

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30th JANUARY 2003

7.30 PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

1. Present:-

Mr A. Davies, Mr D. Evans, Mr P. Findlater, Cdr C. Hunneyball, Mrs J. Newberry, Dr J. Piggins, Mrs M. Wainman

Attending:-

W. Anderson, Ms P. Bremner, Ms C. Campbell, Ms D. Collie, Mr M. Collie, F. Coull, Mr K. Coull, Mr I. Fowell, Ms L. Mackie, Ms M. Mackie, Mr M. Mackie, Ms L. Michie, G. Milward, Ms H. Milward, Mr P. Morgan, Mr G. Paterson, Ms S. Taylor

Apologies:-

Mr D. Duncan (Inverurie Herald), Inspector Ledingham, Councillor A. Leitch, Mr. T. McKay, Mrs M. Michie, Mrs S. Milton, Councillor G. Saluja

Dr Piggins welcome Mr Fowell, the Garioch Area Manager, to the meeting, and also the large number of the public attending. He encouraged those who had an interest in community matters to stand for election to the Community Council at the forthcoming election.

2. Police Matters

Inspector Ledingham, who is temporarily standing in for Inspector Allen, was unfortunately unable to be present.

3. Minute of Last Meeting

The Minute of meeting held on Thursday 28th November 2002 was adopted.

Proposed: Mr A. Davies Seconded: Mr D. Evans

4. Matters Arising from Minute

a. Community Web Site

Mrs Campbell reported that this was coming on well, and had received an award from Goldenweb. It can be found at www.kemnay.org.uk. She had also received an offer of help with the site.

b. The Glebe Obstruction

In the absence of Cllr Leitch there was nothing further to report.

c. Area Top Up Budget

The request for funds to convert the police house to a youth café would be considered on 18th February. Mr Fowell said that money could, perhaps, come from the Community Council grant instead.

d. Bremner Way 20 mph Limit

It was reported that this could not be implemented because the speed of traffic was such that a 20 mph limit would be ignored, and would be unenforceable, particularly as the road was used as a race track by an irresponsible minority. However, it was accepted that there was a problem, and other traffic calming measures would be investigated. Mr Fowell said that installation of speed bumps should not be too expensive, and might be able to be funded from the top up budget.

e. Gritting

Mr Davies noted, in connection with road safety, that the Craigearn road was never gritted, although it was a main artery to Aberdeen from Kemnay. There had been several accidents on that road during the recent icy weather. Mr Fowell said that the usage would have to be monitored before its priority could be changed.

There was also a problem at the junction of Kendal Road and Victoria Terrace. It was suggested that roughening the slope on Kendal Road could help improve grip. Also, if bins of grit were placed at strategic points in the village, residents could spread this on the roads. Boat Croft was mentioned as being particularly hazardous. Mr Fowell agreed that this should be possible, and asked if he could be told where bins would be best placed.

5. Unfinished Business.

a. Aberdeenshire Local Plan

Mr Fowell said that, at their meeting two days previously, the Council had kept to its original plan, including the development by Bogbeth Road. If there were still objections there would have to be a local enquiry before the end of the year.

b. Skateboard Park

Dr Piggins said that a skateboard park had been discussed since 1990. The Community Council had given the project its general support, and encouraged Aberdeenshire Council to provide financial help. It had recently seen, through unofficial sources, a possible plan, but he understood that this had now changed.

Mr Fowell said that the Council had last year agreed in principle to lease a plot of land near the aerial runway, but planning approval had been requested for a different site. This plan was not a valid proposal, so it had not been considered, as, apart from other considerations, BT claimed to own part of the proposed site. There were problems trying to find a suitable location because of the presence of drains under the grass.

There was strong criticism from members of the public about the possibility of the skateboard park being in that general area at all because of the noise, traffic and pollution it would generate. It was also claimed that the location ran counter to Aberdeenshire policy over the use of amenity land. Representations had been made to Cllr Leitch, but it was said that he had not been supportive. The general feeling was that it would be better if it were to be located in the Pleasure Park, or behind the Academy.

The matter of neighbour notification was also raised, with members of the public

saying that they had not been informed about the plans. Mr Fowell said that the rules were quite clear, and anyone whose property adjoined a site for which planning permission was being sought would be notified. People further away were not required to be informed, as it would be impossible to know where to draw the line. All proposals were published in the press, and the Community Council was also kept informed. Objections received by Aberdeenshire Council up to three days before the relevant meeting would be circulated to all councillors; those received after that deadline would be reported verbally at the meeting.

Dr Piggins said that, as the Community Council had not seen any plans, it was not in a position to comment, however a meeting was to be held on 10th February in the Village Hall to discuss the general matter of sporting facilities in the village. All those known to be involved had been invited, as had representatives of Aberdeenshire Council.

6. New Business

a. A96/B977 Roundabout

The Community Council had been asked by the Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group for its views about the mound of earth blocking the sightline at the roundabout where the B977 joins the A96. A reply had been made summarising previous discussion. However, as there had been no accidents caused by this obstruction, it was now agreed that it would be futile to pursue the matter further.

b. Scottish Executive Rural Transport Initiative

Applications for grants had been invited, and Dr Piggins undertook to speak to Mrs Sneddon about the possibility of obtaining support for the community mini bus.

c. Bus Timetables

Dr Piggins noted that Stagecoach had changed the timetable late last year, but had not informed anyone. This month they had changed it again, but although it was advertised, new timetables were initially in very short supply. The revised times, with the 1745 bus now departing at 1805, were also very inconvenient for people who finished work in Aberdeen soon after 5 pm.

The next Bus Forum was expected to be held on 26th February in Kemnay, when these and other points would be raised.

d. Litter Bins

There was a lack of litter bins in Kemnay, and dog fouling bins were not always emptied regularly. Mr Fowell encouraged residents to inform Gordon House if there was a problem. A particular request had been made for a litter bin in Springfield Road, which was used as a shortcut by pupils from the Academy.

7. Garioch Area Community Council Forum

Dr Piggins said that there would be a meeting on 6th March to discuss an Area Partnership, which would initially focus on youth facilities. Mrs Wainman and Mrs Taylor volunteered to represent Kemnay. Mr Fowell said that area partnerships had

been successful in other areas, and although it had not been thought one was needed in Garioch, some money is available, so the merits were being explored. The village orderly concept had been successful, and it was hoped to run a pilot project, having a part time orderly in term time, in Kemnay.

8. Report from the Safety Group

Mr Findlater had not been able to attend the last Safety Group meeting, but he said that the Aberdeenshire Community Safety Groups' Annual Seminar would be held in Woodhill House on 29th March. If anyone wished to attend they should submit their details by 3rd March.

It was suggested that the sloping pavement around the war memorial would benefit from having a handrail, as the slope was steep and the path was slippery in icy weather. The Roads Department would be contacted about this.

9. Report from the Press Scrutiniser

Comment was made that the Inverurie Library was not to be extended. Mr Fowell said that the will was there, but the problem was how to fit in all the linked facilities, such as the museum and the library, into the space available. It was, however, one of the two top priorities in Aberdeenshire.

10. Planning Applications

There had been nine applications received, all but two having already been approved or were uncontentious. The details are:-

99/7180/1 CHANGE USE FROM PUBLIC OPEN SPACE TO PRIVATE GARDEN GROUND

Mr M Shewan, 10 Heron Way, Kemnay APPROVED

99/7213/1 EXTENSION Mrs J Mitchell, Crathie Cottage, 19 Kendal Road, Kemnay - APPROVED

99/7231/1 CONSERVATORY

Mr Garland, 32 Milton View, Kemnay - APPROVED

99/7293/1 EXTENSION

Mr J Parr, Glenhead Cottage, Kemnay. Attic conversion & dormers.

99/7227/1 ERECT HOUSE (OL) at 15 Kendal Road, Kemnay.

Mr Campbell, 15 Kendal Road, Kemnay.

Office bearers agreed to object to this application due to poor access that is presently predominantly pedestrian. A "pedestrian only" barrier has been erected between this path and Bennachie View to prevent motor vehicles from using this pathway as a through road to Kendal Road. It would set an undesirable precedent which may encourage similar developments in the back gardens of 34-44 and 46 Paradise Road, which would also utilise this path as a means of access to Kendal Road.

99/7284/1 HOUSE & GARAGE (DP) at Parkhill Kemnay.

Laura Downie, Ardvane, Parkhill, Kemnay.

A similar application last year was approved by Garioch Area Committee but later refused by main Infrastructure Committee as being contrary to Policy, in that the site was outwith the settlement boundary and technically in Countryside. The site has subsequently been included in the settlement envelope in the ALP.

99/7331/1 EXTENSION

Mr C Carton, Dalmadilly Farmhouse, Kemnay.

Spa, Conservatory, Study & 2 bedrooms. Granite walls and slate roof to match existing materials.

99/8021/1 MESS ROOM & CHANGING FACILITIES at Kemnay Quarry.

Bardon Aggregates, per RPD Scotland Ltd., Cowley, Rothienorman.

Located just south of quarry entrance, 4m x15m x 5m high.

99/8037/1 ERECT 66 HOUSES & GARAGES (detached 3 & 4 bedroom) at Bogbeth Road, Kemnay.

Barratt Construction Ltd. The proposal is for 66 houses on the west section of the site, approximately two thirds of the site, which is indicated to extend to 3.1 hectares or 7.66 acres. All the houses appear to be detached. The site is referred to as "Site A" in the present proposed Aberdeenshire Local Plan. This proposal will be opposed.

11. Correspondence

It was agreed to invite Claire Wright, of the Recycling Advisory Group, to address the next meeting about the setting up of community waste recycling projects.

There was no comment on the other correspondence, all of which had been previously forwarded to members.

12. A.O.C.B.

It was reported that visits for groups to see the European Parliament in action could be arranged by MEPs. Typically, the cost was around £250 per head for a group of 25.

Money was available for community environmental projects, but applications had to be in by the end of February. Contenders could be walkways in Fetternear, the wet area by the Academy, removal of cobble pathways in Bremner Way, or surfacing the path from Milton Meadows to Riverside Road. It was agreed to discuss these after members had had a chance to pay a site visit.

A manhole cover near Kirkstyle Garage was sinking. The Roads Department will be informed, but it would be helpful, if such problems are seen, that they be reported to Gordon House.

Elections for the Community Council would have to be held shortly. The Post Office had agreed to keep nomination forms, and to collect completed ones. They could also be dropped off at Mrs Wainman's house. Dr Piggins said he would ask Mr

Duffus if he would act as Returning Officer in the event that there were more candidates than places and a vote had to be held.

A fence was down by the water carrier statue, but it was not known to whom this fence belonged.

Funding to complete the Point of Origin was now available. The telephone mast will be screened by trees to make it less visible.

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations had some money available for village halls. Mrs Wainman said that Kemnay was thinking about applying for a grant to fit new boards to protect walls in the meeting rooms, to improve the projection room, and to update the sound and light systems. Applications had to be in by 6th February.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 27th February 2003, in Kemnay Academy.