

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29TH OF MAY 2003

1. PRESENT : Mrs Janet Newbury, Mr Alan Davies, Mr David Evans, Dr James Piggins, Mr Alistair Thomson, Dr Roger Dunham, Ms Hazel Al-Kowarri, Mrs Susan Milton, Mrs Mavis Wainman, Cdr Chris Hunneyball, Mr Andy Hinton, Miss Sheila Taylor

ATTENDED : Ms Marion Rothwell (50+ Development Worker of Community Education), Inspector Dave Allan (of South Aberdeenshire Police), Councillor Alister Leitch, Mr Graham Stephen, Ms Marion Morrison, Ms Lorna Ross, Mrs Ann McArthur, Mr Ronnie McArthur, Mr David Duncan (of the Inverurie Herald), Ms Claire Campbell

2. APOLOGIES : Bill Blackwood; Pat Findlater, Ian Morgan, Councillor Gurudeo Saluja

3. CHAIRMANS OPENING COMMENTS :

Cdr Hunneyball welcomed all the members, guests' speakers and members of the public. Then offered his congratulations Cllr Leitch on his re-election and his commiseration to Sheila Taylor and thanked them both for standing and for the work they put in the interested of Kemnay, this was echoed by other members.

4. POLICE MATTERS

Inspector Allan advised that the project and subsequent development of the old Police House will also mean that the Police Office, which is to remain in the building, will also be renovated and as a result of the new layout of the house the office will also be extended.

Inspector Allan then went on to give a explanation of the new police plan for 2003 / 2004 (which was circulated to all committee members) and explain what his command area classify as 'priority crimes'. There are 5 'priority crimes' and they are qualified as

Housebreaking, Violent Crime, Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Theft from a Motor Vehicle and Vandalism and he went on to give a short but in depth presentation of the statistics in his command area and then in Kemnay. It was encouraging to learn that the figures show that the official crime record in the area is dropping and in the last quarter of 2002 was at its lowest in 5 years. In April 1998 the official recorded crimes in the whole of South Aberdeenshire Police Area for the quarter was around 600 and at it's peak in July 2000 it was around 700 per quarter but between October and December 2002 it was at its lowest ever of around 400. It was interesting also to see how Kemnay reflected to the rest of Inspector Allan's command area and the level of reported crimes. Inspector Allan's officers cover a large area including Inverurie, Kemnay, Kintore and Blackburn. Inspector Allan then went on to explain that he attends a weekly meeting to discuss what crimes have been committed and what has been reported and review the situation and look ahead to discuss these problems. He also explained that there are different people involved in different types of crime as house breaking is quite a specialised crime and although we do from time to time have cars stolen it is mostly a problem in the City and not common in Kemnay. Vandalism however, has no pattern or set type of person who will commit this type of crime and therefore the police do require the assistance of members of the public to help in these matters.

Councillor Leitch then asked about a local concern regarding people practicing golf in open areas around the village and what the police can do about this, as he explained the council put up signs but can anything more be done. Inspector Allan explained that as long as the person is not breaking the law his officers can not do anything to prevent this and it is a matter of community safety and common sense with people taking responsibility for their actions and the safety of others. It would only be against the law if they were causing deliberate damage when playing golf and this would require evidence to prove this was the case. Mr Tim McKay (representing Kemnay Academy) has offered his full support in the interests of community safety and will address any concerns that the public might have and will raise them at the schools weekly assembly with staff and pupils to heighten awareness over safety for others and potential injury and damage to property. Cllr Leitch is to request new signs for these areas.

5. PRESENTATION BY MARION ROTHWELL ON THE 50+ SKILLS WORKSHOP

Ms Rothwell started by saying that they had an excellent response to their article in the Newsletter last month on both sharing a skill with others and attending courses to learn a new skill. They also received feedback on what types of skills people wished to learn and their preference on where and when they would be able to attend these courses. They have now moved on to organise a 'taster day' on Saturday the 21st of June at The Village Hall from 11am to 5pm - entry will be free - and the vent is open to all over the age of 50, She will be placing more information of the day in the Newsletter.

6. PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ON THE POINT OF ORIGIN BY CHRIS FREEMANTLE

Mr Freemantle was pleased to come along and explain where we have reached and future plans for the Point of Origin. He also informed us the The Scottish Sculpture Workshop has received lots of positive feedback from the people using and enjoying the hill but it is still not finished. Due to the excellent 8-week period of good weather a lot of work was carried out and the work with the heavy equipment has now finished. So now the finishing off process will begin this includes, finishing the three entrances, repairing the dry stone dyke, removing the rabbit fencing, finishing the woodland area, signage at the site and a publication about the project before the official opening. There will also be signs on how to get to the site for tourists but there are no plans to have signs in the woodland area or on the hill itself however in the car park will be full details of the who, what, when and why about the site. They community woodland is a result of the planning gain from the RB Farquhar Estate and is run by a greenbelt company. The piece of land from Aggregate Industries which the hill is built on, will now transfer to a lease with Aberdeenshire Council to run and maintain it for the future but this is still under discussion. With the main issue begin health and safety due to the character of the hill, the design has no gentle paths (1 in 8 gradient) to the summit although it does have some round the site this causes some difficulties with public liability insurance and so is still under review with the Council. They plan to have a local event this year for the 'topping off' ceremony but this will only be organised once the lease is

finalised. Then probably next year there will be an official opening, this will be a formal event timed with the publication and hopefully a famous person to perform the ceremony, unfortunately this will in all probability be next year due to the difficulties of organising the three artist to be here at the same time as one lives in Texas. With regards to a question asked about the paths and the erosion of granite chippings that they are currently made of - there are no plans to replace these and as they get bedded in and the site settles they will form a base for the paths as the original plans do not have a formal path layout. Also not on the plans is the provision of litter bins or doggy bins on the site, this is for two reasons 1/ it would spoil the look of the natural community woodland and 2/ a provision of the local authority to empty said bins is that the must be able to park their trucks beside them to empty them and this is not possible therefore, the only possible solution is to put the at the entrances/exits and ask hat people take responsibility for their actions and act in a considerate manner to others when disposing of their litter and clean up after their dog. The boundary of the site is the stone dyke but in the interests of safety the quarry will be fencing off any possible entry into their site.

7. MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 27th APRIL 2003

Adoption Proposed Mavis Wainman
Seconded Susan Milton

CORRECTION TO LAST MINUTE -

UNDER ITEM 3 POLICE MATTERS - It should read - 40% of serious and fatal road accidents within the Grampian Police Area occur within the South Aberdeenshire Command Area.

UNDER ITEM 7c RECYCLING ADVISOR GROUP PRESENTATION - It should say policy not police.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

A/ Glebe Obstruction - Still there but the deadline is not up yet, should be moved by the time of our next meeting but is not obstructing the flow of traffic and it is mostly on the pavement and recessed area.

B/ Garioch Area Partnership Proposal - reply sent with no objections or changes and also listing several groups who

might be interested in the forum. But it is difficult to make recommendations, as the outline is sufficiently vague to take in such a variety of groups and activities.

C/ Trees on the Village Green – letter received and work already carried out.

D/ Website update for Community Council Members and Office Bearers – Claire and Sheila have this in hand.

E/ A.S.C.C. AGM on 14/06/03 in Glasgow - £15 per ticket – volunteers requested to attend – at the time of the meeting no one available to attend.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A/ Trees under the Don Bridge – Still there at this time but is in hand to do as soon as the Council can get the specialised equipment to remove them.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A/ Calor Gas Awards – a lot of work went into this last time with no response to acknowledge receipt of our entry or feedback on it however it is felt we should entry once again with updated versions of the previous entries. The people who submitted them last year are to look out their entries for updating and Claire Campbell has kindly said she will do the report on the community website entry – Sheila passed details to her on this.

B/ Health Needs Assessment – letter sent by Cdr Hunneyball in response to this due the reply timescale not allowing for us to meet before the deadline for replies (only allowed 3 weeks for replies)

C/ Chairman & Vice Chairman of the Garioch Area Community Council Forum – we had no nominations for these positions and support the current Chairman if he wished to continue in that role – Cdr Hunneyball to attend the AGM and subsequent meeting on the 18th of June on behalf of Kemnay Community Council.

D/ Swimming Pool Meeting from 14th of May – after a very enthusiastic meeting with around 25 members of the public in attendance a new committee was elected consisting of 10 and a date for a follow up meeting

set for the 4th of June. They plan to run another questionnaire as the village has changed and expanded since the last one (done approximately 5 years ago).

E/ Recycling & Waste Management Meeting from 28th of May - a well-attended and very informative meeting with more information to follow as Aberdeenshire Council roll out their plans. To condense the meeting it basically was telling us we are creating too much waste and we need to look to reduce, reuse (recycle), recover and dispose of our waste better as Brussels has decreed targets on landfill sites and the amount of recycling that we must achieve and will impose a hefty fine (she stated £1 million per day) for non-compliance to these regulations. The way ahead is to compost as much of our household waste as possible and recycle what we cannot compost. There are plans for a 'master composter' in the village who will explain how to compost properly and help people who are experiencing difficulties. The plans are to go ahead with the fortnightly refuse collection alternating between non-recyclable waste and our separated tins, paper, plastic collection this will happen in around 18 months time.

F/ National Consultation - this is in response to a report that came out from other community councils and their understanding on the reporters role and powers and the Scottish Executives powers when it comes to planning, in our case ALP. Dr Piggins raised this as he believes that a large proportion have not had an enquiry (Kemnay has had 5) and therefore have not experienced the Scottish Executive over ruling and basically ignoring the reporters points when it comes to local plans and so have misunderstanding of the process. We have no answer to this one and will have to ask for it to be raised again at the Garioch Area Community Council Forum and at the A.S.C.C forum.

G/ Reserved Parking for the Doctors' Surgery - Two spaces have been requested - one of a nurse and one for the on call doctor, this would help them load and unload their cars as they carry more and more equipment these days and get out quicker in the event of an emergency. The High Street has a 45-minute maximum waiting time and the doctor's cars have received parking tickets in the past. Ian Rendall does not have an issue putting a road marking down stating 'RESERVED SPACE DOCTOR' but asks the community councils advise on what the community feel about this. We can find no objection to this and understand the difficulties experienced by our doctors and feel that it is necessary due to the central location of our health centre. Sheila is to send a letter of support.

11. REPORT FROM THE SAFETY GROUP - apologies received from Pat Findlater therefore no report available however this group is not due to meet until w/c 02/06/03.

12. PRESS REPORTS - several articles in the Inverurie Herald in the last few weeks all have been of positive things happening within the village.

13. ABERDEENSHIRE NEWS -

The Youth Café planning application is with the Scottish Office due to the nature of the application. The whole of the downstairs area is to be the café and the building will be available to cover a wide range of activities and be useful to the community in a variety of ways this will make the best use of funding and service to Kemnay.

TRAK AGM - discussion covered play areas within Alehousewells many of these are now unused due to their previous vandalism and state of disrepair the local residents have been asked what to do with these sites and now they are being planted out as community gardens and some will be taken over by tenants to extend their gardens (funding is available for this purpose).

Wetland Area on Bremner Way - this has now been partially drained and cleaned up of litter and a fence put round in the interests of safety although it is open at both end to allow people to observe the wildlife in the area. We kindly ask that people observe this is a wildlife area and not waste land to dump their rubbish (in the process of the clean up several bikes and other household rubbish was removed from the site).

Pleasure Park / Bogbeth Park - the play equipment is being replaced at present and there will now be two sets of equipment to cover the different age groups who will use the play area.

Birley Bush - is in the process of being tidied up by the council.

The mounds of road waste sitting at Aquithie will be removed shortly as work is now finished in that area.

Park & Pavilion Committee - had a very good meeting with positive moves being done to clean up, manage and look after the pavilion and put it back into use by other groups.

Pleasure Park / Bogbeth Park - drainage is still ongoing and the work has been completed yet with more sand slitting to be carried out. The Old Granite toilet block is to be cleaned up and changed into a storage shed and the shed at the bottom of the park is to be demolished as it is no longer in a fit state to use.

Leading Edge Skaters - raised over £2,000 in the 'male auction' - well done to them.

New signs - due to a backlog of requests replacements signs are taking some time to get however the sign for Kendal Road and the Loaves and Fishes should be fitted shortly.

Landscaping - several areas and receiving attention throughout the village just now, Willow Trees have been planted in the Wetland Area on Bremner Way. Alehousewells Primary is to have the turf removed and the area to be dug over and replanted as it is so compacted 'it is like a brick' - this will make is a safer area for playing on. Oak trees are to be planted on the Village Green to create a boulevard. The landscaping of Minto Circle is to take place in the next phase at a cost of £20,000 - no decision has been made regarding residents garages however local residents will be consulted about the plans in advance and will have their say on them. We are to invite Bob Rose to come to one of our meetings to tell us Aberdeenshire Council's plans for the village.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Skateboard Park @ Bogbeth Park - this will be along the bottom of the park beside the old sheds at the corner of Bogbeth Road - no objection - letter of support to be sent.

Milton Farm Steading Conversation - 3 housing units and 1 business unit - again no objection - letter of support to be sent.

4 Houses at Aquithie Road (outline application) - this is on the site of the old Chicken shed - it was felt this would get rid of an eyesore from that end of the village and therefore welcomed.

Kemnay Primary - replacement windows - no objection to this either

15. CORRESPONDENCE - all in circulation

A/ Calor Gas - Scottish Community of the Year ☸

B/ South Aberdeenshire Command Area Policing Plan ☸

C/ SEPA View - Spring 2003 Magazine #

☸ - sent with community council papers

- being circulated

☆ - sent by e-mail

16. A.O.C.B

R.I.A.S. - environmental improvements £12,000 - to be discussed at the next meeting once more details are known.

Kemnay Clean Up - Keep Scotland Tidy - Simon Davies is to do this, he is an environmental student, more details to follow.

Kemnay Community Council Constitution - being re-drafted in line with the latest Community Council Handbook and Guidelines,

Community Council - new members induction/training evening? As we have several new members it was discussed that this would prove very useful to helping them understand their role and responsibilities within the community council. Garioch Area Community Council Forum to be approached on this matter.

Inverurie Festival 13th to 15th of June - there is to be a "Gig for the Dig" in aid of the dig at Fetternear Estate.

Dodd Mitchell has contacted us to say that the litter bin at the end of Springfield Road is working out better than expected with the kids using it as they walk past resulting in him not having nearly as much litter to tidy from the gardens and street each day.

Kemnay for Broadband - Claire Campbell & David Fyffe have joined forces to push for broadband for the village more details will be in the Newsletter.

Tim MacKay advised us of a pupil who found a card and £100 in cash and handed it in without identifying themselves. Owner is very grateful for their honesty.

Alan did some investigating into the old Lawrence of Kemnay site to find out that Belmont Motors (John Martin Group Edinburgh - holding Co.) now own the site - just recently bought it (for £1.25 million was valued at £800,000 previously) but have no intention of opening it as a car showroom or re-opening the petrol station (as this would cost too much money now it has been closed for some time). However J & E Shepherd are looking after the sites for Belmont Motors are looking for someone to lease it for business purposes.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 26TH OF June 2003 @ 7.30pm in Kemnay Village Hall.

For reference the future meeting dates are as follows :

25th of September 2003
30th of October 2003
27th of November 2003
29th of January 2004
26th of February 2004
25th of March 2004