

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 30th September 2021 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available

Present: Lee Aitken (Vice Chair); Fran Patrick (Secretary); John Whittall (Treasurer); Margaret Basley; Pauline Paterson; Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Suzanne Bunton; Daniel Johnston; Gabby Stevens; Kayleigh Wallace; Sasha Brydon; Cllr Smith(via Zoom)

Apologies: Gaenor Berkin (Chair); Claire Stewart

Attending: Alison Cumming, Area Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES - The Vice Chair welcomed those attending and gave apologies as above. Thanks expressed to the Secretary for her efforts in keeping KCC members and the wider community informed and organising virtual meetings.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/AUDIO RECORDINGS/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 27th June 2021 – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh, seconded by J Whittall

4 POLICE MATTERS – Police Report circulated. Crime thankfully appears to be low; 14 drivers were warned after speed checks. Noted that posts on local Facebook pages often warn drivers where the police are operating speed checks, which can reduce their effectiveness.

(Action: Secretary to put article in Newsletter about speeding and the speed checks being carried out and will pass on concerns again to Sgt Denham that cars still seem to be speeding along Grove Rd by the war memorial. **Action:** C Stewart to put reminder on fb about speeding.)

5 KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE – a) Community Resilience Plan still to be completed due to other resilience activities taking up the time of volunteers over the summer. The Plan should be finalised before Christmas. SW has circulated the Aberdeenshire Council presentation on Community Resilience; DJ has volunteered to join the Resilience Sub-Committee, which will be meeting soon.

b) The Community Larder, based in the Village Hall, is now open to the public and is slowly building its presence now that opening times have been set and are being more widely publicised.

c) PADs: New monthly update form has been created and is now in use. First update from K Stewart has been received by the Secretary. One unit had been accessed in the previous month. **(Action:** Secretary to advertise PADs locations in the Newsletter.)

c) The deadline for the consultation is the end of October – the original email containing the link was sent out on 5th August. **(Action:** Secretary to send out the link again.). A sink hole has opened again on Paradise Rd, just after the heavy rain, and there are ongoing issues with the drain at the bottom of the lane on to the Green, but they have been reported to Aberdeenshire Council. It is hoped that repairs won't take too long. Riverside Rd has also experienced localised flooding due to exceptionally heavy rain.

6 OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – Alison Cumming, Area Committee Officer, introduced herself (this was her annual visit to Kemnay Community Council) and spoke about the induction training available for new community councillors and the Community Council Forum. A replacement Admin Assistant should be in post shortly; full in person meetings are not planned before next year, although the annual networking event may be in person. Training courses are available via ALDO.

7 MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Phoenix Fund** – Most of the first tranche of funding has been spent on the new planters, which have been a great success and well received. Thanks given to the small band of volunteers who planted up the tubs and have maintained them over the summer. Discussions are in progress about how the rest of the funding might be spent – ideas being proposed are the cleaning of the Kemnay entrance stone, blow up pergolas for community use, 'chatty benches' to be installed at various locations around the village (this will involve a community consultation exercise).

b) **Christmas Lights** – Four new motifs have been purchased and some of the older ones will now be retired. RL is in the process of making a storage crate for the motifs. The names of sponsors are not allowed on lampposts, so plaques are now

going to be put in the roundels at either end of the village instead. (**Action:** LA to put an article in the Newsletter thanking all businesses who have sponsored a new motif.)

A local resident has been in touch offering to decorate a tree in his garden to add to the village display, which has led to the Christmas Lights group considering offering its spare strings of lights to other residents who might also want to light up trees in their front gardens, although there might be Health & Safety and insurance issues to resolve. JW has a lightweight scaffolding tower that he would be happy to lend to the Lights committee.

It has been decided that there will be no Christmas event again this year, due to continuing COVID-19 uncertainty, but also the lack of volunteers coming forward.

c) **Rent increases for local groups:** No satisfactory resolution of this issue – it seems only grant funding is available. GS met with Carolyn Harper from Kiddiwinks, there was an article in the *Evening Express* and 600 signatures have been collected on an online petition. (*Follow-up letters have been sent by the Chair of KCC to Aberdeenshire Council, but recent update re the situation from C Harper indicated that Kiddiwinks was apparently not eligible for funding.*) Cllr Smith added that she had attended an Aberdeenshire Council workshop on this issue, but was not happy at the response. Although AC staff are assisting groups to access funds, the Garioch Area Manager also has questions about these rent increases and has asked for further information. Cllr Smith has also asked for further clarification on the justification for these rent increases and will keep KCC informed of any developments. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Carolyn Harper at Kiddiwinks for an update.)

d) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee & Canopy Project:** Jubilee date is Thurs, 2nd June 2022. It was suggested that a beacon could be set up at the top of Place of Origin, although several health & safety issues (particularly fire hazard) would need to be resolved. The Scouts have said they would be keen to be involved. Breedons would need to be asked to cut back the broom at the top of the monument and a supply of water would need to be on hand. The Fire Service, Breedons, Aberdeenshire Council and Greenbelt would all need to be consulted. (**Action:** Secretary to put article in Newsletter about the Jubilee and asking for ideas.) Green Canopy – there have been issues with previous tree planting events in the village, with many of the saplings planted damaged or destroyed, often by AC Landscape Services when mowing the grass. Maybe other areas around the village could be identified for tree planting.

e) **Website Security:** At present the village website is not a 'secure' site and some virus checkers don't like this. David Evans, who runs the website, has looked into this and the cost involved (£72 approx annually). Some discussion on the possibility of finding a sponsor who might cover the costs of the website, as has happened in the past when Breedons has kindly paid for the website costs. Also, discussion on the merits of combining several community websites into a 'one stop shop'.

Motion: that the village website be made secure through the purchase of the SSL certificate.

The motion was passed unanimously.

(**Action:** Secretary to inform D Evans.)

f) **Pilot Project to assist CCs in becoming more connected with their community:** Feeling that Kemnay residents fairly well connected via Facebook pages and the Newsletter. Hybrid approach to KCC meetings was likely to continue for the time being, although some form of pre-registration maybe advised in the future. Alison Cumming mentioned that this project could perhaps help with the purchase of any equipment required to make digital meetings more accessible, although the set up with the Zoom link + laptop used at this meeting seemed to work well. Cllr Smith added that all Community Councils will be getting information on hybrid communication from Aberdeenshire Council.

8 TREASURER REPORT – No actual invoice was received for the Phoenix Fund planters, just an annotated order form from AC. Cheque sent off in payment, although it took two months for it to be cleared. JW expressed his concern about the fact AC no longer keen to accept cheques and also the fact that the name of the bank holding the KCC account has changed its name. JW has also queried the extra payment to Zurich insurance with AC, but KCC has to take this up with Zurich itself.

(**Action:** Secretary to contact Zurich about this as it may well be connected to the additional premium for the Christmas Event held two years ago.)

9 PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications –** Action only taken re APP/2021/1730

Alteration and Extension to Dwellinghouse

Whitestone Kintore - Ref. No: APP/2021/1514

Alteration and Extension to Dwellinghouse

Fetternear Kemnay - Ref. No: APP/2021/1637

Alteration and Extension to Dwellinghouse

Blairdaff Inverurie - Ref. No: APP/2021/1740

Erection of Dwellinghouse

South Keithney Fetternear Kemnay - Ref. No: APP/2021/1730 – Letter of holding objection sent, no update received from AC Planning as letter had been mis-filed. Response awaited.

10 REPORTS

- a) Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No update
- b) Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Core paths discussed. No new information, few issues for Kemnay.
- c) Community Planning** – Strategic needs assessment for Inverurie has now been done - excellent analysis by AC. Kemnay due to be done at the end of next year.
- d) Greener Kemnay** – Open Day held, attendance a little disappointing, but a good event for the volunteers – and the garden itself looking very good, with new signs and a new path in place. The fire pit was lit, which can be used by other community groups, and the beekeeper did flower arranging. The Guides and Brownies are very grateful for the use of the garden, where they have regularly held their meetings. KP Nursery has also made use of the garden.
- e) Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP)** – No update.
- f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC*: The proposed cycle paths between Kemnay and Kintore & Inverurie were discussed. Both routes are going to be developed, with consultation closing mid-October. Positive Steps and Greener Kemnay are walking all six routes to help with decision-making.
- g) Press Reports** – Item on Birley Bush open Day and article on Kiddiwinks and the rent increases.

11 ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS – Cllr Smith: thanked KCC for making it possible for her to attend the meeting virtually. Gave information on AC hybrid meetings, SEPA flood risk consultation, how best to report localised flooding (online at AC website via Roads, then use drop-down menu, should then get a reference number or email). Cllr Smith has also attended training on WRYKE, the new repair reporting and tracking system for Councillors, which should improve communication and efficiency, and again raised flooding issues in certain areas of the village at the recent ward meeting. She asked that people have some understanding of the pressures Council departments are currently under, Landscape Services in particular

12 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Correspondence from the Council** - was circulated prior to the meeting.
- Aberdeenshire grants for Health & Well-being
 - Webinar Places for Community Councils
 - Fireworks Consultation
 - Business Window Dressing Competition
 - Community Impact Assessment
 - Mind Yer Mind Campaign
 - Scotland Loves Local Training
 - Scottish Community Councils Facebook page
 - NHS Grampian Plan for the Future
 - Active Travel Routes Kemnay/Kintore/Inverurie
 - Aberdeenshire Household Recycling Centres – Data Collection
 - Community Testing Sites & Dates
 - Community Council Induction
 - Pilot Project to Assist CCs Become More Connected with their Community
 - Suicide Prevention Training
 - Presentation from Risk & Resilience Team
 - Trading Standards Updates on Frauds and Scams
- b) General Correspondence Received** - was circulated prior to the meeting.
- 2021 SURF Awards
 - Invitation to Party in the Park by Kemnay Positive Steps Buggy Walk Group
 - Community Defibrillator Scheme – St John Ambulance
 - Cycle Routes to Kemnay (from P Davison, Kintore Community Council)
 - SSEN Transmission East Coast Overhead Line Project
 - The Queen's Platinum Jubilee
 - Creative Aberdeenshire Exhibition
 - Fetternear Estate Grant
 - Rent Increases

13 OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK – *M Basley*: raised the work carried out at the car park (this is the new EV charging point). *G Stevens*: Remembrance Sunday – the minister from the Parish Church will be at the

memorial just before 11am, after service at the church. (Cllr Smith will lay a wreath from AC on behalf of KCC and G Berkin will also donate and lay a wreath on behalf of the Community Council). *R Lamplugh*: Wanted to acknowledge that the grass has finally been cut at Place of Origin. *L Aitken*(*on behalf of G Berkin*): a request has come in for a lifebelt to be located at the Shakkin' Briggie now that so many people are swimming in the river there.(**Action**: Secretary to contact AC Water Safety Officer.) *L Aitken*: Appreciation has been voiced for the flowers planted by SW at Littlewood Ct, the beds at the front have become rather overgrown, but these are the responsibility of Landscape Services and should be reported to them. *S Brydon*: proposed vote of thanks to LA, who chaired the meeting this evening.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 28th October, 2021, 7.30pm,
at Kennay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**