

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 23rd February 2023 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available

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

Apologies: Claire Stewart; Cllr Payne;

Attending: 2 members of the public

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 26th JANUARY 2023 – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh, seconded by D Johnston.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Report received and circulated. Crime continues to be at low levels in the village, although the increase in instances of public nuisance caused by groups of youths across the Garioch area was noted.

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – H Hughes and J Thomas presented data they had collected re speeding at the Quarry Road end of the village. Real concerns for the safety of school children crossing at this point. There have already been several incidents and the fear is that there will be a fatality. H Hughes monitored the traffic coming in to the village one morning from 7.45am-8.45am and discovered that of the 110 vehicles, the majority turned into Bremner Way towards the Academy (and possibly Alehousewells). 67 vehicles triggered the 30MPH flashing warning sign, including 6 out of the 8 school buses. What can be done about the situation? H Hughes was encouraged to pass on his data to the police, who do monitor speeding hotspots, when they can, and have a dedicated team for the Garioch area. However, this is a wide area and resources are limited. It was unlikely Aberdeenshire Council will do anything about changing the speed limit on Aquithie Rd/Quarry Road to 20MPH before legislation comes in from the Scottish Govt, although Cllr Grant pointed out that there is no legal impediment to Aberdeenshire Council going ahead. Cost would be an issue, however. Any incidents of concerns re speeding and dangerous driving should always be reported to the police as this informs their deployment of resources; the more people report an issue, the more likely it is something will get done. Same with pedestrian crossings. KCC has already investigated the possibility of a crossing near McColls, but this location was not deemed suitable for the installation of one. **(Action:** Chair and Councillors to contact Roads Dept about the speeding issue and also the possibility of the installation of a crossing at the top of Bremner Way.

Action: Secretary will contact Aberdeenshire Council about the buses and cc H Hughes and J Thomas.

Action: Secretary will inform police of issues raised.)

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE – a) The plinth for the generator is supposed to be installed this month; cost of generator has increased by £700 due to supply & inflation pressures (Cllr Grant suggested more funding might be available to cover this increase, if required.) A quote has been received from S&J Metalwood to build the security cage. It seems no decision has been made by Aberdeenshire Council about the emergency back-up power situation at Littlewood Court. Some discussion of batteries and a generator of some sort. KCC to monitor the situation.

The Larder continues to be quite busy; very grateful for the levels of support from individuals, local groups and grant funding.

b) Report received from the PADS Co-ordinator – no issues this month. D Gauld is willing to offer training sessions on CPR and the defibrillators for 10 people at a time; two sessions are to be organised initially. S Wainman is arranging these; the Resilience Group is to be asked to fund the hire of the hall. **(Action:** F Patrick to confirm this with the Resilience Group.) Further sessions might be offered by Karen Johnson.

c) No replacement sandbags at Birley Bush container; the pile of grit & bags which can be filled are still available in the parking area by the golf club shop. **(Action:** F Patrick to contact Aberdeenshire Council to get stock of sandbags replenished and also to ask if a supply of salt/grit can be stored in the village after the recent very icy conditions which saw people unable to go out for fear of slipping and falling.)

The Floodsax used to top the bund at Milton Meadows are to remain in place and be covered in earth in order to increase the height of the barrier.

S Wainman has passed on all the information about floodgates and vent covers to residents at Stuart Crescent and has also given a detailed response to the member of the public who contacted KCC about the 'dip' at the junction of Fyfe Park and Victoria Terrace.

Scottish Water has now fixed the drainage issue which had caused flooding on Riverside Road.

Brief discussion on the difficulty in identifying the correct officer at Aberdeenshire Council in order to report/get information on an issue. (Action: Secretary to circulate the updated list of contacts received from the Council.)

7. MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Roads & Transport Issues** – Grit/salt to be requested (see above). The unreliability of the Stagecoach services on the Kemnay-Aberdeen route continue to cause concern. G Berkin has already written to Stagecoach, but only received a standard reply in response. Another letter has now been sent.

Also some concern about the Kemnay-Inverurie-Oldmeldrum route currently run by Bains. The two routes which comprise this service are out for tender but there is the fear that one of the routes may get cut. (Action: S Wainman to raise at next Community Council Forum.) No response has been received from Aberdeenshire Council about the tree survey requested by KCC in relation to the wall in disrepair on Victoria Terrace. Cllr Smith thought this was on the service plan for this year (Action: Cllr Smith to pursue the request for a tree survey.)

Community minibus – thanks to Rob Mackay for attending the recent Community Transport Forum and raising the issue of Kemnay's community minibus. The Public Transport Unit is to pursue this and it will be raised at a meeting next week. (Action: Secretary to pass on relevant information to this meeting and to ask Rob if he would attend further ACTF meetings.) WVS has stopped services to Kemnay and Alford.

The sunken drain on the high Street has still not been repaired. (Action: Secretary to contact Aberdeenshire Council again about this.)

Concerns raised again about the poor state of the boundary/retaining walls at Wood Gardens. The render is coming off and causing a hazard on the pavement. (Action: Secretary to contact Landscape Services about this.)

b) **Kemnay Breakfast & After School Club** – Two letters were sent by KCC Chair to the Chief Executive at Aberdeenshire Council in strong support of the Breakfast & After School Club. It appears a solution has been found and the Club will be able to continue in the meantime. This was put out via the Club's Facebook page but not shared directly with KCC; no response as yet has been received from the Chief Executive in response to the letters sent. (Action: G Berkin to find out more about this at next meeting of KPPC.)

c) **Community Council Participation Request** – KCC to monitor the progress of this request being made by Mearns Community Council.

d) **Community Coronation Event** – KCC not planning to do anything official for this; it will be up to individuals/groups to organise their own events.

8. TREASURER REPORT

Notification of insurance renewal from Zurich. Payment for this is taken from the administration grant by Aberdeenshire Council. (Action: F Patrick to check that the generator will still be covered and any additional premium.)

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** – (Applications not received in time to be included on agenda.) No action to be taken on:

Part Demolition of Poultry Shed and Erection of Dwellinghouse

Blairdaff Ref. No: APP/2023/0235

Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Garage

High Street, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2023/0262

b) **Draft Aberdeenshire Development Plan Scheme 2023** – S Wainman attended a webinar on the mapping tool, which could perhaps be useful for resilience and paths information but not particularly helpful for the Local Place Plan, which is what KCC will need to be vigilant about. KCC Chair has written to Piers Blaxter at Planning re potential development at Fyfe Park appearing on the Development Plan. P Blaxter aware of the issues but stated that nothing could be done at present.

Cllr Grant encouraged people to have a look at the Development Plan Scheme as it leads on to the next Aberdeenshire Development Plan.

10. REPORTS

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – There is to be a meeting on 13th March.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Meeting next week.

c) **Community Planning** – No update.

d) **Greener Kemnay** – Energy Group: Busy purchasing equipment with the recent successful grant award. There is to be a drop-in day on 18th March at Kemnay Village Hall to let people see/use the equipment. Matthew Clubb from the

Daviot Group will be in attendance to help with showing the equipment. Local businesses are to be invited. The aim is to check properties in the village and to get any buildings insulated that need to be. Now funding for training is needed – one course could cost £1000.

Progress is being made with the boules court, just waiting for hardcore. Hope it will be ready for the Birley Bush Open Day on 13th May. And for the Wellbeing Festival. Trying to get some community benefit funding from the company given the contract to upgrade the council houses.

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

f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC – *KAPC*: Bus park has been agreed for 16 buses on land at side of the Academy. It would be useful if the carpark could also be used when the football, etc is on. *KPPC*: Meeting next week. *APPC*: Duck Race to be held same day as Raft Race.

g) Press Reports– None.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

Cllr Smith: Working on the budget; *Cllr Grant*: Also working on budget and it has been a busy time with gritting and refuse collection issues. (**Action**: Cllr Grant will send on potentially helpful contact details of managers at Aberdeenshire Council.)

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Emails re Community Council Participation Request
- Reminder – Draft Development Plan Scheme Consultation
- Inspiring Aberdeenshire Awards Launch
- Invitation to attend HTAP Review Workshop
- Statement re Kemnay Academy Bus Park

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

- Community events for the Coronation
- Health Improvement Scotland Newsletter
- Trading Standards Bulletin No 62
- Community Wealth-building Programme
- Letter from Lord Lieutenant re Coronation Weekend, 6th-8th May
- Letter from member of public re state of wall on Victoria Terrace
- Letter from member of the public re the 'dip' at Fyfe Park junction

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK – *R Lamplugh*: no instructions with the EV chargers in the carpark. (**Action**: R Lamplugh to contact Infrastructure Services.) *S Wainman*: perennial plants now available for planting as the roundels have now been cleared by Landscape Services.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 30th March 2023
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**