

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE MEETING ON

29th JUNE 2006 AT 7.30PM IN THE KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball, Bill Blackwood, Susan Milton, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman, Hazel Al-Kowarri, Annie Ferries, Janet Newberry, Ian Wakley, and Paul Smart.

Attending: Insp Dave Allan, A. McArthur, R. McArthur, David Staniforth, M. Rasmusin, Ian Fowell (Garioch Area Manager), Melanie Jones, Judy Booth, Richard Lamb, Tilly.

Apologies: David Evans, Neil Johnson, Cllr Garudeo Saluja, Cllr Alister Leitch, Eric Pashley, Alexandra Burnett, Pat Findlater.

1. Introduction

Chris opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He observed that some of the new members were not acquainted with everyone present, and invited all to introduce themselves.

2. Police Matters

Inspector Allan produced a graph of crime statistics, which showed that there had been a slight increase in crime levels over the past couple of years, although the same had been true in other areas. He said that he was trying to increase community policing instead of following a response policy, but such an initiative was going to take time. In the past 30 days there had been 51 recorded crimes, mainly the usual youth problems. Asked why there were so few policemen to be seen, he pointed out that the numbers available were extremely limited, and it was just not possible to react immediately to every incident. Asked about football being played in the streets, he said that this was not a crime, nor could the police stop under age drinking in open spaces. The offence had been committed by the seller of the alcohol.

It was agreed that the Council would write to our MSP about police numbers, and also suggesting that publicity be given to the responsibilities of parents for their children. The possibility of introducing a bye law to prohibit under age drinking in public places would be put to the Area Forum. Action Chris.

3. Minute of the Meeting held on 25th May 2006.

This was approved subject to changing "May" to "April" in paragraph 5.

Proposed by Janet Newberry. Seconded by Susan Milton

4. Question Time

a. High Street Buses. Melanie Jones said she had asked Aberdeenshire Council about the usage of the High Street bus stop, but ticketing information was only taken for the whole of central Kemnay, and the only way to establish the High Street numbers would be to conduct a survey. Further, only figures for the 421 service were available, and several other services used that stop. Chris said that he had had an email from a High Street resident, supporting the present route and saying that it gave the village centre vibrancy. He had not had any other comments. In any event, it was not intended to make any proposals until there had been more responses.

b. Traffic Calming in Paradise Road. Chris had spoken to Cllr Leitch who had said that he had asked for this to be done, indeed he hoped to see 20 mph limits on most minor residential roads in Kemnay. Speed cushions were the preferred solution.

c. Litter bins in the Pleasure Park. It was pointed out that the bins in the Pleasure Park were often overflowing. This would be raised with the Council. Action Chris.

5. Any matters to be raised under AOCB or at a future meeting

Chris had some additional correspondence, and Jim intimated that he wished to raise the matter of the Post Office.

6. Matters Arising from Minute

a. Disabled Parking. It was reported that Cllr Leitch had raised this with Ian Rendall.

b. Waste Management. It was pointed out that the new facilities for recycling had been introduced at no cost to the council tax payer, but had been paid for by the Scottish Executive. The saving on household collections would be used to improve recycling facilities. If bins were not emptied Ian Fowell asked householders to notify the Council as they were suffering from teething problems.

7. Aberdeenshire News

Ian Fowell said that it had been decided that a consistent approach across Aberdeenshire would be taken with respect to the handling of planning applications. The Garioch Area procedure will be little changed.

8. Planning Applications

There were no contentious applications.

9. Report from Community Learning and Development Representative

Jim had nothing to report.

10. Garioch Area Community Council Forum

The normal meeting held on 1st June was preceded by the AGM, during which Chris was re-elected Chairman for the forthcoming year. A copy of the Chairman's Report is available should anyone want a copy.

The main meeting opened with a presentation by Mr Robin Byth, who is the Community Councils' representative on the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board. The election for his position had been conducted in some haste, and the whole matter was overlooked in the Garioch Area due to an oversight. Robin explained that he intended to stand down after two years, and he felt that the position should rotate around the areas. The Board sat four times per year, but was still establishing its terms of reference and the deciding how it should function. The problem of disseminating information was raised. It was concluded that Robin should distribute minutes and reports to the area contacts for further promulgation.

Mr Piers Blaxter then gave a presentation on the Strategic Development Plan, which is being developed in conjunction with Aberdeen City Council. The aim is to identify how much land will be released for new building, where that land will be, and how that land should be identified. There will be further consultation on this matter, which will obviously be of great interest to communities.

Community Council grants have been set, with Kemnay being allocated £453.55. The Project Grant budget is £2,168.05, and Area Committee Top Up Budget amounts to £40,833. Payments from the latter fund will not amount to more than 75% of the project cost.

The village orderly programme will continue as last year, so Kemnay will again have it's orderly for the summer holidays. A plea was made again for the scheme to be extended to cover term time, when the litter problem is much worse.

It was agreed that future meetings will be held on 7th September, 2nd November, 1st March 2007 and 7th June (which will also be the AGM). An Autumn briefing is also proposed as is the annual meeting with the Chief Executive to discuss budget and other matters, probably a key one being the way the Council will work after the next local elections. Suggestions for topics for the briefing sessions were requested.

Association of Scottish Community Councils Meeting 27th May 2006

This was an extremely poorly attended meeting, with only 25 or so community councillors attending from the whole of the north east. Not a lot came out; it was obvious that not many understood the meaning of community planning, and there was a lot of scepticism about the genuineness of the some consultations. Indeed, the ASCC was invited to a consultation meeting, and when it put forward an idea was told that it had already been ruled out! I asked what had been the point of the consultation about the role of community councils when the preamble said no changes to the powers of CCs were intended. There were five MSPs fielding questions who gave mostly evasive replies.

Jim mentioned that there had been criticism of the ASCC which had not promulgated details of the meeting until the last minute.

11. New Business

- a. Local Transport Strategy Consultation.. The timescale for a response meant that a special meeting would have to be called if a co-ordinated response was to be made. It was agreed not to do this.
- b. Waste Bin at Skate Park. Jim reported that one weekend the bin had been used as an additional platform for skateboarders, doing the bin no good and making a lot of noise. Ian Fowell agreed to ask that it be chained in its proper place. A suggestion that a separate container for plastic bottles was not followed up as it would be likely to become contaminated with other waste.

12. Unfinished Business

- a. Christmas Lights. Chris had received confirmation from Bob Rose that the granite base at the junction of Bremner Way and Aquithe Road would be finished before Christmas. That meant that two trees and sets of light would be needed. A string of 45 lights, about 45 ft long, would cost around £70 and a 110v transformer, if the lower voltage option was selected, would be about £110. Ian pointed out that small bulbs were more common nowadays, and Chris undertook to investigate. It was agreed that the Community Council would fund half the cost, and an application made to the Top Up Fund for the remainder. Action Chris.

13. Correspondence

- a. Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils. It was agreed that while there were few comments about the code of conduct for Community Councillors, the Model Rules were much too restrictive and quite unnecessary for an informal meeting. Chris had circulated a draft response which was approved and would be forwarded. Ian asked that a copy be sent to him. Action Chris
- b. Annual Report of the Traveller Education Information Project North East. The copy of this was circulated to Paul and Susan.
- c. Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route Consultation (stage 3). This dealt with the environmental impact assessment which was not relevant to Kemnay.

- d. Charter 88 – call for support. It appeared that members were not fully au fait with the details, and as this particular approach seemed to be aimed at English and Welsh communities it was decided to do nothing further.
- e. Aberdeenshire Community Plan. A copy of the latest document had been received.
- f. NHS Older People’s Services. Chris had prepared a draft response to this consultation and it was agreed that it would form the basis of a formal reply. Action Chris
- g. BAA Aberdeen had acknowledged our input to their consultation.
- h. Local Plan. This was now finally being adopted.
- i. Police Custody Visiting. An invitation to become a formal visitor had been received and circulated. Anyone wishing to become involved should write.

14. AOCB

- a. Post Office. Jim pointed out that although it was good to see that our post office had been successfully taken over, a new threat had emerged in that post offices were having their ability to renew TV Licences withdrawn.
- b. Waste Collection and Council Tax. Ian Wakley pointed out that collections for recyclable waste were not being made in rural areas. This meant that they had lost more than those people living in larger settlements. He suggested that home owners who did not receive the second collection should have their Council Tax reduced by one band. It was agreed to write to Cllr Saluja and propose this. Action Chris.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 28th September 2006