

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 30th March 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; Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Gabby Stevens; Dan Johnston; Cllr Grant(via Zoom); Cllr Smith; Cllr Payne

Apologies: Claire Stewart; Sasha Brydon; Suzanne Bunton

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 23rd February 2023 – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by D Johnston seconded by J Whittall.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Report received and circulated. Sgt MacDougall to look into the incident at Kemnay Primary School, which is still experiencing some incidents of abuse and harassment by a small group of youths. Speeding issues, reported by KCC after last meeting, are also being tackled. The Youth Diversionary Project is due to start in the Easter holidays.

(Actions: S Wainman to pass on H Johnson’s email address to Secretary; **G Berkin** to circulate the guidelines re the siting of pedestrian crossings; **F Patrick** to request a road survey from Aberdeenshire Council re speeding at top of Bremner Way and to ask if the Academy could remind pupils about traffic safety; **D Johnston** to raise with Aberdeenshire Road Safety Officer.)

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

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE – a) The plinth for the generator is now in place, now just waiting for the security cage to be galvanised and then arrangements for installation. A local business has offered to move generator into place. A request for additional funding to cover the increase in the cost of the generator was submitted to Garioch Area Committee and agreed. The Larder continues to be busy, with weekly expenditure on items for the Larder increasing noticeably as a result. LaHK/CL continues to be very grateful for the ongoing support of the community - several individual donations and a very generous donation from the Kemnay Bingo Club have been received this month.

(Correspondence received from Cllr Smith re the generator for Littlewood Court – ordered but a delay on delivery.)

b) Report received from the PADS Co-ordinator – no issues this month. Forms have come from Aberdeenshire Council about the official agreement re the siting of the units on Council properties. No current KCC member nor the PADS Co-ordinator have any knowledge of these. They will probably need to be re-done. **(Action: P Paterson** to contact Bob Ingram about the PADS paperwork.) There has been a review carried out by Aberdeenshire Council about the siting of PADS.

c) Some trees have been planted as flood mitigation, although some did need to be re-sited as they blocked the entry point for the raft race. Sandbags should now be in the container at Birley Bush **(Action: R Lamplugh** to check and let Secretary know.) Kembhill Park Flood Group had a meeting recently and is to continue, with Jim Buchan taking over as Chair. Interesting response received from Aberdeenshire Council (via Cllr Payne) re the Fyfe Park ‘dip’ at junction with Victoria Terrace. Apparently, this is caused by run-off from neighbouring fields and, according to the Roads Act, it would appear to be the responsibility of the owner of these fields to put in appropriate drainage. Not sure which fields are being cited nor who now owns the site earmarked for development.

G Berkin has been in correspondence with SEPA re the possible installation of a river gauge at Kemnay. SEPA will not instal one but KCC could perhaps on behalf of the community. Thought that KPFG may have had one at one point? **(Action: P Paterson** to contact J Buchan of KPFG about gauge boards.)

7. MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Roads & Transport Issues** – Pothole/sunken drain on High Street still awaiting repair, with all traffic using the narrow street being seriously affected by it, but especially buses. Cllr Payne reported that it has been moved up to a higher priority.

(**Action:** AC Councillors to request that at least a warning be painted round the drain to warn traffic.) It was noted that the pothole on Aquithie Road is developing again.

A response has been received from Iain Welsh and Ian Mitchell at Aberdeenshire Council re the poor state of the retaining walls at Wood Gardens. The notification is now with Gillian Aitken at Housing to look into.

However, no response received by Cllr Smith as yet about the state of the wall on Victoria Terrace or the request for a tree survey. (**Action:** Cllr Smith to pursue this.)

G Berkin wrote to Stagecoach re the unreliability of the Kemnay-Aberdeen service. It was noted that the service is working a little better, particularly in the evening. Still some issues with the morning service, with buses not turning up and no notification issued. Electric buses are in use on the route, which are good and very comfortable. Pleased that Watermill taking over the Kemnay-Inverurie-Oldmeldrum route, using many of the Ready-2-Go minibuses.

Correspondence has been received from a member of the public about the illegal and potentially dangerous parking at the top of the High Street. This is mainly at the beginning and end of the school day. This is an issue that has been raised several times and the police are aware of the situation and have taken action in the past. (**Action:** Secretary to inform police again of these parking issues.)

ACTF and Kemnay Community minibus (R Mackay): R Mackay put the case of the 'missing' Kemnay minibus at the recent Aberdeenshire Community Transport Forum meeting. The funding from the Council to community transport seems to be allocated to established community transport associations, such as the Buchan Dial-up Community Bus and the Westhill Community Bus, etc. The Kemnay minibus is in a different situation as it was set up (through the Community Learning Department) as an independent community transport and was community funded. Fees were charged for its use which led to a small profit, which in turn over the years allowed for replacement minibuses to be purchased. A garage was built at the Academy to store the minibus with funding from the developer contribution fund. It seems a little unclear about the ownership of both the minibus and garage, as both seem to be 'owned' by Aberdeenshire Council but paid for by/for the community. During lockdown, the Council decided to SORN the vehicle. Susan McHatty at Aberdeenshire Council took over the running of the project in June 2021 and set out to explore the history of the minibus and plan for its future. The minibus needed approx. £2000 of repairs and there is an issue with it being a 17-seater bus as this requires a different type of driver's licence, which impacts the number of possible volunteer drivers. However, there has been no recent update on the minibus. Heather Dey and Marion Mackay from the Passenger Transport Unit have undertaken to pursue this on our behalf. Chris Murphy (service Manager – Programme Development) has also finally responded; there seems to have been issues caused by staff involved having moved on.

There is still a need for a community minibus in Kemnay but can only now wait for the report from Chris Murphy.

(**Action:** Secretary to write to Chris Murphy to request a meeting.)

It was agreed that a history of the whole minibus saga should be written so that all details are stated.

(**Action:** R Mackay and Naida Sneddon to pull together a report and then circulate to KCC before then sending on to our three Councillors, who may be able to push the matter.)

Riverside Path: This is a core path and should therefore be in a condition suitable for all potential users. Cllr Smith advised R Mackay that his group, Paths for All, should put in a request for grant funding for a 'floating path'.

(**Action:** Cllr Smith to send R Mackay details of fund.)

b) **Community Council Participation Request** – G Berkin was unable to access the digital meeting, but did read through the relevant documentation. The policy outlines various methods of participation but says little about Community Councils.

c) **Digital Mapping: Empowering Local Councils with Technology** – Parish Online is a mapping tool which allows you to add layers of information to a digital map of your area. It would be free for a year, then there would be an (as yet unspecified) charge. KCC agreed unanimously to go ahead with this. (**Action:** S Wainman to explore this mapping system.)

d) **Online Workshops for Community Councils on Community & Active Travel** – For information. No update on the Kemnay-Kintore-Inverurie active travel route.

e) **KCC Participation at Birley Bush Event** – 13th May. (**Action:** F Patrick to organise KCC stall, with help from D Johnston and, possibly, G Berkin and M Basley.)

8. TREASURER REPORT

End of the financial year and accounts are being audited by J Newberry. A full copy of the accounts will be issued at the AGM in June. Apart from the administrative account, there are four other accounts run under the umbrella of KCC (Resilience, LaHK/Community Larder, Christmas Lights, PADs), which reflects the breadth of work undertaken by the Community Council on behalf of the residents of Kemnay. S Wainman asked if it might be possible to run an account for the volunteer planting group which looks after the flower tubs in the High Street and the roundels at either end of the village. No decision made.

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

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

Replacement of Windows Kemnay Church Centre Ref. No: APP/2023/0301
Alteration and Extension to Dwellinghouse West Aquhorthies, Fetternear Ref. No: APP/2023/0297
Alteration and Extension to Dwellinghouse The Knowe, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2023/0541

10. REPORTS

- a) Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – A presentation from Road Safety Officer. Asked about preventative action where accidents could potentially happen, but it seems action is taken only when the need is proven – ie when there have been incidents at a particular location.
- b) Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – No meeting.
- c) Community Planning** – Nothing of import to Kemnay.
- d) Greener Kemnay** – Energy Group: Most of equipment funding now allocated and have received another £1000 from NESCAN to go towards training. A ‘demonstration day’ was held at Kemnay Village Hall and a number of households have signed up to get checked for heat loss and insulation. The group has investigated working with NE Scotland Retrofit in a co-operative type arrangement. Also, potentially with Zero Carbon Daviot.
(**Action:** Cllr Smith to find out number of council houses in Kemnay, which have had insulation/energy improvements.)
Community Garden: Garden starting to blossom now. Open day on 13th May when the boules court will also be officially opened. Teams will be invited to play – suggested that KCC could put together a team for the event.
- e) Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP)** – R Mackay and S Wainman attended the re-constituted Aberdeenshire Community Learning Partnerships. These are now organised by areas rather than by community.
- f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – Nothing to report this month.
- g) Press Reports**– None.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

Cllr Smith: Budget through; very busy with case work, especially buses. Chief Executive is touring the Ward on Friday 12th May and it is hoped to stop at the Village Hall for coffee. *Cllr Grant:* Also very busy with case work and internal audit reports. Full council set the budget and he will be attending a briefing. *Cllr Payne:* New 240 bus service to start next week. The steps down to Boat Croft have been closed due to safety issues (these steps have not been adopted by the Council, trying to find out owner to get repairs done). Imminent roll-out of new re-cycling bins.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Correspondence from the Council** - was circulated prior to the meeting.
- TP&I: Parent and Carer Sessions
 - Scottish Sentencing Council – Free online webinar
 - Update from Cllr Payne on Fyfe Park Flooding Issues
 - March Roadworks on NE Trunk Road Network
 - Update from Cllrs Grant & Smith on issues raised at previous KCC meeting
 - Winter Weather Briefing
 - Update from Cllr Smith on back-up generator at Littlewood Court.
 - Update from Cllr Grant on the pothole/sunken drain on High Street
 - Introduction of Replacement Bus Services
 - Comments on Draft Engagement and Participation Guide – Invitation to meeting
 - Public Access Defibrillator Policy Review
 - Aberdeenshire Digital Engagement Drive
 - Ready2Go Around Inverurie – Survey
 - Aberdeenshire Community Transport Initiative Funding
 - Free Online Workshops for Community Councils – Community and Active Travel/Cost of Living/Climate/Cars
 - Scottish Sentencing Council – webinars for Community Councils
 - Public Access Defibrillator Policy Review Consultation
 - Aberdeenshire Bus Funding Withdrawal Release
 - Aberdeenshire Sheltered Housing Vacancies
 - UK Government Emergency Alerts Scheme
- b) General Correspondence Received** - was circulated prior to the meeting.
- SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey
 - Trading Standards Bulletin No 64
 - Letter from member of the public re the Petrie family connection with Kemnay: *Letter now with KCC Chair. The naming of streets is usually developer-led and there are guidelines available from Aberdeenshire Council. (Action: G Berkin to investigate the naming process and will also look into further possible military connections to Kemnay of the Petrie family.)*

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK – *L Aitken*: He and G Berkin made a presentation on behalf of KCC to Margaret Coutts in recognition of her 47 years working in the shop, now McColls.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 27th April 2023
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**