

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 31st OCTOBER 2002

7.30 PM IN KEMNAY ACADEMY

1. Present:-

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

Attending:-

Inspector D. Allan, Mr D. Duncan (Inverurie Herald), Councillor A. Leitch, Mr T. McKay, Councillor G. Saluja, Ms S. Taylor

Apologies:-

Mr D. Caney, Mrs J. Newberry

2. Police Matters

Inspector Allan reported that there had been one or two incidents in Kemnay, plus the same number of domestic problems. The Youth Café plans were proceeding slowly, largely because the potential cost was increasing rapidly. Operation Neighbourhood had been instituted, whereby police targeted winter break-ins, and left notifications at homes that they saw to be at risk. A evening meeting, attended by 34 people, had been held for Neighbourhood Watch organisations. "Driving Ambition" had been started, whereby presentations were given to senior pupils in secondary schools. Representatives from garages and driving schools also attended the presentations.

He was asked about the problem of cyclists riding without lights. He acknowledged that this was a serious hazard, but said that the law was extremely difficult to enforce, particularly as, even when a charge was laid, the Procurator Fiscal often decided not to prosecute. Further, many of the offenders were under 16 which made the police virtually powerless.

It was the responsibility of the police to identify the owners of abandoned cars, but it was then up to the local Council to remove them. Seven days notice of removal was required, although there were some cases when a fast track approach could be taken. Problems did arise when the car was abandoned on private ground. In this respect, mention was made of a car that had been abandoned outside the Vet's surgery, and which had been there for some three months.

A car without a tax disc, which it was suspected was used on occasion, had been reported to the police, but no action taken. Inspector Allan said that police priorities were preventing death and serious injury and so they concentrated on speeding, drunk driving, and failing to wear seat belts. Other offences could not always be followed up.

It was suggested that the sale of spray paint to children should be banned, and it was also stated that there had been a recent spate of egg throwing in the village.

150 additional policemen were being taken on or retained to keep the strength up to

1235.

3. Minute of Last Meeting

The Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 26th September 2002 was adopted, however it was noted that in the minute of the previous (June) meeting the name of Ms S. Taylor should be moved from the list of those present to the list of those attending.

Proposed: Mr A. Davies Seconded: Mrs S. Milton

4. Matters Arising from Minute

a. Area Partnership

A working party would consider the Area Partnership at a meeting to be held on 11th November.

b. Community Website

Claire Campbell and Mrs Wainman had attended the workshop, and the former has already done a fair amount of work on the web site. She now has a good idea of how to set it up, and will progress it on a voluntary basis. She will report progress at the next Community Council meeting.

c. Calor Gas Awards

Dr Piggins had telephoned the PR company involved, who had told him that, as he had heard nothing by now, this meant that the village's application had not been short listed. It was felt that this indifference would not encourage further entries.

d. Aberdeenshire Local Plan

The objections to the Local Plan had been filed, and acknowledged. It had been learnt that the medical practice did not have any knowledge of the possible new site for the centre, and presently were opposed to any move.

It was also reported that the library did not stock objection forms until almost the closing date for submissions. If any person had been prevented from registering an objection because of this it could have wider implications.

e. 220 Bus Service

There had been no further serious problems with the bus service. Ms Taylor had attended the Community Bus Forum, which had also been attended by a further nine Kemnay residents, who had had to travel to the meeting in a hired minibus. At the meeting there had been a lot of comment about people being dropped without a waiting connection, and some constructive responses had been given.

It was noted that, while Inverurie was served by five buses per hour, as well as having a

rail link with Aberdeen, there were no buses from Kemnay between 1305 and 1805.

A statement by the bus operator that a direct early morning service was uneconomic was hotly disputed, as in the past there had often been standing room only on this service.

It was agreed to suggest that, as the last meeting had been so well supported by Kemnay residents, that the next meeting be held in Kemnay to ease the transport problem. A tongue in cheek suggestion was made that delegates to the meeting should travel by public transport.

e. Benachie View Lorry Park

Cllr Leitch was unable to add anything to his comment made at the last meeting.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Community Council Long Service Awards

There was no news as to when these would be ready for presentation.

6. Area Top Up Budget

Cllr Saluja said that about £10,000 remained unallocated. Any award given would be for a one off project, and not one that required continuation funding. This ruled out an application to assist with the Youth Café.

Options considered included flagpoles, aesthetic sign posts, similar to those in Inverurie, assistance towards the skateboard park and work on the old granite toilet block next to the Pleasure Park. After discussion it was proposed by Mr Evans, and seconded by Mr Thomson, to submit an application for a youth shelter. Dr Piggins said he would follow this up with Angela Auld.

7. New Business

It was reported that a large pile of earth had been dumped in The Glebe several months ago. This blocked an area used by residents higher up The Glebe for parking in icy conditions. Cllr Leitch undertook to investigate.

There had been severe flooding during the recent wet weather at Kirkstyle, probably because the new drains had not been laid.

A query was also raised about what action could be taken about bushes and hedges overhanging the footpath.

8. Report from Safety Group

The roundabout at Midmill owed its shape to the fact that more land to build it had not been available. Nonetheless, it was extremely dangerous, with heavy vehicles taking a direct path northwards at speed. The Safety Group were continuing to follow this up.

The mound of earth at the entrance to the roundabout on the A96 was intentional, with a view to restricting visibility and so speed. The planners seem to have ignored the fact that this does nothing to slow traffic approaching from the Inverurie direction, while making the junction almost blind for those joining the A96 from Kintore. An accident there is almost inevitable.

Smoke alarms for the deaf, which provided a warning by strobe light and a vibrating pad, were now available, and if anyone needed one they should inform Mr Findlater. Their availability would be advertised in the newsletter.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency were running courses for the young on such topics as swimming and cliff safety. They were looking for funding for this. One of the problems was a lack of swimming instructors.

The emergency information pots had been distributed.

A Home Safety Project had been initiated, with a checklist for families.

The Action Plan had now been published. Dr Piggins queried the involvement of Community Councils in the strategy to ensure adequate ambulance provision in the area. Mr Findlater would check this.

9. Report from the Press Scrutiniser

In the absence of the Press Scrutiniser, it was noted that there had been good coverage of the bus problems, and also of the awards ceremony in the library.

10. Aberdeenshire News

Cllr Leitch said that the play area surfaces in the village were to be replaced.

The drainage problem in the Pleasure Park was to be cured, but this would mean losing the use of one pitch for about a year. Cllr Leitch undertook to see if one of the Academy fields could be used in lieu.

The Council depot at Birley Bush was being tidied up.

Cllr Saluja said that the planning application for gravel extraction at Dalmadilly had been approved, and also that he was on the Board of Crimestoppers Scotland, which would be organised by region.

11. Planning Applications

Three planning applications had been received.

99/6991/1 CONSERVATORY Mr Anderson, Beechlea, Paradise Road, Kemnay

99/7007/1 CONVERT STEADING TO 5 HOUSES Mr Ross, Milton Farm, Monymusk Road, Kemnay

99/7015/1 EXTENSION Mr Morgan, Tillywater, Victoria Terrace, Kemnay

The application to convert the steading at Milton Farm went against planning guidelines, which limited such conversions to three units, and this would be brought to the attention of Aberdeenshire Council.

It was also reported that an application to erect three houses at Craigearn was being processed, but, due to administrative errors, it was not clear when this would be considered by the Council. This application did not accord with the Structure Plan and it was agreed to write a letter of objection.

12. Correspondence

The Police Report for the Second Quarter 2002, the Postwatch Scotland Report, and the Aberdeenshire Sports Council Newsletter had been circulated. The Community Council had been notified about the intention to paint "School Keep Clear" markings for the Primary School.

A discussion document about restricting the sale of fireworks would be discussed at the next meeting.

13. A.O.C.B.

Mr McKay said that the £7,000 which had been awarded to the Academy would be used to flush the doors to the east and west of the school to remove dark corners where those with ill intent could hide.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 28th November 2002 in the Wainman Room, Kemnay Village Hall.