

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available

**Present:** Gaenor Berkin(Chair); Lee Aitken (Vice Chair); Fran Patrick (Secretary); Margaret Basley(via Zoom); Pauline Paterson(via Zoom); Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Claire Stewart(via Zoom); Gabby Stevens; Suzanne Bunton; Dan Johnston; Sasha Brydon; Cllr Payne; Cllr Grant(via Zoom); Cllr Smith(via Zoom)

**Apologies:** John Whittall (Treasurer)

**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 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022** – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by D Johnston, seconded by S Wainman.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – No report received in time for meeting. Nothing currently from KCC to feedback to Sgt MacDougall.

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

**6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE** – a) The Resilience Box for Littlewood Court is now complete and being stored at the Village Hall; the Warden has been made aware. Insurance cover for generator now in place through KCC's insurer, Zurich, and permission has been granted from Aberdeenshire Council for its installation and the CCTV. There is a possible 6-month delay on the generator due to current supply issues. After some discussion, it was decided not to purchase a small 'interim' generator as it is possible to open the Hall in a limited way - but enough to offer a warm, safe space - using the Resilience Group's portable gas equipment. The Larder is very grateful to the £300 donation from the Bargain Box, and for the money being raised through the JustGiving page and the donations handed in in person for the Festive Food Parcels. The Community Larder list for these parcels is now closed, but parcels may still be available through the Garioch Kitchen in Inverurie. The Community Larder will open as normal throughout the festive period.

b) Report received from the PADS Co-ordinator – no issues this month. Two replacement sets of pads are being purchased. It seems there is currently a shortage of these, another two sets will hopefully be purchased next month.

c) Discussion of the recent severe flooding event: should Kemnay have its own river water level gauge? (**Action:** G Berkin to research this); it was reassuring to see that the flood defences held and that no property was flooded this time, although it came close in one or two places. Resilience Group volunteers distributed the sandbags from the container and acted as a liaison with Aberdeenshire Council as much as they could. As ever, it was heartening to see how the community rallies round and helps each other. It was agreed that the Resilience Group should meet in the near future, local Councillors and representatives from Milton Meadows and Kembhill Park will be invited to attend. Thanks expressed to all the volunteers, who worked so hard to protect the village. The Chair of the Resilience Group was particularly grateful to Jim Buchan for keeping her - and local residents - informed of the status of the Watergate deployed at Kembhill Park. It was pointed out that other vulnerable areas of the village, including parts of Bremner Way and sections of Fyfe Park/Victoria Terrace, should not be overlooked.

There will be a campaign on flood preparedness through the Newsletter and Facebook, encouraging residents in vulnerable properties to look at equipment now available, which is often more effective than sandbags. Floodsax, for example, can be more easily stored and handled, although they are quite expensive. (**Action:** F Patrick to research these.) Information on this is available on Aberdeenshire Council website. (**Action:** F Patrick to prepare article for next Newsletter.)

There is to be a flood study carried out for Kemnay, which will also look at the range of options available to mitigate flood risk. However, much of this will be funding-dependent.

KCC members urged to read the papers on Flood Risk Management Plan which recently came to Garioch Area Committee and to look at the agenda for Infrastructure Services Committee where this may also be raised. It was felt that it would be helpful if those making the decisions came to see the situation for themselves - the KCC Chair made this point in the letter she has sent to Aberdeenshire Council. Village residents should also be encouraged to report blocked drains to the Council. The Community Resilience Plan is to be reviewed, with a particular focus on how best to mobilise volunteers and how to get the help required quickly to those in need. (**Action:** F Patrick to arrange meeting.)

## 7. MATTERS ARISING:

- a) **Pavements** – Good to see that the repair work is finally being carried out on the pavements. A notice re inconsiderate/illegal pavement parking has gone into this month's Newsletter.
- b) **Maintenance Requirements at Littlewood Court** – S Wainman has spoken with the Warden, who has reported the situation at the back of the building to Aberdeenshire Council; Councillors asked to keep pushing this with the Council. Cllr Payne reported that the sign has been repaired. Littlewood Court is in line to get an emergency generator installed, using a space in the parking area, but there seems to have been a delay with it as well.
- c) **Christmas Lights** – New motifs have arrived and the one for the Village Hall. Unfortunately, four of the motifs failed the PAT test, so funding for replacement motifs continues to be an issue; waiting for a response from application to National Lottery Fund. Lamppost motifs will go up the first weekend in December, the Christmas tree and other trees will be lit the following weekend. L Aitken has drawn up a very helpful street map showing where the lampposts with connectors are located.

## 8. TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer not present, but no issues to report; all accounts in fairly healthy order.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

- a) **Current planning applications** – No action to be taken on  
**Erection of General Purpose Agricultural building**  
Hillside Farm, Fetternear Ref. No: APP/2022/2361

## 10. REPORTS

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – There has been no meeting for a while, but Cllr McKail is asking for agenda items.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Meeting coming up.

c) **Community Planning** – Joint meeting with Councillors; focus on cost of living and transport issues. Kemnay's Strategic needs Assessment is still to be done, but is being worked on.

d) **Greener Kemnay** – Energy Group: Focus is on the Participatory Budgeting project, which requires people to vote for the projects they'd like to see funded. GK are hoping to purchase thermal imaging cameras and are going to launch a publicity campaign to get people to vote for their project – there will be banners around the village and fliers, etc distributed. Link to vote is available on the NESCAN Hub Facebook page. All KCC members urged to encourage as many people as possible to vote.

The AGM was very successful. Energy was the theme of the meeting and speaker David McGrath did a presentation on home insulation, particularly for granite-built houses.

e) **Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP)** – Meeting cancelled, but S Wainman raised the issue of Kemnay's community minibus and Caroline Smith (Community Planning) has undertaken to pursue this on KCC's behalf. Problem seems to be that this is not specifically on anyone's remit. Westhill run a very successful community minibus.

f) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – **KAPC**: First meeting of new council, led by new Chair. Update on ongoing projects/issues given by the Headteacher: no real progress with replacement, permanent accommodation or with the Kemnay to Kintore cycleway; buses – and the unreliability of some – continue to cause problems, parents urged to complain to Aberdeenshire Council if their children are impacted; the creation of a bus port would greatly benefit the school but also local residents. Some discussion on fundraising as funds available to support pupil events, etc were decreasing rapidly. Mini tour of school given, with a visit to the 'Kemnay Kit' cupboard, a store of uniform and personal items operated by pupils for pupils, and to the newly refurbished toilets. For the first time in a while, no staffing issues. Sir Ian Wood paid a visit to the Academy.

Samples of the mugs, coasters and cards with designs based on the CLAN lighthouse decorated by pupils, were shown to KCC members by F Patrick, who has agreed to display them at the Village Hall.

**KPPC**: Happy that the recent incidents of harassment have now ceased. The loss of specialist teachers is being felt. The Christmas Fair is to be held this week.

g) **Press Reports**– Reports on the recent flooding.

## 11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

*Cllr Payne*: thanked everyone for their efforts during the recent flooding. New sign at Littlewood Court and replacement bus stop opposite now both installed; graffiti at Bogbeth Park cleaned off; has discussed at a meeting with Stagecoach the possibility of including a bus stop at Kintore train station and the lack of bus service later in the evening. He would welcome feedback on the Ready-to-Go service, which has experienced a few issues. *Cllr Grant*: Encouraged everyone to look at the documentation on flood resilience. Been a lot of discussion on the cost-of-living crisis – the Council has produced a leaflet to help residents access help, available on Council website. (**Action**: Will send a copy to KCC

Secretary.) Suggested a possible funding stream – Place Based Investment Programme. Council preparations for winter underway. *Cllr Smith*: Council has adopted the Aberdeenshire Council Plan; has been dealing with a lot of case work.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Correspondence from the Council** - was circulated prior to the meeting.
- Scotland's Digital Planning Transformation 2022
  - Community Council Forum Agenda
  - Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards 2022 – Nominations deadline
  - Weather updates
  - Love Local Gift Card
- b) **General Correspondence Received** - was circulated prior to the meeting.
- Aberdeen Airport's Airspace Change Proposal
  - Health Improvement Scotland – Citizens' Panel
  - Correspondence about War memorial and a Pte James McHardy
  - Trading Standards Bulletin No 57

**13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** – *S Bunton*: speeding issues on Aquithie Road, where pavements very narrow in places and some cats have been run over. (**Action**: Secretary to raise again with the police, although it was noted that it seems two members of police staff are to be dedicated to deal with such issues.) The harling is coming off walls and causing a potential hazard in Wood Gardens. *L Aitken*: the lack of a pavement opposite the Village Hall and poor street lighting is making this section of road quite dangerous. *G Stevens*: Co-op has now chosen the three local groups to benefit from money raised through customer use of their membership card over the coming year - Spectrum Singers, Greener Kemnay, Community Larder. Members can choose to support a particular group by selecting that group via website or App, otherwise all monies raised get divided equally at the end of the fundraising year. *D Johnston*: Church Lane is in need of repair (as this is an unadopted road, little KCC can do to help). *S Brydon*: apologised for not being at recent KCC meetings, but was pleased to see all three Councillors in attendance here. *R Lamplugh*: asked again if the road couldn't be closed for 15 minutes or so for remembrance at the War Memorial. *C Stewart*: it is very dark along the river path, any possibility of lighting being installed? (Cllr Payne added that the state of the river path has been flagged with the Area Manager and will be pushed up the priority list.)

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**