not common knowledge that these bins were available for everyone to use free of charge. *W Blackwood* reported that David Evans has sent on information re website accessibility regulations requested by AC. *D Evans* has done a tremendous amount of work Kemnay's website, but may step back if this leads to increased workload.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, 7.30pm, virtually via Zoom**