

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 27th January 2022 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available

Present: Gaenor Berkin (Chair – via Zoom); Lee Aitken (Vice Chair, who chaired the meeting); Fran Patrick (Secretary); John Whittall (Treasurer); Margaret Basley (via Zoom); Pauline Paterson; Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Daniel Johnston; Gabby Stevens; Sasha Brydon; Claire Stewart; Cllr Smith (via Zoom)

Apologies: Kayleigh Wallace; Suzanne Bunton

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/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 25th November 2021 – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by R Lamplugh.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Police Report circulated. Crime continues to be low; speed checks carried out, with a number of drivers cautioned. The ring doorbell security system with video that some have installed has proved helpful for police.

5 KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE – a) The Resilience Group has met twice since Storm Arwen and has made good progress on the updated plan, with Zone Contacts now in place for most areas of the village, and is now looking into making the Village Hall the primary Place of Safety by possibly installing a generator. / The Christmas Parcels distributed by LaHK & Community Larder were well supported and well received by the recipient families. Funds were raised through a Go-Fund-Me page and generous – and much appreciated - donations from Blairdaff & Chapel of Garioch Churches and the Kemnay Quiz Group. LaHK has been selected as a recipient of money raised at the upcoming Quiz Nights to be held at the Bennachie Lodge

Cllr Smith added that Aberdeenshire Council has set up a Recovery Team of officers and a questionnaire is to be circulated to all communities the results of which will feed into the Area Committee for discussion re recompense, etc. Not able to give clarification on the status of the Academy as principal designated Place of Safety. AC is going to be looking at all aspects of the consequences of the storm damage, including the difficulties with communication.

b) PADs: No issues; a new notice has been printed off and will be attached to each unit giving the contact details of the PADs Co-ordinator.

c) Fyfe Park junction still liable to pooling, even when there has been no rain – maybe caused by silted up drains. However, there has been some improvement.

6 OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – Elaine Whyte asking if there were any updates on issues she raised at an earlier KCC meeting: *the disabled swing* – KCC had agreed to support this initiative and will apply for funding through the Area Committee top-up grant; Cllr Smith provided a rough costing (£600) for a swing, but this would be more if a separate frame needed to be installed, which was likely to be the case. Aberdeenshire Council would fit and maintain the swing. (**Action:** Cllr Smith to get a costing for a swing + frame); *speed calming measures on Bogbeth Road* – as a 20MPH limit is supposed to be imposed in a couple of years, it was felt that it was highly unlikely anything will be done in the meantime. (Speeding issues around Bremer Way were also highlighted). Suggested that a letter should put into the Newsletter about problem speeding – these can be published anonymously as long as the editor has the name and address of the sender. (**Action:** Secretary to ask the police to do a speed check along Bogbeth Rd.

Action: Secretary to write to Aberdeenshire Council about the possibility of moving the speed limit out to beyond the quarry.

Action: Secretary to put a reminder in the Newsletter about the importance of reporting issues around the village.)

7 MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Phoenix Fund** – Kemnay Stone now cleaned and re-lettered and community gazebo purchased; second tranche of funding for the benches has now been transferred to the KCC Phoenix Fund account, with no deadline on spending. I Mitchell, AC Landscapes Dept, has said that the locations for the benches have been approved. A procedure for the hiring out of the gazebo will need to be drawn up.

b) **Christmas Lights** – Thanks to Gavin Adam, and Doug & Fran Patrick for the installation of all the lights. The Christmas Lights Committee did a walk around to check all the lights and decide which might need to be replaced next. (Action: Secretary to check with Zurich insurers about cover for the motifs and for the gazebo.)

c) **Rent increases for local groups:** G Stevens has had some discussion with Sheila Middleton about the response received from Aberdeenshire Council, but it does seem a complicated situation as there is no real clarity as to how Aberdeenshire Council works out costs and whether the Pavilion is being treated as a sports facility or not. There are one or two other potential operational issues. It would be useful if there were greater transparency re costing data from Aberdeenshire Council.

Cllr Smith has finally received a detailed response from Tim Stephens, Facilities Manager, who explained that the rent increase is in line with Aberdeenshire Council premises across the shire and that the rent the group is being charged is amongst the lowest in the shire. He reiterated that the Council appreciates that childcare places are scarce in Kemnay and that the Council valued the services offered by the playgroup and wanted to support the group in any way it could, helping with financial planning and grant applications, for example.

It was suggested that perhaps Cllr Smith could meet with Sheila Middleton to discuss how the group might take advantage of assistance being offered by the Council, although Cllr Smith did point out that, although grants are available, groups do need to be shown to be sustainable.

(Action: Secretary to contact S Middleton to ask if they would like to meet with Cllr Smith and also to check the status of the group.)

d) **Aberdeenshire Waste Collection Strategy:** Moving to a 3-weekly cycle. Could be issues with this; new cycle will need to be widely publicised; date of implementation not yet finalised. (Action: L Aitken to put notice in Newsletter,)

e) **Local Outdoor Access Forum:** for information – new members are being sought for this forum via aloaf@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

f) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** Inverurie is holding a 'street party'; Greener Kemnay will be lighting their barbecue at Birley Bush. Some ideas for Kemnay: 'Bring a picnic to a picnic', with people possibly bringing own instruments to play; encourage businesses and households to put up bunting; organise a 'Jubilee Jaunt' around the village, like the recent Fairy Trail, but with a 'crown' theme; get a 'platinum' band put round the ornamental lamppost at top of High Street, with appropriate wording.

(Action: P Paterson to contact John Muirhead from Rood Signs.

Action: Secretary to contact Louise Graham, organiser of the Fairy Trail, to see if she'd like to help organise the Jubilee Jaunt.)

8 TREASURER REPORT

a) Insurance overpayment has still not been returned. (Action: Secretary to contact Zurich.)

b) Data protection fee has been paid.

Donations: for the Christmas Parcels and Community Larder in December.

The cleaning of the Kemnay Stone has been paid for; money has come in for the works to be carried out at the Fetternear Estate; the second tranche of Phoenix Fund money has come in.

(Action: Treasurer to contact G Berkin about becoming a signatory for the KCC account.)

9 PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** – No action to be take on

Alterations & Extension to Dwelling House

Lauchentilly Cottage Kintore Ref. No: APP/2021/2652

Additional applications just prior to meeting – No action to be taken, although some reservations expressed about the house at Wellpark

Alterations & Extension to Dwelling House and Formation of Decking

Wellpark, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2021/2907

Alterations & Extension to Dwelling House

Backhill of Burnhervie Ref. No: APP/2022/0070

b) Toilet block change of use APP/2020/2640 – a response received from Planning Dept. The change of use didn't appear on the weekly list because of an administrative oversight. This is very frustrating as KCC would have put in an objection. Further explanation received from Planning Dept re APP/2022/1730.

10 REPORTS

a) Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS) – This group is still running. (**Action:** Secretary to pass details to D Johnston, who might be interested in representing KCC on this group.)

b) Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF) – Not met yet.

c) Community Planning – Meeting next week.

d) Greener Kemnay – Changes to the committee: R Lamplugh is now Chair; working on risk assessments as Zurich insurers now want RAs for every activity.

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

f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC – *KAPC:* No update on accommodation, meeting early January with Learning Estates and Property Services; Education Dept to be invited to next meeting to discuss issues around active travel; ongoing issues with the buses as they are still often unreliable and often arrive late, causing real problems for parents, and with pupils crossing the road. 'Cost of the school day' is an ongoing initiative – PTA funds to be used to purchase branded water bottles, etc new football strips and training in leadership equipment. Still trying to get the PTA up and running. There was a very good careers event held at the Academy, organised by Chris Dunhill; AH Art pupils have had their work critiqued by professional designers; a skills framework is being developed; staffing mainly OK, still one or two absences and having to be flexible with the timetable. The Academy is very grateful for local business support, especially from Jim Reid Vehicle Sales.

Re Mock interviews – L Aitken & R Lamplugh to consider volunteering for this.

(**Action:** Secretary to circulate the email about this.)

KPPC: No firm plan for Jubilee celebration; raising money for purchase of new equipment. Query re possible closure of road by war memorial when pupils taking part in annual commemorative event. Advised to contact police about this, although not very likely that this would be given permission. (**Action:** G Berkin to pass on this information.) *APPC:* No update.

g) Transport – For information: Council Roads Policy Review deadline (6th Feb).

h) Press Reports – None

11 ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

Cllr Smith: Covered above. Main item is the Recovery Team post-Arwen and the involvement of community councils.

12 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Local Place Plan Regulations
- Assistance Hub
- Storm Arwen Updates
- Opportunity to Help Develop a potential appeals mechanism for participation requests
- AC Military Aid Update
- Community Test & Collect Locations Information
- Community Support Updates
- Update from SSEN
- Storm Preparedness & Info Poster
- Community Poster on Storm Barra
- Aberdeenshire Licensing Board - Review of Gambling Policy – Consultation
- Aberdeenshire Council bridges and roads releases 15.12.21
- Pedestrian alcohol warning release 15.12.21
- Storm Arwen – Thanks
- Invitation: herbaceous perennial project
- Aberdeenshire Council Roads Policy Review – Consultation
- Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum release 19.1.22
- Aberdeenshire Council waste collection strategy release 20.1.22

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

- RGU Start-up Accelerator
- Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Further Update - Funding
- Query re Old Photographs on village website – passed on to D Evans, two relatives now in touch.
- Updates from Health Improvements Scotland

13 OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK – *S Brydon:* Asked about Kemnay Academy representative on KCC; *S Wainman:* tulips have been planted in the High Street and daffodils at top of Bremner Way and opposite Littlewood Court.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 24th February 2022, 7.30pm,
at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**