

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 29th September 2022 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(via Zoom); Richard Lamplugh; Gabby Stevens; Suzanne Bunton ; Claire Stewart;(via Zoom)

Apologies: Sue Wainman; Dan Johnston; Sasha Brydon; Cllr Grant; Cllr Smith; Cllr Payne

Attending; Irene Reid (Kemnay Kirk); Aimi Blueman (Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action)

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

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/AUDIO RECORDINGS/MEETING PROTOCOL – All present reminded that anyone who wished to contribute to the discussion should raise their hand and be invited to speak by the Chair. Only record will be the minutes taken by the Secretary.

3 MINUTES OF MEETING 30th JUNE 2022 – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by J Whittall, seconded by S Bunton.

4 POLICE MATTERS – No Police Report received. Issue of disturbances being caused at Kemnay Primary by a gang of youths, possibly former pupils, causing real concern for the cleaner working there and suffering this abuse. This is a health and safety issue and perhaps reiterates the need for the installation of CCTV at the school. (**Action:** Secretary to alert the police of the situation.)

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK - None

6 GUEST SPEAKERS – Aimi Blueman of AVA explained the ‘Hospital Homecoming’ initiative, which she is leading. This is a two-year project initially designed to help the NHS by offering support to people coming out of hospital who may be socially isolated and/or in need of some help with tasks such as shopping, prescription collection, etc. People have been offered twelve weeks of support, with the aim of helping them to readjust after their hospital visit, to become more independent and confident, which will hopefully then prevent any potential relapse requiring a return visit to hospital. Now looking to expand the scope of the project, looking at prevention, identifying people who might benefit from a twelve-week block of support to counter social isolation and loneliness. The level and type of support will vary – from a simple chat on the phone to help with specific tasks. Kemnay Kirk is already involved with hospital transport and Irene Reid had contacted AVA about getting involved in the wider project. However, more volunteers would be required, and it was thought that a tie-in with other community groups, such as the Community Larder and Lend a hand Kemnay, would be a good idea. It was pointed out that LaHK/CL was now operating with a much reduced group of volunteers now that the Covid response has wound down but would undertake to contact some of the original volunteers to gauge interest. It was noted that it need not involve a huge commitment of time and AVA would be able to provide any training required. I Reid is happy to be the point of contact for any volunteers; any expenses incurred by volunteers would be covered by the project.

(**Action:** Aimi Blueman to write an article for the Newsletter and send to the Secretary who will then pass to the Newsletter.)

(**Action:** P Paterson will contact some of the original LaHK volunteers.)

7 KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE – a) SSE funding for the generator is now in the KCC account, however still waiting for final confirmation from Aberdeenshire Council on the suitability of chosen location for the generator at the Village Hall. Planning has now been contacted directly to see if matters can be expedited as time is passing and it may be the generator is not in situ before the end of the year. Resilience Group members have been invited to take part in Resilience Workshops being run by Aberdeenshire Council, another in a series of consultative events being run by the Council. However, strong feeling that practical help for communities, all of which are facing the same issues and are trying to find solutions, would be more helpful. Resilience Group may now need to consider having to provide a ‘warm space’ in the light of increasing energy costs, something Kemnay Kirk is also considering. I Reid suggested that it would probably be a good idea for any venue wanting to do this to draw up their own plans and apply for any funding available, but all information could be collated and published in one document. The Kirk is thinking of offering a ‘warm space’ to people when it is already open. This might be more difficult for the Village Hall as it doesn’t always have regular bookings, but even if it were to be available to people when open for booked events, there would still need to be a volunteer on hand. Or the Hall

keeper, although his costs would need to be covered. (**Action:** F Patrick to discuss this with representatives of the Hall Committee.)

b) **Action:** Secretary to contact K Stewart for report on current situation e PADS.

c) No flooding issues update. The Resilience Group and Greener Kemnay would like to store community gas bottles in the container at Birley Bush currently designated for flooding resilience equipment. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Aberdeenshire Council about this.)

8 MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Traffic and Parking issues** – G Berkin has contacted Aberdeenshire Council about various issues and requested a site meeting, despite the Council insisting on written communication of the issues instead. The new Co-op has caused some parking issues, particularly dangerous parking at the blind summit. And Station Road is noticeably busier, with cars often parking on the pavement; complaints also being voiced by residents of Leslie Place opposite. Parking on Victoria Terrace is also an issue with cars often forced to overtake parked cars in the face of traffic coming round a blind bend. (**Action:** G Berkin to get back to Aberdeenshire Council re these ongoing issues.)

b) **Containers at Alehousewells- update** – A response was received from Aberdeenshire Council which stressed the necessity for the containers to be stored there, but that security fencing was now in place.

c) **Town Centre Health Checks 2022–** (item omitted on some versions of the agenda) – Local businesses have been encouraged to respond to this.

d) **Christmas Lights** – The sub-committee has met and has ordered two further replacement motifs. Also discussed other ways of lighting up the village, eg the Village Hall. L Aitken is pursuing possible funding opportunities, including National Lottery funding, as the Christmas Lights account is now much depleted. Shops and businesses are to be encouraged to decorate/light up their premises. (**Action:** F Patrick to ask Co-op about their plans for Christmas decoration and to contact chair of Donside CC to find out how they organise their Christmas tree in a pot display in Alford.)

e) **Zoom renewal** – (item omitted on some versions of the agenda) - It was unanimously agreed to renew this.

9 TREASURER REPORT

SSE grant funding now in KCC account.

Resilience: just over £2000 in account (not including SSE funding) / LaHK/CL: £3250 / Phoenix Fund: £14 / PADS: £2500

(**Action:** Treasurer & Secretary to check that Admin Grant has come in from Aberdeenshire Council.)

10 PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

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

Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse

Glenhead Cottage Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2022/1732

July/August applications

Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse

Bogbeth Brae, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2022/1621

Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse and Decking

The Blairs, Blairdaff Ref. No: APP/2022/1710

Erection of Replacement Dwellinghouse with Associated Ground Works without Compliance with Condition 3 (Foul and Surface Water Drainage Systems) of Planning permission Ref APP/2022/1704

Creig Na Coille, Craigeam, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2022/1704

b) **Change of land designation on Development Plan:** Real consternation and anger that this re-designation from 'Business' to 'Residential' was accepted without comment at Garioch Area Committee/Aberdeenshire Council, given the well documented flooding issues. This battle has been fought for decades and was thought to have finally been won – there is even a letter in the archive dating from the time of Gordon District Council stating that housing should never be built on this area due to the issues with flooding. It was felt that a complaint at this point would probably have delayed implementation of the LDP, hence the lack of comment. This was none the less very disappointing and frustrating. It was agreed that KCC should note its unhappiness about this and that it would fight vigorously any planning application for housing on the site.

(**Action:** Chair to write to Aberdeenshire Council expressing KCC's disagreement with this decision.)

(**Action:** Secretary to write to the three Councillors for Ward 10, expressing disappointment at their lack of comment on this change to the plan.)

Footpath from Milton Farm development: Planning Department is still apparently looking into why the footpath has not been put in, even though some of the houses are now occupied.

The lack of progress on pavement resurfacing in the village was also noted. S Wainman has already contacted Aberdeenshire Council about this on more than one occasion.

(**Action:** Secretary to contact the three Councillors for clarification on these issues.)

11 REPORTS

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

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

c) Community Planning – No update

d) Greener Kemnay – R Lamplugh thanked KCC for the use of the community gazebo and gas stove for the recent Open Day at Birley Bush. The Open Day was very successful, with nearly 100 people attending. The boules pitch is nearly complete and information boards are being installed. The Energy Group had their submission for funding to the Just transition Fund rejected but now plan to continue their project to carry out an energy survey of the village in a reduced form, using volunteers to do a visual survey of properties. Five volunteer households are going to be sought for a more detailed survey. Suggestions were given as to where the group could source a thermal imaging camera. The group has also done site visits to see heat pumps and biomass units, etc.

The Communications Group within GK is looking at storing all pictures and documents on Google Drive, then access could be shared.

GK AGM is to be held in November. It will have Energy as its theme.

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

f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC – G Berkin has been co-opted on to the committee. Two main issues at the moment – anti-social behaviour and the possibility of setting up a uniform exchange in the village.

(Action: F Patrick to ask Betty Gray at the Bargain Box based in the Village Hall and will also put an article in the Newsletter.)

g) Press Reports– None

12 ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

No Councillors present. Cllr Payne will lay the wreath at this year's Remembrance Service in Kemnay.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Containers at Alehousewells
- Tour of Britain Information
- Aberdeenshire Town Centre Health Checks 2022
- Love to Ride – Supporting community cycling
- Perennials for Pollinators Application
- NE Suicide Prevention
- Energy Saving Trust – Funding Opportunities
- Elect Her's Event for Prospective Community Councillors
- Community Councillors Induction
- Flag for Aberdeenshire
- Local Development Plan 2027
- Bedding Plant Order Form
- Fireworks Displays
- Fees and Charges Review Consultation
- Aberdeenshire Council digital Engagement Team

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

- Scottish Water Annual Consultation
- Forestry Felling Permission
- Kemnay Steens Walk Enquiry
- SSEN – Locational Marginal Pricing
- Hill of Fare Wind Farm
- Health Improvement Scotland Newsletter
- Trading Standards Newsletter

14 OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK – *R Lamplugh* – wondered what was to become of the old Co-op. Felt it would make a great community/business venue. **(Action:** Secretary to try to find out intentions.) *L Aitken* – no update on vandalism at top of Bremner Way; no further damage reported but graffiti has appeared in other areas of the village. *G Stevens* - fire raising incidents at the top of Parkhill which have been reported to the police.; uneven pavements still have not been re-surfaced. **(Action:** Secretary to contact Councillors). *F Patrick (on behalf of D Johnston)* – Dan has been sent information on possible disabled swings, but not sure if these are the most suitable, for our needs, and they are very expensive; he will continue to pursue this. *C Stewart* – ongoing issues with speeding on Bremner Way, could traffic calming measures be installed? *G Berkin* – will lay a wreath on behalf of KCC at the Remembrance service at the War Memorial.

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