

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 31st March 2005 AT 7.30 PM IN THE WAINMAN ROOM KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present – Chris Hunneyball, Susan Milton, Pat Findlater, Hazel Al-Kowarri, Mavis Wainman, Bill Blackwood, Roger Dunham, Neil Johnson, Jack Rigby, Billy Ridler, Jim Piggins, Janet Newberry

Attending – Cllr Alister Leitch, Duncan Lyon, Ian Wakely, Richard Hart, Isobel Kendrick, Steven Clark, Sandra Reive.

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence – Alan Davies, David Evans, Cllr Gurudeo Saluja, Ian Fowell, Sheila Taylor.
3. Minute of Annual General Meeting held on 25th March 2004
Adoption Proposed Jim Piggins Seconded Susan Milton
4. Chairman's Report
Adoption Proposed Mavis Wainman Seconded Janet Newberry
5. Appointment of Auditors – Clydesdale Bank
Adoption Proposed Janet Newberry Seconded Jim Piggins
6. Financial Statement – Subject to an independent audit.
Adoption Proposed Susan Milton Seconded Mavis Wainman
7. AOCB – Susan Milton thanked Chris Hunneyball for his excellent chairmanship

Chris Hunneyball closed the meeting

Kemnay Community Council

A.G.M. 31st March 2005

Chairman's Report

It has been another busy year for the Community Council. In the long term planning is probably the most important issue that we have had to deal with, and, after several delays caused by legal arguments over the notifications of the Planning Enquiry, we were finally able to present our case to the Reporter.

The main issue to which we took exception was the proposed development of Site A, off Bogbeth Road. Here it was suggested that about 60 houses should be built, but as only 40 houses were supposed to be built in all the rural service centres in Garioch the grounds on which the Council's argument were based were flimsy, and did not stand up to scrutiny. We also objected to the proposed employment development at the gateway to the village, as we considered that enough, mainly brown field, sites were already available. We expect to hear the result of the enquiry this summer. Dr Piggins led the Community Council on this issue, and I thank him for a most thorough, well researched, and well presented argument. There is also now an interesting conflict ongoing, as Stewart Milne have appealed against a reduction in the size of the site, although it is not clear yet whether this site will be approved for housing in the Local Plan. It will be interesting to find out what happens if the two Reporters involved come to opposing judgments.

We were pleased to be short listed for The Calor Gas Scottish Community of the Year Award. Preparation for the judging took up a good deal of time by a number of people, and paid off in that we were awarded commendations in four of the five categories. My thanks to those who gave of their time to help achieve this result.

The Skateboard Park was opened in June, and has proved to be an enormous success among the younger generation, and not just those living in Kemnay. Much comment has been made about the way so many of them seem to have a much more purposeful attitude. Leading Edge were the organisers, and have obviously made a most popular facility. Unfortunately not all Kemnay residents were happy with some aspects of the project, and the Community Council was accused of acting in an underhand manner in its dealings with Aberdeenshire Council. This was a serious accusation, but after a thorough investigation was found to be totally unfounded. Concerns continue to be raised at Community Council meetings, although for the most part they relate to issues which should be dealt with by other authorities.

The Youth Café was opened in June by Scott Morrison, and has now been named "The Fed Shed". Like the Skateboard Park, it has proved to be a popular venue. The Police were generous in providing the building, and the local youth enthusiastic in their money raising and design efforts. It is when you see how they react to challenges such as the skate park and the youth café that one appreciates that it is really only a tiny minority who create problems.

We have progressed no further with the provision of toilet facilities in Bogbeth Park, which are sorely needed both for skate boarders and for families using the recreational equipment, although I will be giving an update on this during the coming meeting.

Various works have been carried out in the village, including the war memorial having new railings and generally being spruced up, flowers and trees being planted on the Green, and some action has

been taken to enhance the Victorian lamp post. Councillors Leitch and Saluja have been active in helping us with these and other works, and for that I thank them.

Our visiting speakers have included Colin Gray from SEPA, who briefed us on the soil samples taken from the skateboard excavation, and Elaine Stewart on housing strategy. I should add that SEPA were very helpful over the problems with smell from the knackery; now that it has closed we welcome our cleaner air, although regret the job losses that followed.

Inspector Allan has been a regular and welcome attendee at our meetings, and we thank him for giving up his time to do so.

Finally, my thanks go to all members of the Community Council for their work and support over the year. Mavis Wainman was honoured with a well deserved MBE, and Alan Davies has been a valued Treasurer and Vice Chairman. David Evans has played an invaluable role monitoring planning applications, and others have served on various other committees, reporting back to us. Finally, my thanks to Sheila Taylor, for her work as Secretary and her support since her surrendering that position, and to Neil Johnson for so ably and willingly stepping into her shoes.

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE MEETING ON THE 31st March 2005 AT 7.30PM IN KEMNAY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chris Hunneyball, Hazel Al-Kowarri, Billy Ridler, Jim Piggins, Mavis Wainman, Pat Findlater, Susan Milton, Roger Dunham, David Evans, Janet Newberry, Cllr Leitch, Jack Rigby, Bill Blackwood, Neil Johnson

Attending: D Lyon, I Wakely, P Hart, I Kendrick, S Clark, S Reeve.

- 1) Introduction – CH opened the meeting and welcomed Council members and visitors
- 2) Apologies - A Davies, I Fowell, D Evans, S Taylor & Cllr Saluja tendered apologies.
- 3) Police Matters – No police presence, carried forwards.
- 4) Minute of Meeting held on 27th January 2005. H Al-K corrected item 6c that she had not yet followed up on the Christmas lights, but would do so if required.

Adoption Proposed - MW **Seconded** – RD

- 5) Question Time - the only matters to be raised would be covered in item 12a
- 6) Any matters to be raised under AOCB or at a future meeting to be tabled.
 - a) Litter bins (JN)
 - b) Chairman's symbol of office (JP)
 - c) Swimming Pool (JP)
 - d) Schools Improvement Programme (CH)
- 7) Matters arising from Minute – CH spoke about communication with Nicol Stephen MSP about the A96 and other roundabouts, this was being followed up. The use of the pavilion toilets when the pavilion was closed was reported to be unlikely given the large amount of work that would be needed to make them vandal resistant. SM pointed out that rubbish was still a problem alongside the Kemnay/Inverurie road – Cllr Leitch agreed to bring this up with Aberdeenshire Council.
- 8) Aberdeenshire News –
 - a) Cllr Leitch was asked by MW about a communication from Aberdeenshire Council suggesting that all groups using facilities such as the village hall would be required to have a first-aider present. He confirmed that although this appeared to be the case, an amendment to this was in the process of being issued which would considerably reduce the requirements for the provision of first aiders.
 - b) Cllr Leitch reported that Burnett Road and the footpaths around the Glebe were due to be resurfaced.

- c) CH congratulated Cllr Leitch on his appointment as a Burgess of both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.
- d) Mavis Wainman expressed her concern that Lunchtime Assistants at Kemnay School were being required to buy their own lunch after a review of the provision of school meals by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Leitch explained that this was not the case, and that no such advice had been given by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee [he is a member]. Cllr Leitch agreed to look into this.

9) Planning Applications

- a) Bogbeth Road ("Site A") Planning Appeal (JP) – JP outlined the current situation where the reporter may well make his decision before the Local Area Plan had been finalised. If they were in disagreement, there seemed to be no consensus as to which would take precedence. The Reporter had refused to delay his decision until after the Local Area Plan had been finalised. CH agreed to write to Mike Rumbles and the List MSP's about the issue.
- b) 2 planning applications which have been circulated, both are extensions which do not invite objection.

10) New Business

- a) Western Peripheral Route Consultation – considerable discussion was generated by the need to submit a response to the consultation. There was a general agreement with view that the route which would have greatest benefit to people from Kemnay is the Purple/Yellow/Green route which skirts the western edge of Peterculter joining the A90 North of Stonehaven. RD suggested that the Community Councils' response should be to reject further road building and that the money should be used for more sustainable means of transport. IW agreed that RD had a valid point but that good road communications was vital to businesses in the area. After discussion within the Community Council and from the floor, the view was that we should support the Peterculter/Stonehaven route with the proviso that spending on public transport was seen as of greater importance.
- b) Road Closures - RD raised the lack of communication about road closures, citing the recent closure of the Kintore-Hatton of Fintray road as an example. Closure signs were often in place, although the road was clearly passable. This encourages drivers to ignore such signs with obvious safety implications. Chris Hunneyball said that this had been raised at the Community Councils' Forum and that Bob Gray of Aberdeenshire Council had blamed the lack of oversight Aberdeenshire Council has over its' contractors. Cllr Leitch agreed and added that this also prevented contractors agreeing a planned programme of work – leading to roads being closed again and again at the same points [such as the Alford road at Elrick]. NJ agreed to write to Tom Mitchell asking him to come to the next meeting to explain policy.
- c) The Local Channel (www.thelocalchannel.co.uk) – CH raised a communication from an organisation which provides web-pages for local communities. He suggested that KCC should register itself and then use The Local Channel as a way of linking with the Community's websites. NJ agreed to complete the registration and act as administrator.

d) Anti Social Behaviour Meeting – HA-K and MW attended the meeting and reported that Kemnay was particularly well attended at the meeting with representatives from several groups within the village. Anti-social behaviour was discussed in groups and this information would be used to draw up a draft anti-social behaviour policy. The aim was to reduce the number of ASBO's an area was subject to as this was a quantifiable measure of success. Cllr Leitch stated that the difficulties with gaining an ASBO were considerable and that this might affect the usefulness of a monitoring process based upon ASBO's. MW outlined an example of anti-social behaviour at the village hall. The next step would depend upon when the draft policy was issued.

e) G Area CC Forum Report - taken as read.

11) Report from Safety Group Representative – PF was not present at the last meeting but reported the sad death of Sandy Buchan. The next meeting is the AGM at 7.00pm on Tue 5th April.

12) Unfinished Business

a) Leading Edge Skatepark – Isobel Kendrick introduced other members of the Leading Edge group and spoke from the floor, responding to the questions raised by residents in the Leschangie area about the skate park. She was supported by other members of the Leading edge group who explained the financial situation and the contractor, Steven Clark, also spoke to the meeting. The Community Council felt that the misgivings expressed at previous meetings had been addressed and the Chair asked that this item now be closed as it has been dominating discussion at recent meetings. The skate park will only be discussed in future if new information is provided, in writing, before the meeting.

13) Correspondence

a) Proposed General Binding Rules – taken as read.

b) Stakeholders consultation – NJ outlined the response he had made on behalf of KCC.

c) Summary Justice Consultation – CH tabled the consultation document for any members who were interested.

14) AOCB

a) Litter Bins – JN asked that more litter bins be provided around the village, in particular adjacent to play areas and along the riverside. Cllr Leitch asked that the areas be identified and this should be communicated to the Council. NJ will write to Aberdeenshire Council. MW asked that the orderly should cover the whole village in the summer, not just the centre.

b) Chairman's symbol of office – JP presented CH with a gavel, which was received with thanks.

c) Swimming Pool – JP reported that the reconvened swimming pool meeting had elected a committee and that it intended to distribute a questionnaire in the next issue of the newsletter. These could be returned via the village hall. Next meeting would be 12th May.

- d) Schools Improvement Programme – BR explained the workings of this programme which was raised by CH. Schools would be represented by senior pupils as a forum to which other interested parties would be invited. Ch asked that anyone who was able should attend to represent KCC.
- e) A member of the public expressed concern that he had reported apparent drug use/dealing to the police, but no action had been taken. It was agreed to contact Inspector Allen about this

15)Date of Next Meeting – 28th April 2005