

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING on THURSDAY 29th MAY 1997

Present: Mr F Wainman, Mrs M Wainman, Dr J Piggins, Mrs L Moss, Mrs G Hinton, Mr A Davies, Mr D Evans, Mrs S Milton, Mr L Shrago, Mrs S Shrago, Mrs J Campbell

Also present: Mr A Grant, Mrs K Buchan, Mr J Auld, Mr C Ogg, Mr L Robertson, Mr G Souter, Mr W Middleton, Mrs A Middleton

Apologies: Mrs J Newberry, Cllr A Leitch

1 Mr Wainman welcomed everyone, especially Mr Alan Grant, Garioch Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council

2 **Minutes of previous meeting** adopted after typing correction. Proposed by Mr D Evans and seconded by Mrs S Milton.

3 Mr Wainman introduced Mr Alan Grant to give a report on decentralisation. As part of Aberdeenshire Council's response to the 1994 Local Government Act they had set up six area structures (Stonehaven, Marr Area, Garioch, Formartine, Buchan and Banff & Buchan) to provide local service points. These were working well so far although more needed to be done to break down the central budget into six area budgets - a very complex operation. The main aims were to bring decision making as close to people concerned as possible and to involve community in decision making process. It was difficult to work out best structure. They recognise there is a diversity of community organisations and hopefully they could come together to work out strategy for involving whole community.

Mr Wainman asked for any questions and Mrs Wainman asked if agendas for Garioch Area Meetings could be sent out in good time to be posted up in village - Mr Grant said he would be delighted to see Kemnay people at the meetings.

Dr Piggins asked whether areas would have total budget control - Mr Grant said this had not been decided but would probably be specific service budgets as the Council's revenue budgets were calculated this way - capital budget would be central, not local.

Mr Wainman thought that if clubs have problem they should come to Community Council, then it would put forward consensus of view as there are so many clubs - this was seconded by Mrs Milton and Mrs Hinton. Mr Shrago thought this would mean delay but Mr Grant said that if clubs had problems they could approach Council officials directly.

Mr Davies wondered who would have more say - individual or Community Council - the latter would seem to be more practical.

Asked whether we will actually see changes to finances, Mr Grant said that the amount of money available will not increase, but if Council were made aware of needs they could access other funds more readily such as lottery funding, environmental bodies, Rural Partnership funds, etc.

Mr Wainman suggested that Council Officials could visit the Village Hall and solve local people's problems if a computer link were provided by the Council to headquarters.

Mrs Wainman said at the moment the Community Council had the remit to ascertain and express the views of the populace to public bodies and what decision did Mr Grant think that Community Councils could make. Mr Grant said that although decisions might seem local they actually affect other communities as things must be standardised. However, local park

maintenance, for example, could be devolved at local level, and already School Boards and Head Teachers have control of 87% of school budgets.

Mr Wainman thanked Mr Grant for his interesting presentation.

4 Unfinished Business

Mr Evans asked Mr Grant about insurance policy - he recommended that we should have one, especially for public liability and that there was one available at £40pa. Mr Wainman asked if this could be regarded as a project for Council funding and Mr Grant did not rule this out.

We will write to Roads Department re yellow lines in the High Street.

Asked about wild animal signs on the B993 and Inverurie Road Mr Grant said this was in hand.

Questioned about safety matting under play equipment, Mr Grant said working party had not yet reached a decision - there were conflicting views between Health & Safety Executive and ROSPA even at national level. (Injuries sustained by children were result of awkward fall rather than fall on hard surface.)

Mr Shrago reported that he had received letter from Royal Mail at Altens and that late deliveries are within target times although he learnt that the 9.30am collection from Kemnay does not get to Aberdeen until after lunchtime.

5 Correspondence Received

Letters from Aberdeenshire Council re refusal of planning permission for fast food outlet in High Street, Meeting of Garioch Community Councils, & Wet Area off Bremner Way.

Letter objecting to proposed extension in Springfield Road

Copy of letter from Duncan Downie to Aberdeenshire Council re development at Kirkstyle Farm - we should write to Aberdeenshire Council supporting his views not to build on ground which might be needed for the graveyard in the future.

Mrs Wainman reported that she had been on site visit to wet area and found it was uneconomic to drain - the suggestion was that we should make advantage out of difficulty and develop it as wet land area which would attract wildlife, flora and fauna. There was some concern that it was a danger to children but the fast moving river posed a greater danger. Dr Piggins, speaking as a Young Ornithologists organiser, said wetlands are scarce in this area and if it was cleaned up wildlife would move in.

6 Aberdeenshire News

Cllr Leitch indisposed but had phoned Mrs Wainman re bridge on B993 (near Little Treasures) - strengthening work would take place later this year and road would be closed. Mrs Wainman also reported that she had received phone call from developers of Kirkstyle - apparently up to 1% of budget is earmarked for "art" and it was thought a more imposing sign on the approaches to Kemnay would be appropriate - it was suggested we publicise in the Newsletter for ideas.

7 Planning Applications

Only three applications giving any concern. One was for a replacement house at Milton Farm Kemnay - is this a listed building? Another for a garage/workshop at Rammerscales on corner of Fraser Place/Aquithie Road - concern was voiced about noise and amount of traffic. Mr Evans suggested bringing this to attention of Planning Department. A bedroom & garage extension on Springfield Road raised some doubts as to semi-detached blocks becoming rows of terraced houses - we will write to Planning Department stating that it is aesthetically unwise.

8 AOCB

Louise Moss had attended Crime Prevention Panel in Inverurie on 28th April. The Underage Drinking Initiative in Westhill is going well and a similar thing could happen in Kemnay. The CCTV in Inverurie Town Centre was discussed - this was quite controversial - the next Panel meeting was to be at CCTV headquarters in Aberdeen. Kemnay Academy had been broken into five times in two months.

Mr Shrago said lorries were still parked on the pavement in Fraser Place. Mr Evans suggested writing to Aberdeenshire Council re traffic calming measures on Aquithie Road (and possibly on Victoria Terrace at a later date).

Concern was voiced about grass cutting around Kembhill Park and on the road down from the Burnett Arms Hotel where litter was picked up and left on path rather than being taken away - it had become quite an eyesore.

Meeting finished at 9.40pm.

PROPOSED ADOPTION

SECONDED

SIGNED