

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 7.30 pm, virtually via Zoom

**Present:** Bill Blackwood (Chair); Gaenor Berkin (Vice Chair); Fran Patrick (Secretary); John Whittall (Treasurer); Pauline Paterson; Sue Wainman; Margaret Basley; Richard Lamplugh; Lee Aitken; Sasha Brydon; Cllr Smith

**Apologies:** Suzanne Bunton; David Carlin; Claire Stewart

**Attending:** One member of the public

**1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES** - The Chair welcomed those attending and gave apologies as above.

**2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/AUDIO RECORDINGS/VIRTUAL MEETING PROTOCOL** – The Secretary reminded all present that anyone who wished to contribute to the discussion should raise their hand and be invited to speak by the Chair.

**3 MINUTES OF MEETING 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by J Whittall. (Amendment to last month's Minutes – Item 7(e): this could not be added as an item on April's agenda as the deadline for responses was 14<sup>th</sup> April.)

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Police Reports have been received and circulated. Feedback was received from Sgt Denham to the apparent reporting omissions and she explained that certain incidents might not appear on the monthly report as, after consultation, community councils had agreed on the five priority areas on which they wished to receive reports. However, deployment of the speed gun would be included in future reports, as has happened this month. The report shows trends, but maybe not miscellaneous events/issues. The citing of 'Youth disorder calls' separately from general 'disorder calls' was queried and that maybe young people should be 'cut a little slack' considering the restrictions many have struggled with over the past year. Policing priorities for April-June are Anti-social behaviour; Drugs (intel gathering and disruption tactics); Road safety. **The Police again urge that all incidents are reported to them on 101 or via Crimestoppers on 0500 555111.**

**5 KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE – a)** After a long discussion with a business adviser from the Adapt & Thrive Fund, it seems unlikely that the Community Hub as envisaged by the Resilience Sub-committee will fulfil the criteria set – ie that it should be economically self-sustaining. Consequently, the plans will have to be revised and probably pared back - taking on the refurbishment and rental of new premises is not going to be achievable. However, it is very possible that another, smaller space may be offered to LaHK for a community larder. Once the viability of this is confirmed, the Community Resilience Sub-committee will need to meet to discuss/agree the revised plan.

**b)** PADs: Following the recent JustGiving fundraising campaign for the defibrillators, a charity based in London, LondonHearts, has been in touch and is offering units at very competitive prices. This information has been passed on to K Stewart.

**c)** Cllr Smith gave an update on Stuart Crescent: meetings are ongoing with Aberdeenshire Council, a neighbouring landowner and residents, looking at wholesale action on the drainage problem. As for the Riverside Path, discussions have been held between officers at Aberdeenshire Council and Kemnay walking groups which could possibly lead to funds being accessed for the path. Cllr Smith is to discuss this at the Ward 10 meeting this week.

**6 OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK** – Member of public present raised the issue of workmen offering 'gardening services' going round the village in a flatbed truck touting for work in a very aggressive, intimidating manner.

This has already been picked up by members of KCC and a warning notice published on the All About Kemnay Facebook page. The police have been informed.

## 7 MATTERS ARISING:

**a) Phoenix Fund** – A steering group has now been established and is actively working towards achieving the key elements of the plan – ie new planters; a review & possible purchase of benches; the installation of information boards; a launch event for the various paths and trails, including a fairy trail for children.

**b)** The potholes on Leschangie Road have now been repaired – an excellent outcome to all representations made. It was, however, noted that the pavement between the war memorial and the top of the High Street could do with being swept as it is often difficult to walk on. (**Action:** F Patrick to report this to Aberdeenshire Council.)

**c) Christmas Lights** – Local businesses have been invited to 'sponsor a motif' and several have come forward. In return for their sponsorship, it is proposed that a label is attached to the lamppost with the name of the business. It might also be a

good idea to contact the local press to publicise their support. Four new motifs have been ordered and an application will be made to Garioch Area Initiatives fund to get matching funding.

The storage of the motifs is also being reviewed and alternative, more permanent storage space sought. It is hoped to ask the Mens' Shed at Inverurie to build a storage crate. It has also been noted that the lamppost outside Birley Bush may have a connector on it and may therefore be suitable for a motif.

The trees have now been planted (although some effort was required by the Council workers to remove the concrete) and they are looking good. The cherry opposite Littlewood Court is even in flower.

d) **Community Council Elections:** The Secretary now has the posters and nomination forms for the elections and can start advertising the elections from 13<sup>th</sup> May onwards. The Village Hall is booked for the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> June, if a ballot is required.

**8 TREASURER REPORT** – There have been donations received for the Christmas Lights and also the JustGiving amount raised (£1400) for the defibrillators. Otherwise, the usual, regular transactions and those associated with the operation of *Lend a hand Kemnay*. Last year's accounts are being audited and should be available for next month's meeting. The Clydesdale Bank is now Virgin Money and is installing improved technology, which is very welcome as it will make internet banking easier.

## 9 PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** - No action to be taken on

**Erection of Garden Room, Shed and Fence**

Ref. No: APP/2021/0607 - Aquithie Court, Kemnay

**Alterations, Extension and Change of Use of Garden Store to Form Dwellinghouse**

Ref. No: APP/2021/0611 - Kemnay House Estate

**Alterations and Extension to Garden Store to Form Dwellinghouse**

Ref. No: APP/2021/0612 - Kemnay House Estate

b) A96 Dualling – request for further information received from Paul Davison, Kintore Community Council. Councillors to contact P Davison individually if have any comment.

## 10 REPORTS

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – Although it has now no representative on this, KCC will still get agendas and minutes.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – No meeting.

c) **Community Planning** – Next week is the start of the strategic assessment for Inverurie. Kemnay is next year.

d) **Greener Kemnay** – Getting help from Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services to transport the large bags to Birley Bush from Homebase. Still can't hold any events yet due to Covid-19 restrictions.

e) **Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP)** – meeting tomorrow (Friday).

f) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – S Wainman is doing a session on "what would we like a school leaver to be like" in her capacity as a community volunteer. Kemnay Primary Parent Council is meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May and G Berkin will represent KCC.

g) **Press Reports** – Small bore rifle club is 'rising from the ashes' after the recent arson attack on its premises.

**11 ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS** – Cllr Smith: The Area Committee budget of £80 500 has been approved. There is the possibility of funding for festive lights (deadline 31<sup>st</sup> May) and other grants (deadline 31<sup>st</sup> October) are also available. More details are available online. Cllr Smith is receiving a lot of complaints at the moment on speeding (Aquithie Road); broken steps & disabled access to Kendall Green; parking on Station Road; drains needing cleared. Cllr Smith also made KCC aware of community funds being offered by Arnold Clark.

The question of the decriminalisation of parking was raised and Cllr Smith has undertaken to find out progress on this.

Concerns were raised about the likelihood of increased parking issues when the new Co-op got built. It was also pointed out that the plans for the new building include anti ram raid bollards on the pavement in front of the building, despite KCC being refused permission to place planters or raise the kerb on the wider part of the pavement to discourage inconsiderate parking. Cllr Smith will raise this at next Ward 10 meeting.

## 12 CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Correspondence from the Council** - was circulated prior to the meeting.

- Scheme of Establishment Review
- Community Impact Assessment for Ward 10, 20<sup>th</sup> May
- Land requirement consultation (deadline 4<sup>th</sup> June)
- NESS Energy community project funding opportunity

b) **General Correspondence Received** - was circulated prior to the meeting.

- Healthcare Improvement Scotland monthly newsletter
- Trading Standards monthly newsletter

**13 OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** - *S Wainman* - had a meeting with the Tenants' Magazine for an article on Birley Bush – the housing section of the Council highlighted BB and Lend a Hand Kemnay; the contractor for council housing has a 'community benefit' clause, ie to pay for something or offer to do work of some sort. *L Aitken* – The proposed Responsive Transport system being trialled from August could be difficult for older people to access. *F Patrick* – will send round the full response from Sgt Denham. *W Blackwood* – is to step down from KCC after 18 years' service.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, 7.30pm, virtually via Zoom**