

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE MEETING ON THE 30th June 2005 AT 7.30 PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman, Susan Milton, Janet Newberry, Bill Blackwood.

Attending: Cllr Alister Leitch, Sgt Raymond Munro, Mr George Paterson.

- 1) Introduction – Chris welcomed Council members and visitors. He extended congratulations in his absence to Cllr Saluja on the recently announced award of an OBE. He also announced the resignation from the Council of Alistair Thomson, whose new job involves shift work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (The resignation will require appointment of a new representative to Community Learning, but this was deferred to a later meeting).
- 2) Apologies - Hazel Al-Kowarri, Roger Dunham, David Evans, Pat Findlater, Neil Johnson, Cllr Gurudeo Saluja and Inspector Dave Allan tendered apologies.
- 3) Police Matters – Sgt Munro reported a mixed bag of recent incidents in Kemnay, placing Kemnay high on the last month's statistics. Vandalism mostly to vehicles has been reported; some incidents have been detected, other inquiries are on-going. Two notable incidents were
 - A car abandoned in the Leschangie Forestry. Due to the high fire risk at this time of year, fast-track arrangements were made with Aberdeenshire Council for its removal.
 - A car driven around the cricket pitches and subsequently pushed into the Skatepark. Fortunately, little damage appeared to have been done other than to the vehicle itself. Inquiries to identify the driver are continuing.

Staffing at the Kemnay Police Office has been increased and it is still hoped to have a permanent beat officer, possibly by the autumn.

Alister reported that discussions involving the Police had been held about discos at the Youth Club. This followed suspension of discos at the Academy because of damage outside. He had been impressed by the attitude of the young people, who had suggested T-shirts with the Disco Rules printed on the back.

Mavis reported that the door hook from the front of the Village Hall had been removed (whether stolen or vandalised), causing needless inconvenience.

Jim asked whether, after the discussion last month, traffic wardens had visited Kemnay. Sgt Munro said that following the recent change in the management responsibility for wardens, it was hoped that they would be more visible in villages like Kemnay.

Janet reported that a couple of vehicles a week still travel the wrong way up the High Street. Alister said that more signs had been discussed, but it was difficult to know where to put them. Chris reported that the "No Entry" signs at St Bryde's Road are

damaged. The Police have a system for reporting defects to the Roads Department, and Sgt Munro said that he would have a look at these problems.

- 4) Minute of Meeting held on 26th May 2005 - Jim noted that Item 14(a) did not make clear that he had asked whether the Council wished to make a nomination for Vice-Chair of the Forum, Chris having previously been nominated as Chair. With this amendment, the Minutes were adopted.

Adoption Proposed - Janet

Seconded – Susan

- 5) Question Time – George Paterson had attended the recent Planning Inquiry in the Church Hall. He stated that the Community should thank Jim & Fiona Piggins and Chris for their presentations at the Inquiry. He was aghast at the inadequate performance by Aberdeenshire Council's officers in front of the Inquiry.

In response, Chris brought forward Item 9(a) from the Agenda and agreed that Barratt's had had a very competent counsel, who could have got the Aberdeenshire Council witnesses to agree that $2 + 2 = 5!$ He thanked Jim and David Evans for their help in preparing his own presentation.

Alister stated that he had missed the Inquiry because of the illness of his grandson, but he had passed on similar comments from George and Jim to Alison MacInnes, chair of Aberdeenshire Infrastructure and Services Committee.

Janet asked whether Aberdeenshire Council should employ professional staff to stand up before Inquiries, rather than rely on officials from other duties.

Chris noted that the Scottish Executive Inquiries Reporters' Unit had sent him an unstamped letter stating that the Community Council was "not a relevant person" for the Inquiry, and would have to obtain its own copies of documents from Aberdeenshire Council. Chris had had to travel to Inverurie and pay £1.21 himself for the letter. He had written to SEIRU protesting at their treatment of the Community Council, and asking them to refund the postage charge. A copy of his letter had been sent to Mike Rumbles, MSP.

Any matters to be raised under AOCB - Janet had items about Alister's surgeries and road safety.

- 6) Matters arising from Minute –

- a) Christmas Lights – Chris had been to Blackburn and Kintore, and had obtained catalogues. The cost of lights is about £300 to £500 + VAT per lamp-post. About 10 or 12 lamp-post fittings would be the minimum for Kemnay, and hence the cost would be of the order of £6,000. Blackburn raised their funding through collections, Kintore through sponsored walks, barbecues etc. Storage is in the Leys Hotel and the basement of the Kintore Hall, respectively. It is likely to be 2006 (if at all) before we can contemplate purchasing lights for Kemnay, and hence the topic was deferred to the September meeting, when a sub-committee may need to be formed to take this forward. Meanwhile, Janet will obtain details of possible sources of second-hand lights.

- b) Jim reported that The Glebe sign has still not been replaced.

- 7) Aberdeenshire News – Alister had attended a meeting at the Youth Café (refer to Item 3 above) and the Awards ceremony at Kemnay Academy. High awards had been won by the former youth members of the Community Council.

There had been discussion of the need for an L-shaped fence at the Skatepark to prevent stray footballs from entering it. Alister would look into joint funding for it.

The Monymusk Road is to be closed between Milton Farm and Kembhill for three weeks commencing 4th July. Diversions will be necessary for traffic to and from Castle Fraser and Monymusk. However, buses will be allowed to follow their usual route. This follows Aberdeenshire's policy of closing roads completely during road works, on safety grounds, but it was noted that the diversions will be long. Jim pointed out that at this time of year, tourists will be following the Castle Trail signs to Castle Fraser from many miles away, only to find the route blocked at Kemnay. Mavis asked if the work was going to continue through the long summer daylight hours, in order to finish the work as quickly as possible, but it was noted that this would involve payment of double time. The meeting agreed unanimously to register its unease and dissatisfaction at this closure and consequent inconvenience.

8) Planning Applications

- a) Retrospective application for a garden arbour at 44 Bremner Way. The arbour has been constructed in the back garden. Concern was expressed that if granted, this might set a precedent, but it was agreed to make no representation on the matter.
- b) Extension to Kemnay Primary School. This is likely to be granted and no observations will be submitted.

9) Unfinished Business

- a) Planning Application, Site A – discussed under Item 5 above.
- b) Swimming Pool – A committee meeting had been held on 16 June, when Simon Copping was elected as the new Chairman. A letter about the proposed 50m pool for Garioch was sent to our MP, MSP and Councillors. Bob Smith and Mike Rumbles have replied, and Mike has written to Mr Stone, head of Lifelong Learning and Recreation at Aberdeenshire Council. Meanwhile, further canvassing of village opinion on the need for a swimming pool is to be carried out. Alister stated that he raises the issue at every opportunity to try to get it included in Aberdeenshire's programme, especially as an extension to the Academy is currently being planned.
- c) A96 (Broomhill) Roundabout – Chris and Ian Morgan met BEAR and a representative of the Executive at the Roundabout. George Anderson, from Lifelong Learning and Transport, estimated that a car could negotiate the roundabout at up to 45 m.p.h. It would cost money either to lorry away the mound that obstructs visibility, or to erect barriers to obstruct the view and so make traffic slow down. However, it was agreed to remove the vegetation on the mound, reduce the Kintore entry to one lane and move the stop line forward a few feet. The report will be sent to the Community Council in due course.
- d) Litter bins – Chris noted that bins are required at the swings in the Pleasure Park. Alister will provide a map of Kemnay on which we can mark locations where bins are required.

This led on to discussion of recycling facilities. Janet asked if a bin for plastic bottles could be provided. Alister reminded us that the question of a second recycling site in Kemnay had been raised before, and Birley Bush had been considered. Janet suggested a site near the Academy, but it was noted that this could cause problems. Mavis asked whether there could be separate bins at the Park for bottles and cans, or whether they could be taken to Birley Bush for separation.

10) New Business

a) Calor Gas Awards - nothing has changed since last year and hence no entry will be submitted this time.

b) Community Planning Partnership – a questionnaire had been received and the meeting agreed its completion as follows:

Qu. 1 - Yes, community councils should certainly be involved.

Qu. 2 – There should be more emphasis on communication, and on actually responding to comments made to the Partnership

Qu. 3 - Janet said that there should be an overall body as well as the proposed six separate areas. Chris explained that such a system was in place. There was concern that it would be the same willing volunteers who attend this body as attend existing bodies, and that volunteers are expected to pay too much out of their own pockets. Mavis stated that she receives petrol expenses for Health Service meetings. We should ask if there could be an attendance allowance for representatives on the Partnership.

Qu. 4 – Transport appears in the document only under “Jobs and economy”; it was agreed that it should be a prominent issue for each area as it affects everyone.

Qu. 5 – Partnership newsletters would not reach many members of the public (unless they are to be delivered to every home). Instead, reports should be disseminated in the press (through paid-for advertisements if need be), website and local newsletters where such exist.

Qu. 6 (other comments) – Mavis asked how the Partnership is to raise money for things we cannot do at the moment. Alister stated that its purpose is to identify the needs of the Community and hence prioritise where to spend. There was concern that the Partnership may merely repeat the function of the community-council system.

c) Garioch Area Partnership vacancies for committee members – Chris noted that this was yet another unpaid committee job!

11) Report from Safety Group Representative – nothing to report.

12) Garioch Area Forum AGM and Meeting of 16th June 2005 – Chris has an application form for the Co-Op funding scheme. He invited ideas for future training sessions organised by the Forum: the new electoral system, finance (at a local level) and traffic management were suggested as topics.

13) Correspondence – SEPA View and Postwatch Newsletter were circulated at the meeting.

14) AOCB

- a) Janet asked Alister when his surgeries are held. They are at Kemnay Academy from 7.15 to 8 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, except during school holidays.
- b) George Paterson asked Janet about the proposed Clydesdale Bank closures. Janet stated that only those in the Glasgow area had been announced so far. George expressed concern for pensioners who might have to collect their pensions in Inverurie, should the Kemnay branch close. It was agreed that the Council would write to the Bank's chief executive to express concern. Members of the public might wish to do likewise.
- c) Janet had received a letter expressing concern about the lack of a pavement between the Don Bridge and the entrance to Fetternear Estate. The author had been clipped by the wing mirror of a car, which did not stop. Alister agreed to take up the matter, although it is technically in Chapel of Garioch Ward.

15) Date of next meeting. The meeting authorised the Office Bearers to deal with any urgent matters arising before the next meeting, which will be on 29th September 2005.