

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 27th October 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); Sue Wainman; Gabby Stevens; Suzanne Bunton; Dan Johnston; Cllr Payne (via Zoom); Cllr Grant(via Zoom)

Apologies: Richard Lamplugh; Claire Stewart; Cllr Smith

Attending: None

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 29th SEPTEMBER 2022 – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by G Stevens, seconded by J Whittall.

4 POLICE MATTERS – An interim Police Report received, new police contact, Sgt Gordon MacDougall, will be starting when he returns from leave. Kemnay Primary appreciates the support of the Community Council in raising the issue of abuse and harassment by a small group of youths. Disappointing increase in anti-social behaviour; police considering a scheme similar to the one tried at Inverurie with some success to tackle this problem, to take place in Kemnay maybe during the Christmas holidays and into January. Recent incidents with youths climbing onto the roofs of buildings have caused great concern – not only is this very dangerous, but damage has been done to some of the buildings. The police are aware and acting on information received.

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

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE – a) Progress is being made with the installation of the generator, just waiting for insurance cover to come through and for Aberdeenshire Council to agree to the location of the generator; CCTV is to be installed at the Village Hall as part of the security plan for the generator, F Patrick and M Basley are meeting with an installer tomorrow (Friday) to get a quote for the work. The resilience equipment stored in the projection room has been checked and replacement items purchased, where required; a 'Resilience Box' is being prepared for Littlewood Court.

F Patrick attended one of the Resilience Workshops organised by Aberdeenshire Council as part of their post-Arwen/Barra/Corrie review and consultation. It was a useful opportunity to meet representatives from other communities and interesting to see the approach to resilience being pursued by Aberdeenshire Council – ie resilience begins with the individual, then works out through neighbours, family, friends, local community resilience groups and the local authority. However, community groups need to be supported by the Council in their efforts, after all these are largely run by volunteers, who may not have the technical expertise or physical capability required.

Community Larder: numbers continue to increase steadily. Christmas Parcels are being offered again this year, with a deadline of mid-November for signing up for one. P Paterson is the main organiser of these and has already contacted AberNecessities to see if they can again supply Christmas Eve boxes for the children. A JustGiving page will be set up to help cover the cost of the parcels. The Larder is grateful for the food donations received from Kemnay Church Harvest Thanksgiving and for continued support through their food collection boxes for the Larder.

The Co-op has also been very supportive of the Larder which has now signed up to its Caboodle initiative of offering surplus food to community groups, although the system is experiencing a few glitches at the moment. (**Action:** F Patrick to contact P Paterson to agree deadline for Christmas Parcels.) (**Action:** F Patrick to send list of food items needed for the Larder to S Bunton.) (**Action:** P Paterson will pass on list of items needed to the new Co-op and ask that they reinstate the donations box.)

It was noted that Kemnay Church Centre is now offering a 'warm space' over the winter months.

b) Report received from the PADS Co-ordinator – no issues this month. (**Action:** Secretary will check with the Co-ordinator re the purchase of replacement parts for the units.)

c) Stuart Crescent Residents' Group is to plant more trees to help retain more water further up; some flooding reported at the quarry and the dip at the Fyfe Park junction.

7. MATTERS ARISING:

- a) **Traffic and Parking issues** – After letter sent by KCC Chair and queries made by Cllr Payne and Cllr Grant, responses finally received from Aberdeenshire Council on the many issues currently causing concern in the village: there is to be a review into the possibility of physically blocking parking on the pavement on Station Road, into the current placing of the double yellow lines on Victoria Terrace and into traffic calming on Bremner Way. No timescale given, but Cllr Payne stated that these issues would be discussed at the next traffic management review, as would the possibility of a new crossing to the car park.
- b) **Fees & Charges Review Consultation** – For information, as this is an issue that has been raised at KCC. All concerned/users of council premises are urged to take part.
- c) **Aberdeenshire Loves Local Gift Card Webinar** – For information, this is being rolled out across Aberdeenshire and may include Kemnay businesses. Link: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/news/release.aspx?newsID=8662>
- d) **Christmas Lights** – An application has gone into the National Lottery for funding; another two replacement motifs have been purchased; a 'Merry Christmas' motif for the Village Hall is on order.

8. TREASURER REPORT

Cheque for the plaques for the benches has not been cashed yet.

£100 donation has come in from the Book Wagon run by Helen Aitken, a much appreciated contribution to the Community Larder. Thanks to Helen for her efforts. Funding has also been awarded to Lend a Hand Kemnay from the Co-op Communities Fund, for which the Community Larder is also very grateful. Local residents are reminded to use their Co-op membership card and when invited, to choose a local community group to be awarded a share of the accrued funds.

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

- a) **Current planning applications** – No action to be taken on
 - Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse**
Craig Lea, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2022/2080
 - Erection of 2 Domestic Garages**
Milton Farm Steading Ref. No: APP/2022/2171
- b) **Change of land designation on Development Plan:** KCC can't do anything about this change of designation as it is a Scottish Reporter's decision, and therefore final. Garioch Area Councillors had been advised of this by officers and that any objection would have led to a delay in the implementation of the whole Development Plan. A very frustrating situation, after the battles over the unsuitability of sites earmarked for development over many years (all documented on the village website). It was agreed that the community council would remain very vigilant and object strongly to any proposed development of the site. The quality of the information given to the Reporter, on which the decision was based, was also queried. KCC agreed that it will need to pay close attention to the next round of local development planning (temporarily suspended due to delays in changes coming from the Scottish Government) to get the designation changed again.
(Action: KCC Chair to write to Planning Department, outlining past issues with this site and including a link to all the documentation on the village website.) (Action: Secretary to invite Piers Blaxter, Team Leader of Planning Policy, to a future KCC meeting.)
- c) **Hill of Fare Wind Farm Development:** Some communication has been received by KCC about this development. It doesn't immediately affect Kemnay, although the turbines are so big – the biggest onshore in Scotland - that they will be seen from certain parts of the village. Some discussion followed about balancing the advantages of renewable energy versus the effect such a development has on the surrounding area and on the lives of those who live close to it. Serious concerns expressed about this development, but it was decided that KCC would not comment officially but would make Kemnay residents aware of the development and its issues and encourage anyone with strong views to fill in the online form of objection/support. Link: www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk (Action: Secretary to post on Facebook and in the Newsletter.)

10. REPORTS

- a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No update
- b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – No update.
- c) **Community Planning** – Presentation from NESCAN on participatory budgeting and what Aberdeenshire Council is doing to tackle the cost of living crisis. Kemnay businesses did respond to the Town Centre Health Check.
- d) **Greener Kemnay** – A group of volunteers is in the process of building the boules piste and a shelter for spectators. A WhatsApp group has been created for community garden volunteers; the new signs are now in place and look very attractive. Aberdeenshire Council has intimated that GK could take over the woodland behind Birley Bush, but GK reluctant to do so until the storm damage has been dealt with to make it safe. GK has also been awarded some money from the Co-op Communities Fund and some of this will be used to try and improve the woodland. Energy Group: going

to try to get funding via the participatory budgeting fund to help with the surveying of the village, which has already started with volunteers. Going to try to get feedback from the just Transition Fund re their failed bid for funding, as most of the funding seems to have gone to larger, established groups.

GK AGM is to be held on 1st November at Kemnay Village Hall. There will be a couple of speakers.

GK looking at ways of using GoogleDocs (which might also be useful as a KCC archive?) A meeting is also going to be held to find out more about community energy schemes, which could tie in with participatory budgeting.*

**Aberdeenshire has approximately £333,000 to award, following bids for capital monies to support projects following the green agenda. This involves the completion of a detailed form explaining what the project is about, which is then out to the residents of Aberdeenshire who can vote on their preferred projects. Not sure yet how the voting system will work, it is being administered by Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action. Applications have to be in by 14th November, with a voting deadline of mid-December.*

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

f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC – Meeting next week. F Patrick and S Wainman to share attendance at Kemnay Academy Parent Council.

g) Press Reports– Paths for All Award has been widely reported. (The short video they produced is available online.) Very well done to all concerned.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

Cllr Payne: has pursued information and updates on issues raised at KCC, such as the pavement re-surfacing (see previous items). There is to be a replacement bus-stop installed opposite Littlewood Court. *Cllr Grant*: has also been pursuing many of these issues; he gave a brief update on the work more generally being undertaken by Councillors across the shire, it's been a very busy period. Councillors were thanked for their efforts on behalf of Kemnay.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Garioch Area Committee Funding 2022-23
- Elected Member Training
- Grant for Cycling Projects
- Opportunity to join engagement project
- Loves Local Aberdeenshire webinar release 20.10.22
- Webinar on Aberdeenshire Loves Local Gift Card
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Scheme 2022
- Invitation to Aberdeenshire Community Transport Forum
- Cover for back-up generator

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

- NHS Scotland initiative – SHARE
- Information request from someone moving in to area
- Letter from A Bowie, MP about Hill of Fare Wind Farm
- Rural Matters Newsletter
- Proposed Upgrade Work to Existing Base station 69874
- SSEN Transmission – What would Locational Marginal Pricing mean for the North East

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK – *S Wainman* – has written to Aberdeenshire Council on various matters raised at KCC meetings, but has received no response from AC, which is very disappointing; the rear of Littlewood Court is in a disgraceful state after the oil spillage incident. (**Action:** Secretary to write to AC to request the area be tidied up.) *D Johnstone* – has found another possible disabled swing, will circulate the details *F Patrick* – re the Milton Farm development footpath, the lack of which is now being investigated by Planning, thanks to the Councillors for pursuing this, and also David Evans for finding the original planning information from the archives. *G Berkin* – showed KCC the wreath she will lay on Remembrance Sunday. Unfortunately, there is a typo on the centre, which the company is to replace.

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