

# KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY 2004 AT 7.30PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

### 1. WELCOME – CHAIRMAN’S OPENING COMMENTS – Happy New Year !

**PRESENT** – Cdr C. Hunneyball, Miss S. Taylor, Mrs M. Wainman, Mr A. Davies, Dr R. Dunham, Mr A. Thomson, Dr J. Piggins, J. Newberry, Mr P. Findlater, Mr B. Blackwood, Mr A. Hinton,

**ATTENDING** – Inspector D. Allan, Ms, S Waters

**APOLOGIES** – Mrs S. Milton, Ms H. Al-Kowarri, Mr D Evans, Mr I Morgan, Mr T. McKay, Cllr G. Saluja and Cllr A. Leitch.

### 2. POLICE MATTERS

Inspector Allan was pleased to report a quiet Christmas and New Year period in this area with nothing notable to mention on the reported crimes. The main complaint being children throwing snowballs at cars and buses which although highly dangerous at times, this is a difficult problem to police as the minute the police arrive the children disperse. He had taken the opportunity to reflect on the figures from last year and look back at the previous 6 years figures and informed us that the reported crime in Kemnay is at it’s lowest in 6 years!

Cdr Hunneyball drew the groups attention to the fact that when we hear of all the vandalism and crime, it is worth remembering that we are lucky enough to live in one of the safest parts of the UK. In addition, whilst we complain about our vandalism as we travel the country in the course of our daily lives we should take a look at some of the towns and cities we visit and see how lucky we are that we do not have the graffiti and vandalism they have.

Please find detailed below a quick summary of what Inspector Allan told us:

#### Reported Crime rates in the Kemnay Area

(Figures are held for a period of six years on computer hence the figures are from 1998)

1998 = 352

1999 = 338

2000 = 458 – this was the highest reported crime in the area over this period.

2001 = 379

2002 = 292

2003 = 286 – this is the lowest reported crime in the area over this period.

These statistics are echoed by the break down of the types of crime –

Non Serious Assault = 24, Serious Assault = 2, Breach of the Peace = 33

Vandalism = 76. For each of these the figures are low in 2003.

For our last Community Council meeting Inspector Allan and our local community police officer PC Simpson are working with Rev. Renton to handle the issue of vandalism and general disorder at the Church Centre. In the latest instance young children (late primary age

or early secondary) were caught throwing heavy stones at the door of the centre and with some help the names of the youngsters involved were able to be passed to the police. Inspector Allan has telephoned and written a letter to the parents of the children concerned and it is hoped this will put an end to this issue although the police will continue to work closely within the community to help keep these problems to a minimum. Inspector Allan also told us of his work with the Academy on the dog fouling issue where it was noted that although there were signs telling people not to exercise their dogs on this area they were not very good and the safety group has given funding of £300 to get new signs. Also the janitor is aware of the problem and indeed knows some of the people involved so the issue can be discussed with them that it is not acceptable, even if you do clean up after your dog to allow them to use the school playing fields for dog walking in the interests of the children's safety and hygiene.

**3. MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2003**

ADOPTION PROPOSED – Janet Newberry  
SECONDED – Alan Davies

**4. QUESTION TIME**

- a. Opportunity for members of the public present to address the Community Council – Sharon Waters addressed the community council on the appalling conditions of the road and the lack of snowploughs and gritters within the village. She talked to us on the actions she had taken both going round the village to see what had been done (or not as was mostly the case) and when, whilst she called Aberdeenshire Council daily to complain about the situation. She was advised that as the gritters and snowploughs that cover our area are all based in Inverurie they start there at 5.30am and work out along the main roads to the villages. Main roads are their first priority they have 36 gritters in the area of which 1 or 2 (bit vague on this) are allocated to Kemnay. The roads with the highest priority in the village are Aquithie Road and Victoria Terrace but were then told that Kemnay was a very low priority. She asked that community council take up this matter on behalf of the community also and ask that the department responsible come along to our next meeting and advise us of exactly when, where and how our village is gritted and cleared of snow. We agreed with her on all points and are to ask someone to come along and give us details on the council policy and how things can be improved before our next serious snowfall.
- b. Nominate any matters to be raised under AOCB or at a future meeting to be recorded and timetabled.
  - Signs for the Speed Bumps on Bremner Way
  - Garioch Area Partnership Update
  - Rural Community Transport Initiative (RCTI)
  - Road Markings
  - Victoria Lamppost Update

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTE**

- a. Community Safety Group & the Police on Anti Social Behaviour – Public Meeting? - Felt this would not be of benefit at this time so is to be dropped.

- b. John Whittal of the Fetternear Trust Update – meeting planned for new committee on 4<sup>th</sup> of February - Cdr Hunneyball, Dr Piggins, Janet Newberry and Sheila Taylor are all to represent the community on this committee. Cdr Hunneyball applied for a Community Council Grant for tools, equipment, and materials (the application had to be in by the following week w/c 12/01). Ian Fowell advised that only £1171 was left in the fund and East Garioch (which is where the Estate is) also applied for £750. So it was proposed that they apply for the £750 as more likely to get as it is within their area and we apply for the balance (£421) they were meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Feb to discuss this. It was noted however that it was reported in the press today (29/01) that this was to go ahead.
- c. Website Update – All details sent to Claire to update the other member's on the list as at present it only states their names, which she will do as she gets the chance.
- d. Tipping of Rubbish at Aquithie Road – Reply from Ian Rendall (Local Roads Manager) - This land belongs to Mr C. Low of Pictillum Farm who has kindly allowed the Council to stockpile road material at this site, as they do not have a suitable site in the vicinity. The material will be used for roadworks in the Kemnay area but it may be some time before it is completely removed.
- e. Wood Gardens/Kendal Road Wall – now repaired by Brian Riach. However, within 6 hours of it being completed, a brick had been kicked out and a footprint and graffiti had been put in the wet cement. Very kindly and at no extra cost Mr Riach put this right for us and we would like to thank him for this.
- f. Aberdeenshire Design Awards – unfortunately, we have no suggestions within Kemnay that fit within the parameters of the criteria set so we have to leave it on this occasion.
- g. Community Council Constitution – sent to Aberdeenshire Council and a letter has been received back approving it so it will now go forward for adoption at our AGM in March.
- h. Finance Budget Briefing – copy enclosed in pack to all members. No comments to add from the members. Cdr Hunneyball did express his slight dismay that this was not a detailed breakdown of how the money is spent and more of a background brief but it did highlight the plan to increase the council tax next year by 5%.
- i. Midmill Stop Sign – reply from Ian Rendall – “ The STOP sign was included to advise motorists to pay particular attention at the junction but visibility is good at this location and I can understand motorists “giving way” when the occasion arises. There are other sites where this situation exists and I intend to replace these STOP signs the GIVE WAY's when the signs are next due for replacement.”

- j. Trees in the Car Park – the council cut these down but although it looked bad they will recover.
  - k. Flooding on road beside Kemnay Quarry – Letter sent to Aberdeenshire Council – no response as yet, so nothing to report. However, as it may be related to quarry dust blocking the drain in that area it was decided to also write to them also.
  - i. Broadband – The target of 500 has been met however as yet no date set for it's implementation.
  - j. Daffodil Bulbs – Mavis had some 100 bulbs available and was looking for volunteers to plant them and ideas of where to put them. This has now been very kindly done by the local guides and all round Littlewood Court; we give thanks to them for doing this.
  - k. Mr R Dow T/A Donview Garage Ltd is to open a shop at the old petrol station selling various things that are not currently available to buy in the village. An advert will be in the newsletter detailing items available.
6. **ABERDEENSHIRE NEWS** – Report from the Councillors Present. As none were able to attend due to the road conditions, this was deferred until the next meeting.
7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS -** No objections as nothing contentious,
8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- a. Youth Café Update – The builders (Anderson) are in at present and the only delay that we are aware of is in regarding to the old lead pipes in the building. Cdr Hunneyball is to look into the CC grant that we applied for and the deadline for its use to make sure it does not lapse before completion of the project.
  - b. Glebe Obstruction – reply from Ian Rendall (Local Roads Manager) – The pile of material is on a section of roadway which is not adopted by the council and the owner of the material is the owner of the land on which it sits therefore the council has no way to enforce that he moves it.
  - c. Finalised Aberdeenshire Local Plan – Local Plan Inquiry – We have received a letter on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January to say that it has been postponed once more and we are still to be advised of the new dates. The letter states that it has become apparent over the Christmas period that the basis on which the proposed modifications were advertised has led to some difficulty in conforming with the 1983 Regulations (section 37). It also states that the Reporters have reserved their position as to whether another pre-inquiry meeting should be held. What has happened is that Paull & Williamson have submitted another

letter saying that the Council have once again not complied with the regulations and that they can not simply reschedule and republish dates but must go through the whole process. They also point out that the status of proposed modifications was done after the closing date for objections this means that potentially the whole plan may need to be republished and the process start all over again. The dates for our submission are also back and in reality, it is more than likely that it will be the summer before it goes ahead.

- d. Toilet Facilities at Bogbeth Park Update – Nothing to report on this other than to say the old toilet block has had its door taken down and vandalised once more.
- e. Kemnay Village Sports Day Update – nothing to add at this stage.
- f. Golden Jubilee Award – This is still progressing and we have been short-listed. Cdr Hunneyball was visited by the Lord Lieutenant and interviewed just before Christmas.
- g. Loaves and Fishes Sign – Rev John Renton contacted myself (Sheila) to ask about his signs I have advised him of the response from Ian Rendall – “Our sign manufacturing workshop has been very busy this year with upgrading signs on main routes and as such there has been a backlog for some time. However, I will progress this item as a matter of urgency.” Janet Newberry pointed out that there is now a sign for the Church Centre at the end of Kendal Road at the Victoria Terrace end.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Portsoy Letter – copy enclosed in pack to all members. It was decided that this was not really a problem in Kemnay. Whilst we understand their concerns it was felt this would be a very difficult policy to formulate without dampening the enjoyment for others, as it would mean having a BBQ in the park would mean only soft drinks would be permitted. We felt that it would mean restricting everyone for the minority of people who do abuse the drinking of alcohol in public as most people are sensible and responsible when drink in public places. It was noted however that it is very easy to get alcohol these days in corners shops and supermarkets and so you do see more people drinking in public but as long as this is done responsibly then it is ok although may not be entirely pleasant to see someone walking down the road swigging from a bottle or can. It was in the end decided that we would not support this for our village, as it is not a major issue that we face.
- b. Fire Brigade Questionnaire - Grampian Fire Board Consultation Document “Planning for Safer Communities” – copy enclosed in pack to all members along with the response Cdr Hunneyball formulated and a copy of the reply received from the Firemaster John Williams. Our only concern was in the service we are to be provided and as he stresses in his letter “it is not the intention to use the review to reduce the standards of the service presently delivered by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service”. The document itself does

not have much detail and as was stated by us the devil is in the detail. It was felt that there was no point in asking the Fire Service to come along to one of our meetings as long as we had the same service as before as they had visited us approximately 2 years ago and gave a presentation on their criteria. Mavis did think that it would be beneficial for each telephone to have the postcode on it to aid them to a location but with advances in technology, the caller details that can be on phones would give this detail anyway. \*\* Cdr Hunneyball asks that all members try to give feedback to these inquiries/consultation documents so he can respond with a consensus of our group as he is getting limited feedback at this time\*\*

- c. Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy – copy enclosed in pack to all members with our response to this questionnaire. \*\* Cdr Hunneyball asks that all members try to give feedback to these inquiries/consultation documents so he can respond with a consensus of our group as he is getting limited feedback at this time\*\*
- d. GACCF Report – copy enclosed in pack to all members.
- e. “A Review of Land Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland” Consultation Questionnaire – copy enclosed in pack to all members. Very kindly Rodger Dunham will respond to this on behalf of the community council as this is the area that he holds a PhD in. Although all members are welcome to read it and feed, comments back to him as they wish.
- f. Paradise Road Gritting – A copy of the letter from a concerned resident of Paradise Road with an enclosed sheet of signatures from all the residents there was sent to Mr Ian Rendall. It asked that even though there are no pavements on Paradise Road that it would be appreciated if the small pavement gritter could come along it if they are not to get a road gritter (which they point out that a road gritter has not come along this road in years). It is pleasing to report that the pavement gritter has now been along in response to this request and we can only hope that this happens on a regular basis from now on.
- g. Scottish Water Consultation – copy enclosed in pack to all members. It is almost unbelievable how little notice was given to attend this – 2 days! However it was pointed out what could we do if we are unhappy with the service it is the only one we have? They only thing that has concerned us is with the merging of the Scottish Water Authorities into one Water Authority that jobs are merged and taken out of our area the custom built offices at Westhill for example now mostly up for rent with the use of only the top floor by themselves. However, one good thing has come out of this the standardisation of rates across Scotland. The only positive thing in the Consultation document was the decision not to totally cut someone’s water supply off.
- h. Kemnay Primary School Temporary Speed Limit Letter – copy enclosed in pack to all members we had no objection to this and in fact the only thing we would encourage is it’s extension to further along Victoria Terrace. Sheila is to ask whether this is possible or if they have standard guidelines on the length

that is set. Also to ask about double yellow lines to be put on Victoria Terrace as this is a head on collision waiting to happen. When the school children are being dropped off and collected cars are parked nose to tail along it's length giving motorists on this road no choice but to drive on the wrong side of this very busy main road.

- i. Community Safety Awards 2003-2004 - copy enclosed in pack to all members to be discussed at our next meeting.

## **10. REPORT FORM THE SAFETY GROUP REPRESENTATIVE -**

The last meeting was on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January and Mr Findlater advised us of the ongoing projects. The Message in a Bottle has been a fantastic success since its start in June 2003 and now has 70,000 homes with vital information in the bottle in the fridge. They are looking to have another 60 bottles in the Alford and Upper Donside area. At their next meeting there are to get a presentation from the Royal Mail on safety when on holiday. Ambulance Service Defibrillators volunteers have come forward and have received their initial 16 hours of training, they will then have 3-month assessments and an annual refresher course. Alison Chandler of Northsound Radio is campaigning to increase the number of 18 to 24 years old to call the Crimestoppers in the area. Crimestoppers is a charity and not part of the police they provide a free phone anonymous number and their aim is to make people aware of this charity. The safety group had another bike stamping day on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January and stamped a further 4 bicycles.

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Christmas cards received from Mr Ian Fowell of Aberdeenshire Council and Sir R. Smith MP.
- b. Calor Gas Award – certificate of Participation received.
- c. All other correspondence in circulation or copies with members.

## **12. A.O.C.B**

Snow Clearing - we are to write to Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department to invite them to come along and explain how we are prioritised and their policy on snow clearing and gritting in Kemnay.

Signs for the Speed Bumps in Bremner Way – a letter is to be sent to the council to ask when these will be put up as at present there are no signs to warn motorists.

White Lines – again a letter is to be sent to the council to ask about the lack of white lines after a road has been patched or resurfaced. As these are beneficial in bad weather and particularly in the fog on rural roads.

Rural Community Transport Initiative (RCTI) – Information sent to the Community Council with regards to a scheme which funds mini buses and community transport schemes. This is to be passed to Community Education with regard to the Community Mini bus that they run.

Victorian Lamppost – On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> the lamppost was removed so that it came be repaired it should be returned on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 26<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY 2004**