

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2009 AT 7.30PM in KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball (Chairman), Bill Blackwood, Margaret Christie, David Evans, Annie Ferries, Susan Milton, Janet Newberry, Eric Pashley, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman.

Attending: Cllr Hazel Al-Kowarri, Cllr Allison Grant, Terry Cruickshank, Avril Hern, Gwyneth Hinton, Ken Ledingham, Ruth Ledingham, Noel Mack, Alistair Thomson.

1. Apologies: Paul Smart, Alex Thomas, Constable Alex Allan.
2. Welcome: Chris Hunneyball welcomed those present, and offered congratulations to Derek Brown, chairman of the football club, who had already won kit for the club in the Grassroots Award and was now short-listed for the final stages of the award.
3. Police Matters: Constable Allan had submitted a report of crimes committed in Kemnay in December and January. This revealed six crimes committed in December and 11 in January. It was agreed to ask Constable Allan what the clear-up rate was for these crimes.
4. The Minutes of the Meeting: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2008 was proposed by Susan Milton, seconded by Mavis Wainman and unanimously approved.
5. Question Time: Questions were raised about the maintenance of the land surrounding the Point of Origin and about the road markings leading to the new crossing on Station Road where cars were parked right up to the crossing. The Chairman was to contact the artist about his views on the Point of Origin, as he had already suggested that the area should not be "tidied up", and Cllr Al-Kowarri agreed to make enquiries about the road markings.
6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:
 - a) Leschangie Hill walk: It was reported that although there might be some justification for barring the public from the quarry beside Beechhill, there seemed little reason for the other gates erected on the route. The Access Forum had appeared to favour the owner of the croft. Cllrs Al-Kowarri and Grant agreed to pursue the matter. Margaret Christie suggested that the Scottish Rights of Way Society might be able to offer advice.
 - b) Hanging Baskets: Cllr Al-Kowarri was to write an article for the March edition of the Newsletter.
 - c) Leaf Sweeping: A request had been made for the clearing of the leaves in Victoria Terrace and Grove Road. After some delay caused by the weather, the Council had complied with the request. It was pointed out that the leaves had not been moved from the paths leading from Paradise Road to the village green. This would also be requested.
 - d) Kendal Green: Aberdeenshire Council had agreed that when the weather allowed markings would be painted on the road to prevent parking across the access to Kendal Green.
 - e) Craigearn Speed Limit. Several Craigearn residents had objected to the proposed extension of the 30 mph limit so it was agreed to withdraw the request for this. Cllr Al-Kowarri said that, in any event, it would not have been agreed for legislative reasons. In future such requests would be publicised before action is taken.
7. Planning Matters and Applications:

a) Local Development Plan: A letter had been written in response to a request for proposals for the future development of Kemnay. It had suggested protecting the field adjacent to the Point of Origin; including the former chicken sheds on Aquithie Road within the village so that the area would be eligible for development for other than purely business purposes; ensuring that there was the possibility of building the new Academy in the same general area as the current one; retaining the land usage requirements of the land east of Bremner Way and adjacent to Aquithie Road; designating land next to "The Grove" for a medical centre; and protecting the trees on Grove Road and Victoria Terrace.

b) Fetternear Development: The chairman stated that while the Community Council had supported the plan in principle, on seeing the plans for the car park on Bremner Way, they had written to object to that on the basis that it would increase traffic, that it might be misused and that it would be built over green space which was used by the community. Most of the members of the public present appeared to agree with this approach, although some considered that the Community Council should have opposed the whole development.

c) New Planning Applications: There was nothing controversial.

d) Bridgend Flats Planning Gain: There had been no planning gain agreement. Flats were on the market as affordable housing.

8. GACCF Meeting: Reports had been circulated and were taken as read. Additionally, there had been some discussion on how to attract more Community Council members to the meetings.

9. Community Planning: A recent interesting meeting in Inverurie Fire station had involved a presentation by young people on the perceptions which older people had of them, and which they had of older people.

10. Christmas Lights Sub-Committee: There was general agreement that the lights had been a success. Eric Pashley suggested that schools sponsor and design a light which would then be created and displayed. TRAK would like a photograph of one of the Christmas trees for their next Christmas card. A vote of thanks to Eric Pashley and the Chairman was unanimously carried. Thanks were also extended to Mr G. Souter who has arranged storage for the lights, and who took them down after Christmas.

11. Report from Community Learning and Development Representative: The new mini-bus is now in operation and is a success, although new grab handles have had to be installed to assist people boarding the bus. There is a financial problem with the crèche although it is to continue operating for the present. Negotiations on the use by the public of the gym at the Academy are on-going as there are still difficulties about supervision.

12. Aberdeenshire News: Three of the houses at Bogbeth are higher than were allowed by the existing planning permission and additional planning permission has been refused. It is not clear how the builder will deal with this. New road signs have been erected in Kemnay. The sign for Craigearn Park has been misspelled, and Susan Milton pointed out that the sign for Kendall Road had been misspelled for many years. The pavements have been heightened at the bus stops, but still have not been lowered at junctions on Bremner Way.

13. New Business: There was no new business.

14. Unfinished Business:

a) ASCC: Further letters had been written to Mike Rumbles who had passed them on to John Swinney, but the response had been unsatisfactory.

b) Planning Aid Workshop: Those intending to attend on 7 February were asked to e-mail Cllr Grant. Cllr Grant urged Community Councillors to publicise the event.

c) Community Council Elections: These were due to happen on two evenings in March if more than 15 nominations were received.

15. Correspondence: Correspondence had been received: on school bus safety – all school buses were now to be equipped with seat belts; on Sports Council Awards – nominations were invited; on Leader bids for EU funds for rural projects; on the flood warning scheme, which would be online in 2010; on housing strategy; Asirus, a scheme for alerting the ambulance service to the location of rural properties inhabited by vulnerable patients; from Richard Baker MSP; on a community safety seminar to be held in Kemnay; on the NHS annual report; on the results of a police survey which could be found at www.grampian.police.uk; and on a submission for funding for microphones for the Hall.

16. AOCB: There were complaints about the gritting of roads in the recent icy weather. Aberdeenshire Council were to be informed of the complaints. Complaints had also been received that raised flower beds had been installed in Bogbeth Park without any consultation and people were unhappy about the possible hazard to children playing. It was agreed to create a “wish list” of projects at the next meeting. It was pointed out that it was possible to nominate the Post Office for an award. There is to be a Bus Forum on 25 March. The lack of tarring at the entrance to Fraser Place was attributed to the fact that the services for the new house had not yet been put in place.

17. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26 February 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.