

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH
MARCH 1987 1987

Present: Mr Bailey, Mrs Shrago, Mrs Milton, Mr Cumming, Mr Pashley,
Mr Downie, Mr Christie, Mrs Fooks-Bale, Mr Evans, Mr Murray, Mr
Stephen.

Apologies: Mr Wainman, Miss Christie, Mr Moir, Cllr Wainman

Attending: Mrs Cobb (Press), Cllr McLean, Sgt Downie and Chief
Inspector Mackie (Grampian Police), Mr Harkness, Mr Watt, Mr and Mrs
K Spurgeon, Mr Hulse, Mr and Mrs J Ingram, Mrs M O'Connor, Mr and
Mrs S Yates (members of the public)

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone,
especially Sgt Downie and Chief Inspector Mackie. The apologies
were read.

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read. There was an
amendment to Paragraph 9. Proposed by Mrs Milton, Seconded by Mr
Pashley. Proposed adoption: Mr Cumming, seconded Mrs Fooks-Bale.
No dissent.

At this point it was decided to hear the Grampian Police
presentation. Chief Inspector Mackie said that the police
involvement should be increased. They would hope to attend two
meetings of each Community Council in Gordon District during the
course of a year. The Secretary to contact Sgt Downie if any
matters affecting the Police were coming up for discussion. Chief
Inspector Mackie asked the public to continue to use the answerphone
at Kemnay Police Station. This would be here to stay. Anything
reported on the answerphone would be recorded. They are trying to
get another policeman for the Kemnay area in the near future, but
this will depend on funding etc. The Police will leave it until
nearer the end of the year before coming to another meeting, unless
something contentious occurs in the meantime. The Chairman asked if
there were any questions. Mrs Milton asked the Police what their
views were with regard to the proposed Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
The meeting was told that if 50% of an area were interested in the
scheme the Police would give out literature and a meeting would be
held thereafter and discussion could take place. The Chairman
thanked the Police for coming along.

It was decided to take an item of New Business next. The proposed
Riverside walk along the river-bank from the sewage works to the
Academy. Mrs Fooks-Bale gave the background as she had been in
contact with the residents concerned on the previous evening.
Originally the path was to go along the river-bank. Mr Yates from
the group directly affected gave his presentation. He said they
felt there was no need for a path at all; it is an intrusion into
wild-life, will encourage people, litter, walking dogs etc. He said
they had not been formally consulted nor asked to express any
opinions by the Council. The only plan does not take into account
the contours of the land. The residents of the northern end would
prefer the path to run nearer the river than proposed at the moment.
It had been suggested that the path stop at the sewage works and
start again at the northern end by the Academy. This would save the
Council money and perhaps the extra cash available could be used to
provide a few amenities. The part in dispute is the bend in the
river which is a feeding ground for several protected species. Mrs
Milton said she supported Mr Yates and felt the path should stop at
the sewage works. After a lengthy discussion the Chairman suggested
a site visit. An official from Technical and Recreational Services

6. Chairman's Annual Report. The Chairman read his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He thanked the Office Bearers for their help and support during the past year. He also mentioned that Mrs Geraldine Scott, the Director of Planning, Gordon District had been very seriously injured in a car accident the previous week. He asked for the Community Council's support in writing a letter to her husband expressing the wish for her speediest possible return to good health.

Mrs Milton proposed a vote of thanks from the Community Council to the Chairman.

7. Financial Statement. Mr Cumming read the Statement and reported that the accounts had been audited by Mr Low at the Bank.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 1986

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Opening Balance	£ 176.71	Secretary	£ 104.96
Contribution from		Community Assoc.	180.00
Gordon District	<u>307.95</u>	Cllr Wainman	20.00
		Kemnay Hall Trust	<u>8.64</u>
		Total	313.60
		Balance	<u>171.06</u>
	£ <u>484.66</u>		£ <u>484.66</u>

8. New Business. The possibility of an Anti-Litter Poster Competition was discussed. Mrs Cobb said that the District Council might be holding an Anti-Litter Competition. Defer to next meeting. AGENDA ITEM.

9. District News. None.

10. Regional News. Already covered.

11. Planning Applications. Mr Evans reported six since the last meeting. Discussion ensued about the proposal by the Burnett Arms for a function suite with a corrugated metal roof. Mrs Milton suggested that the roof should be in keeping with the rest of the building. Mrs Milton proposed that a letter be written to Gordon District suggesting that it would be a good idea that the roof be in keeping with the rest of the building. Seconded by Mr Evans. In favour - 5. 5 abstentions. Motion passed.

Mrs Cobb mentioned Wyness Taxicabs biennial application for premises at 11 Station Road and the bad access. No objection to this from the Community Council.

12. A.O.C.B. Mr Evans mentioned that he had attended the Grampian Crime Prevention Panel meeting on the 2nd March. He said that there had been an increase in ski thefts, also an increase in radio thefts from cars (especially at Mr Lawrence's). There had been a reduction in the number of cars stolen. Chemist shops were thought to be at risk because of a decrease in the street supply of drugs. There will be an open day at Inverurie Academy on the 9th August 1987 to enable the public to meet the Police and see them at work. Next meeting on the 8th June. Any items should be intimated to Mr Evans.

Mrs Milton mentioned the lack of representation by the traders mentioned in the Chairman's report. She felt a letter to each trader would be a good way of interesting them in coming to the Community Council meetings.

Mr Downie said that when Victoria Terrace was made up the fire hydrants were not regraded. He also said that water gathers in a ditch by the bus-stop opposite Kirkstyle Garage. Cllr McLean to investigate.

Mrs Fooks-Bale mentioned the mobile home at the back of the Burnett Arms which has been empty since Christmas. Every window is smashed and it is a considerable hazard to children. The Chairman to mention this to Mr Elrick.

13. There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 10.40 p.m. Next meeting Thursday 30th April 1987.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 1986-87

1. This report comes at the end of an interesting second year of the Fourth Kemnay Community Council. The past twelve months have seen the number of Councillors fall to 10 only to be restored and refreshed by our first election in many years. We are now a healthy full complement of 15, welcoming Norman Mcir, George Downie, Ed Christie, May Christie and Janine Fooks-Bale to our ranks, as the five newly-elected councillors from the eight candidates who stood for office. This Community Council now has probably the best cross-section of the Kemnay community that it has ever had. This MUST improve the standing of the Council within the community, as well as with the various bodies with which we do business. The only part of the community which is so far unrepresented directly is the traders. I should like to see some form of proper representation of this important group on the Community Council in the next year.
2. As in past years, we have had a wide variety of issues pass before us. Some are like showers on a breezy day, passing by with refreshing ease. Others, cling on, staying with us like damp foggy mornings. Sometimes we even get a glimpse of sunshine. The brighter moments this year include, at long last, the resolution of the Paradise Green problem. It is soon to go into the care of Gordon District. The Littlewood Court (£2) will brighten the lives of a number of our Senior Citizens when it opens its doors to them later this year. It will be good to welcome them back. It was mooted some time ago by a previous KCC to hold a meeting or two there each year so as to involve the less mobile of our Senior Citizens in the Community Council business. I should like us to follow this up when Littlewood Court is recommissioned.
3. Spring will be a little brighter this year as the bulb planting so long discussed and several times bordering on action, finally took place. The immediate approaches to Kemnay from Midmill have been liberally planted by the expert greenfingers of the Kemnay Gardening Club, aided by pupils from Kemnay Academy. The bulbs are courtesy of Gordon District Council.
4. August 1986 saw the appointment of the second Community Worker to Kemnay Academy. This follows pressure over a number of years by successive Community Councils as well as by others. This is another example of the long-term view being important, as I indicated in my previous Annual Report.
5. Moving on to slightly damper matters, we still await a bad spell of rain to test the state of the Victoria Terrace road drains, and to see if we have to wade into a Flood Prevention plan or not. I hope to be able to report on the successful conclusion of this issue next year.
6. We still await decisions on traffic matters within the village. These are the High Street plan, and the continuing saga of the bus stance location. The survey which KCC carried out through the Newsletter elicited a good response, and I am hopeful that both these issues will be decided in the near future and completed in time for my next report.
7. The Public Toilets in Aquithie Road car park were commissioned, and subsequently slightly vandalised. This is not, I suppose surprising, but nevertheless is a disappointing reflection on our community, as is the litter strewn around the streets. Perhaps we should attempt to inject a little village pride into our community.

I make no apology for commenting on this as litter, and the cost of emptying bins comes up time and time again on our agenda for discussion. Perhaps we should consider other approaches to the problem in the coming year.

8. The investigation into Postal Service delays from Kemnay seemed at the time to produce no firm result, but the reports of slow mail have almost died away, so perhaps our representations have stamped out that problem after all.

9. Local planning matters are usually left to near the end of each month's agenda, although this is not a reflection on their relative importance. Over the last year, a new trend has surfaced in Kemnay, that of applying for planning permission to build further housing in some of the larger gardens in the village. These applications are often contentious, and can easily set neighbour against neighbour, as we have already seen. What may be a desirable residence, a financially sensible move, or a convenient modern property to the prospective builder, is often seen by the neighbours as an eyesore, a severe loss of amenity, or a change in character of the area for the worse. I hope that those thinking of applying for planning permission along these lines will have very carefully considered the effects on their neighbours. Firmer guidelines by the District Planning Office would be, in my opinion a good thing for all concerned.

10. The most pressing, and probably the most important matter which we have discussed in the last year is the new Aberdeen Structure Plan which proposes an extra 500 houses in Kemnay by the year 2001. At the Public presentation of the local aspect of the plan by the Gordon District Council in the Village Hall on 17th December 1986, the audience expressed virtually total dissent from the proposals. The extraordinary meeting of Kemnay Community Council held immediately after the presentation voted unanimously to object to the proposals, both as far as the Aberdeen Structure plan is concerned, and to the specific proposals of the Gordon District Planning Department to implement them. Objections were lodged with the Secretary of State for Scotland on numerous grounds. An expansion of this sort would be most unsuitable. The township of Kemnay had had to adjust to an increase in population from around 1400 in 1972 to 3500 in 1986. The integration of people from different parts of Scotland as well as from other areas of the United Kingdom had been achieved relatively slowly and with significant social stress at times. Kemnay is beginning to bed down to accept its new status as a part dormitory settlement for Aberdeen and its surrounding area. Any attempt to increase the size of the township by the sort of figure proposed would, it is felt, undo the progress already made towards a well-knit and balanced community. The lack of significant recreational facilities is also worrying, and is a matter needing to be faced with the increasing number of young people growing up in Kemnay.

11. I see our main task in the next twelve months as the continuing opposition to the expansion of Kemnay in the form proposed by the new Aberdeen Structure Plan. We shall also continue to press for alteration of the Gordon District Planning Department's proposals in parallel with our efforts on the Structure Plan front. These proposals if implemented will have significant effects on our community in the mid-term, and deserve our continued efforts to bring about change of approach.

12. As in previous years I should like to conclude my report with a vote of thanks for the efforts of the office bearers: Vice Chairman Susan Milton for standing in for me, sometimes at very short notice; Hugh Cumming for his diligence in keeping our finances in order, and Sandra Shrago for her continued efforts as Secretary, a task she carries out with unfailing cheerfulness. I should also like to thank the Councillors for their constantly high attendance and standard of debate. Thanks are also due to our Regional Councillor, David McLean, and our District Councillor, Mavis Wainman for their interest and support at our meetings throughout the year. Lastly, but perhaps most important of all, I should like to thank all those members of the public who have taken the time and trouble to attend our meetings. It is for the public that we exist as a Community Council, and members of the public can always expect a warm welcome at our meetings.

DAVID BAILEY
Chairman
Kemnay Community Council