

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall

**Present:** Gaenor Berkin (Chair); Lee Aitken (Vice Chair, taking minutes of meeting); John Whittall (Treasurer); Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Gabby Stevens; Dan Johnston; Cllr Payne

**Apologies:** Fran Patrick (Secretary); Claire Stewart; Suzanne Bunton; Sasha Brydon  
(Unable to join via Zoom: Margaret Basley; Pauline Paterson; Cllr Smith; Cllr Grant)

**Attending:** None

**1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES** – The Chair welcomed those attending and gave apologies as above. Due to technical difficulties, a Zoom link was unable to be provided for the meeting.

**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 written minutes. J Whittall declared an interest in respect of planning application ref. no: APP/2023/0018.

**3 MINUTES OF MEETING 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022** – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh, seconded by J Whittall.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Report from Sgt MacDougall circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that crime remains low, although there did seem to be an increase in anti-social behaviour. It was unknown however whether the incidents noted were all separate or one incident reported multiple times. It was noted at a recent Community Planning meeting that the 'Intervention Project' currently undertaken in Inverurie had appeared to reduce crime in the town, with shoplifting reducing from previous years. A similar project was due to begin in Westhill, before Kemnay, but it was unclear whether the initiative had begun in Westhill. The incident, which had occurred in Inverurie on 25<sup>th</sup> January, was noted. The police were unaware that CCTV had been installed at the side of the Village Hall, ahead of a generator being installed later in the year.

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

**6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE** – a) More work is to be undertaken on updating 'Community Contacts', with the hope of expanding the current list. No update on a back-up generator. In respect of the generator itself, KCN Groundworks are to install a concrete pad in February. The Community Larder is continuing to be used. The Christmas parcels were put together and delivered due to the generosity of various organisations and individuals. Donations through the Just Giving page alone raised just over £1,000. Express thanks to Michelle Clark at Kemnay Farm Shop for liaising with the Sarah Ferguson Trust to provide Christmas gifts and treats for the children. The Community Larder is also grateful for to the additional money received from the Arnold Clark Community Fund and to Kemnay Academy for donations of food parcels. It was noted that shorter winter hours had been adopted, in respect of the Larder opening hours.

b) All defibrillators seem to be fine. Regarding training for using the defibrillators, this can be provided by the Scottish Ambulance Service, but there would need to be a reasonable number of attendees to make it worthwhile. First Aid training would be provided by a private company, such as St John Ambulance. It was noted there were no First Responders in Kemnay and it was suggested it might be wise to run an article in the Newsletter, in the hope of finding willing volunteers. However, it was noted that any training in relation to First Aid and CPR would need a set amount of volunteers to make it worthwhile. Mention was made that despite us having the Surgery, it was only open during set hours (namely 8am to 6pm).

c) A small group of Community Councillors attended a Zoom meeting with Anne Overton from AC. The 'Fyfe Park Dip' was discussed and suggestions made of possible warning signs being installed for motorists, or a possible speed restriction. It was noted that it's not only the road flooding that is the problem, but the wash that occurs onto the pavement. The problem is unlikely to be solvable in the normal way, unlike the problem which occurred with flooding last year at the Academy end of Bremner Way, which was more likely drainage issues. A River Flood Study (including the sewer) is to be undertaken in the next five years and it was wondered whether 'the Dip' could be included in this. Cllr Payne had raised the issue prior to Christmas and it was noted upgrade work on the corner of Fyfe Park/Victoria Terrace was to be undertaken. Looking back past KCC records, the issue of flooding on Victoria Terrace itself had been an issue since the inception of KCC, but none of the previous, and current, regional councils had managed to resolve the issue. An Informed Scheme in 2021 had looked at the issue of Victoria Terrace, but issues were noted with private land and the wider issue of flooding on Victoria Terrace was not to be looked at, for fear of repercussions further downstream. F Patrick was to order further sandbags to be kept in the

storage container at Birley Bush but there was no update on whether these had now been received. The sandbags from Kembhill Park had now been removed.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Recent Icy Conditions** – The state of the pavements during the recent icy spell was appalling. There were several discussions on the village social media pages, with the general feeling of anger and disappointment that the pavements had not been gritted by AC. It was thought the conditions had been a 'freak weather incident' and that AC would have been unable to cover the village as a whole, due to the large area. It was noted the main thoroughfare roads in the village had been gritted, but any side roads – and the High Street in particular – were atrocious. Kemnay Primary School parents had raised the issue of the path through Bogbeth Park being gritted and Cllr Payne undertook to raise this with AC. However, it was mentioned that there may be a logistical issue regarding this, and that as Victoria Terrace is gritted, that may be directed as the safer option. Due to the narrow pavements, this is not always the case. The issue of Grit Bins was raised and although they are only installed on roads with a specific gradient, some have been installed in places where this does not apply. Issues with refilling the same were also noted. In the past, school janitors who were allocated to specific schools would have ensured that the playgrounds and walkways in and out of school grounds would be salted, but due to the fact that janitors cover multiple schools, this is not always possible.

b) **Roads & Transport Issues** – Serious concerns raised with regard to the X20 service. The service running to the current timetable is simply not working. There are constant delays with the evening service always running late – 88 minutes on one occasion. Passenger numbers appear to have fallen since last year, with the service being deemed “no longer reliable”. The services running late do not appear on the app, and no notification is issued on time, so the current situation is simply not practical. (**Action** - G Berkin to write to the bus operators regarding the issues). Questions were raised as to what the “X” actually stands for, as the service is certainly not “express”. It was noted that there is an upcoming Bus Forum and there have been further slight revisions to the existing timetables.

The Ready-2-Go service is to be withdrawn completely from the end of March. It was felt Kemnay is really losing a service here, as the Ready-2-Go system did not replace existing services which were in place previously. With the withdrawal of these services, it was noted that a bus no longer left the village before 7am and therefore, was unsuitable for those who started work early. Generally, in the wider Garioch area, the morning services seemed to be busy. Watermill Coaches currently own the buses provided for this service. These buses are more accessible to those with disabilities, as opposed to the coaches which are often placed on country routes.

The pothole on Aquithie Road, which gained a lot of attention on social media, has finally been filled in. The sunken drain on the High Street is still an issue, and despite being reported several times, appears to be a low priority. It was noted the best way of getting these problems to be addressed by AC, was to keep reporting them online, and with as many people reporting them as possible.

Letter received from a member of the public regarding the crumbling wall at Victoria Terrace. This has been reported several times but it doesn't seem to have been prioritised. A tree survey being carried out ahead of any repairs to the wall may be worthwhile, given the age of some of the trees in Bogbeth Park (**Action** – G Berkin to write to AC regarding a tree survey).

No update has been received regarding the community minibus. Kemnay still has no minibus to be used by community groups/schools. Despite it being brought up at various forums, limited action has been taken. The matter is to be added to the Agenda for the next KCC meeting. (**Action** – F Patrick to add this to the Agenda for the next meeting).

c) **Community Council Membership** – Unanimous decision to agree with the status quo of adopting L Aitken and R Lamplugh as associate members to avoid the necessity of any election this year.

d) **Christmas Lights** – Funding had been received from the National Lottery Community Fund, after a successful application. R Lamplugh and L Aitken had surveyed the existing lights, marking those which are no longer fit for purpose, with them to be replaced this coming year. It was noted that whilst we could purchase new motifs, no further sockets would be installed by AC. The Christmas Lights Group is to arrange a meeting once the new catalogues have been issued by the suppliers. The motifs themselves would be PAT tested earlier, in order to provide more time to purchase new motifs to replace those no longer working. Express thanks once again to Gavin Adam for erecting and removing the motifs.

## 8. TREASURER REPORT

Not much to report. A grant was received from Aberdeenshire Council, in respect of the CCTV for the Village Hall. Donations for the Larder included sums from the Arnold Clark Community Fund and Cash Donations. Funds from the National Lottery Community Fund were received in respect of the Christmas Lights Fund. Just under £20,000.00 in the Resilience Fund, but most of this will go towards the generator. A direct debit has been set up, in respect of the monthly payment to the Secretary.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

- a) **Current planning applications** – Circulated prior to the meeting. No action to be taken on
- Erection of Dwellinghouse Millstone, Fetternear Ref. No: APP/2022/2395
  - Erection of Dwellinghouse Boatleys, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2022/2685
  - Installation of Ground Mounted Solar PV array and Ground Source Heat Pump at Longfold, Blairdaff Ref. No: APP/2023/0010
  - Change of Use of Land to Form Domestic Garden Ground and Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse at Backgreens Cottage Fetternear Ref. No: APP/2023/0018
- b) The Local Development Plan has now been adopted by AC.

## 10. REPORTS

- a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No update.
- b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – No recent meeting.
- c) **Community Planning** – The presentation from the November meeting had been circulated. Only larger settlements are now being considered for the ‘Strategic Needs’ assessments. Kemnay had originally been planned for February 2021. However, a ‘Statistical Profile’ may be undertaken instead. An Action Plan had been completed for Oyne, plans for Echt and Westhill were in development, Kirkton of Skene are awaiting and Newmachar had expressed an interest. A Wellbeing Festival is to take place in May, with input for Kemnay through the ‘KemFest’ group. Event planned for Birley Bush, including a walk around the Kemnay Steens and food on the barbecue. It was noted dedicated officers are in place to undertake speed checks.
- d) **Greener Kemnay** – The application to the Just Transition Participatory Budget was successful. Just over £11,000.00 has been received and specific equipment is already being sought. Ideally, the money should be spent by the end of March. Express thanks to all who voted – from Kemnay and beyond. The GK Energy Group is to meet in the coming weeks, with regards to seeking volunteers being trained to use the new equipment.
- e) **Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP)** – Recent meeting cancelled.
- f) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC*: No meeting.  
*KPPC*: Not much to report. Concerns raised regarding the recent icy conditions.  
*AWPC*: No update.
- g) **Press Reports**– No update received. Noted the Inverurie Advertiser has now ceased publication, but content can be found on their website.

## 11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

*Cllr Payne*: Recent issues with ‘busses, budgets and bins’. There had been a slight issue with some refuse service collections, which was mainly contributable to staff absence due to illness. The recent icy conditions and the state of pavements had also been raised. It was noted Church Lane had experienced difficulties with bin emptying. In the event of this occurring again, reporting the same to AC should rectify the issue, with bins being emptied relatively quickly thereafter.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Correspondence from the Council** - was circulated prior to the meeting.
- Community Council Forum Agenda
  - Trading Standards Bulletins No 58 & 59
  - Social media Guide
  - Community Council Induction Sessions
  - Ready2Go Inverurie Survey
  - Dangers of Playing on Ice
  - Winter Maintenance Overview
  - Pick up/Drop off at ARI
  - Stagecoach Service Revisions
  - Extension of Energy Bills Support Scheme
  - Act 2 Funding
  - Attending Community Councils Card for Councillors
  - Weather Warning Updates
  - Flood Risk Management Plan
  - CLD Power Tools Programme

- Proposed Replacement Bus Service
- Draft Aberdeenshire Development Plan Scheme 2023
- Service 240 (Oldmeldrum-Inverurie-Kemnay)
- Webinar for Community Councils with Community Map Scotland
- Aberdeenshire Doors Open Day
- Community Wealth Building Programme
- SSEN link – Storm Otto
- Storm otto Bulletins
- Draft Development Scheme Consultation - Reminder

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

- Aberdeenshire Flag – Voting open
- Health Improvement Scotland – Newsletter
- Community Council Participation Request – Mearns CC
- Community Events for the Coronation

**13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** – *D Johnston*: Thanks to Cllr Smith for the update regarding the disabled swing for Bogbeth Park. It was noted the swing itself would be a basket/bowl design, as opposed to those suitable for a wheelchair. A new disability friendly roundabout is also to be installed. Unknown when exactly this will happen. *R Lamplugh*: Queries raised regarding GK's ownership of the woods behind Birley Bush. They would be keen to know the situation regarding the depot. The current licence was issued in 2017, initially as a two year lease, with one rolling, but no word has been received since. GK keen to get a conversation started re. this. Would an asset transfer be possible? Cllr Payne undertook to begin the conversation with the appropriate department. *S Wainman*: Asked whether KCC Councillors would appreciate the GK monthly bulletin. Unanimous decision that this would be most helpful.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023  
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**