

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available

**Present:** Gaenor Berkin (Chair); Lee Aitken (Vice Chair); Fran Patrick (Secretary); John Whittall (Treasurer); Margaret Basley (via Zoom); Pauline Paterson; Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Daniel Johnston; Gabby Stevens; Cllr Smith (via Zoom)

**Apologies:** Sasha Brydon; Kayleigh Wallace; Suzanne Bunton; Claire Stewart

**Attending:** One member of the public (via Zoom)

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

**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 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021** – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh, seconded by S Wainman.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Police Report circulated. Crime continues to be very low; there does not appear to be specific reference to the recent incident of reported drug dealing involving a car, although mention is made of a drugs incident which has been dealt with. (**Action:** KCC to monitor the situation.) Recent police presence has been noted in the village. Good to see that there have been speed checks.

**5 KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE** – a) A number of families have signed up for a Christmas Parcel; the deadline for requesting a parcel is 12<sup>th</sup> December. Some donations have started to come in, A Go-Fund-Me page has been set up and the staff at Premier Coaches are donating to the Larder this year. However, it was noted that donations to the Larder have fallen off a little in recent months.

b) PADs: Monthly report received, no issues.

c) WaterGate barrier deployment went well. Lee Watson from Aberdeenshire Council was present and a representative from Stuart Crescent was able to speak to him; L Watson now has drainage layout for Stuart Crescent. The ditch and bund have gone in and both SUDS ponds have been de-silted, which does seem to have made a difference.

L Watson also checked the container at Birley Bush.

On Paradise Road, the sewer has now been repaired and the sinkhole filled in.

**6 OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK** – Sheila Middleton, Chair of Kiddiwinks, spoke about the rent increases, which are to go up by another 2.5%. The group is only just breaking even, with kind donations and a committed staff working very hard for low wages. It is a very good, well supported playgroup and they fundraise regularly. Acknowledged the support from KCC and Cllr Smith, who has been trying to get further information and a greater understanding of the situation from relevant officers at Aberdeenshire Council. Another paper is going to next Education Committee and Cllr Smith will be able to ask questions on this issue.

Question raised if Kiddiwinks was perhaps paying the incorrect rent; advised to check their rental agreement and to send a copy to Cllr Smith and KCC.

P Paterson gave some background to the pavilion and the groups that use it. The football club, for example, pays a substantial rental to store equipment there and have to book changing rooms separately, paying these by the hour.

(**Action:** S Middleton to send copy of rental agreement to Cllr Smith and KCC)

(**Action:** Cllr Smith will continue her efforts re the rental increases.)

## 7 MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Phoenix Fund** – First tranche of funding accounted for; second tranche may not be used by the deadline, a further meeting of the steering group is to be called.

b) **Christmas Lights** – Motifs are now stored in the container and will be put up by Gavin Adam in the next week or so. The Village Green lights will also be connected up and set going by the first week in December. As these lights are battery operated, trying to work out the best date to switch on to maximise the battery life, in order to reduce the number of used batteries being binned. The stars will also be lit later this year for the same reason. Uplighters have now been sourced for the trees in the roundels and will be tried out this year.

Two sets of lights have been given to each primary school; four sets remain available for households to borrow. The Christmas Lights Committee has been discussing fundraising ideas, but this will be considered again early in the new year. It was pointed out that Morrisons and Tesco have Community Champions and may well be worth contacting, for the supply of batteries, for example.

c) **Rent increases for local groups:** See item 6.

d) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** It has been suggested that an inscription could be added to the lamppost at the top of the High Street. The lamppost was originally erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The full story of the lamppost can be read on the village website. Other suggestions were discussed, including the possibility of lighting a beacon and the organisation of a parade and picnic in the park.

(Action: Secretary to add this to January's meeting.)

(Action: Secretary to contact the schools in the village to see if they would want to get involved.)

(Action: R Lamplugh to contact the Scouts and S Wainman to contact the Guides.)

e) **Investing in Communities Fund / Communities Mental Health & Well-being Fund:** Circulated for information. Question raised re whether one of the funds might cover the cost of the 'chatty benches'.

#### 8 TREASURER REPORT – Report from J Whittall circulated prior to meeting.

a) Insurance overpayment has not been returned as yet.

b) The Community Larder's outgoings are exceeding its income. Situation to be monitored and perhaps further grant funding sought in the new year.

#### 9 PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications –** None this month

b) Toilet block change of use was not on the weekly list and therefore was missed by KCC for comment/objection. KCC Chair, G Berkin, has contacted Aberdeenshire Council about this, but has had no further response. KCC would have put in objections to the change of use on the grounds of parking and issues around bin collection. (Action: G Berkin to pursue this with both the Planning and Legal Departments at AC.)

c) S Wainman has signed up for planning alerts for part of the village. You can't sign up for the whole village for free. (Action: S Wainman to raise this at the next CC Forum.)

d) Local Development Plan 2022 – KCC Chair, G Berkin, has had a look at this. Proposal is that 25% of a new development – if 4 homes or more – must be affordable, but don't need to be built on the same site. "Affordable housing" is defined as being not more than 3.9 times the household income. Potential issue with some of these properties being bought by speculators.

At present most developer obligations in Kemnay go towards the expansion of the Academy.

#### 10 REPORTS

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS) –** No update

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF) –** Meeting to be held next week.

c) **Community Planning –** Next meeting is to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

d) **Greener Kemnay –** Very successful and well attended AGM held, which was followed by the active travel discussion.

e) **Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP) –** No meeting

f) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC – KAPC:** Discussion included school transport (ongoing issues with some buses arriving late and some still coming down the High Street instead of using agreed route – people advised to complain to AC); school accommodation (AC has plan to remove the huts, but they would need to be replaced with the same number of classrooms, or even more); active travel and the need to make sure that access to any proposed route is also safe; the Headteacher, Ms Paul's, presentation of the School Quality and Improvement Plan, which included explanation of the SIMD (levels of deprivation) categories – this data is used to support learning. **KPPC:** the next meeting to be held next week. **APPC:** No update.

g) **Transport –** Following discussion on Active Travel at GK AGM, report sent to Chris Menzies at Aberdeenshire Council, which was acknowledged by him and greatly appreciated.

h) **Press Reports –** Mention of the change of use of the former toilet block to a takeaway.

#### 11 ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

*Cllr Smith:* Swings for disabled – Cllr Smith has contacted the Area Manager & checked that there is no developer obligation money that could be tapped for this, although KCC could apply to the Area Committee next financial year. Advice was also sought from Landscape Services at Aberdeenshire Council and it seems there are health & safety issues with these types of swings and the Officer dealing with this would like more information on the Alford swing as these swings operate with a lock & key system and the question would arise as to who would take responsibility for this. If KCC were to go ahead with this, funding might be available from one of the funds mentioned in Item 7e. (Action:

Secretary to find out about swing in Alford and pass on details to Cllr Smith.) As a result of a survey, future meetings at AC will be hybrid, which has advantages in that councillors can 'attend' more than one meeting in a given time period. There is going to be a change to the Councillors' Code of Conduct in the light of the murder of Sir David Amess. Private addresses will no longer be displayed anywhere.

(**Action:** D Johnston to bring a microphone to next KCC meeting to see if Zoom attendees can hear everyone present.)

## **12 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Community Testing Schedules
- Test & Collect Locations
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Request for KCC meeting dates
- Local Place Plan Regulations – Expressions of Interest

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

- Health Improvement Scotland) HIS – It's Good to Share!
- Police Scotland Business Watch November
- Trading Standards Bulletin No.34

**13 OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** – *L Aitken*: concern about the Surgery phone line being down and the difficulty in seeing a GP, growing anxiety at delays in getting appointment, results, etc

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 27th January 2022, 7.30pm,  
at Kennay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**