

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall

**Present:** Lee Aitken (Vice Chair); John Whittall (Treasurer); Margaret Basley; Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Pauline Paterson; Gabby Stevens; Cllr Smith;

**Apologies:** Gaenor Berkin (Chair); Fran Patrick (Secretary); Suzanne Bunton; Sasha Brydon; Dan Johnston;

**Attending:** Alison Cumming, Area Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council; 1 Member of the Public

**1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES** – The Vice Chair welcomed those attending and gave apologies as above. As was stated in the Agenda, a Zoom link was unable to be provided for the meeting.

**2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/AUDIO RECORDINGS** – 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 (prepared by the Vice Chair in the Secretary's absence). No declaration of interests.

**3 MINUTES OF MEETING 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023** – Minor amendments made, correcting dates and adding an item to "Correspondence Received". Amended Minutes circulated by the Secretary. Proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by R Lamplugh.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Report from Sgt MacDougall circulated prior to the meeting. Crime continues to remain low. Graffiti noted on the green box at the junction to Beech Court and in the lane between Beech Court and the Burnett Arms. According to social media, the incident has been reported to the Police. Noted there had been a notable presence of Police in the village recently, with them also talking to drivers on the High Street. The Report encouraged residents, when safe to do so, to report witnessing of any drug use or the smell of drug use. Noted the distinct smell can be felt in some parts of the village, but unsure whether the Police would simply act on 'smell' alone.

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

### 6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE

a) The latest update from the Secretary was that the generator had arrived but installation had taken longer than anticipated. The mains issue appeared to be finding a suitable date where both Ross Cook and Steve Milne (S&J Metalwood) were available. Noted that the generator cage appeared to be partially dismantled, as at 25<sup>th</sup> May, so delivery and installation may be imminent. If the generator did not arrive the following day, S Wainman to send a follow up email confirming the position; The Community Larder continues to be steady. Increased expenditure of current funds, with fewer donations received.

b) Update from PADs Co-Ordinator confirms no issue with the PADs and all appear to be in working order. No response received to the email to Bob Ingram regarding the initial paperwork involved when the PADs were first installed. Noted there didn't seem to be a further method of contacting B Ingram, with no members being aware of further contact details.

c) G Berkin and S Wainman attended an online meeting by the AC Resilience Team. Nothing new to report. Question was raised regarding communities who do not have the support of their local halls to install generators or use during emergencies. Former MOD site at Edzell Woods has a private sewage system which involves an electric pump. Questions raised what happens when there is no electricity and the sewage backs up. Issue raised whether this applies to Stuart Crescent/Kirkstyle and S Wainman to clarify the situation. (**Action:** S Wainman to clarify the situation re. sewage at Stuart Crescent/Kirkstyle) iPhone 14s have satellite capabilities in emergencies, where most phones do not. Sandbags have now arrived at Birley Bush.

### 7. MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Roads & Transport Issues** – Parking and speeding were the two issues raised by visitors to the KCC stall at the Birley Bush Open Day. Response received from Liz Paul, Head Teacher at Kemnay Academy regarding busses. A pedestrian crossing had been highlighted by the school to AC Roads Team previously but the response received advised the traffic calming measures in place were already "adequate." Surprising to note the Head Teacher still had not received details regarding the creation of a bus park.

Concern raised by a resident of Craig Lea/Loch Way in connection with cars parked at the junction and a pothole. Photos had also been received showing the situation. The Secretary has passed concerns to the police and informed the resident to do likewise, and report the pothole to AC.

Parking and excess traffic on Victoria Terrace during events at Bogbeth Park and the bowling club was also highlighted. Could double yellow lines be installed along Victoria Terrace? Noted that the junction at Boat Croft remains an issue. Double yellow lines are installed in accordance with the Highway Code and will only be installed on a corner, if the junction leads on to a main road/thoroughfare. Despite the issue of yellow lines being raised with AC before, general consensus to try raising the issue of Victoria Terrace once again. Cllr Smith to also highlight the issue. (**Action:** Secretary to write to AC regarding installing further double yellow lines on Victoria Terrace).

Issues with parking outside the Co-op continues to be problematic. Especially near the junction with Bridge Road and the High Street. Whilst local residents will know to slow down on approach, people out with the area may be unaware. Problems with electric cars, and the fact they make less noise on approach, was also highlighted. Could a blind summit sign be installed on approach to the 'hump'? The issue had been raised at the previous meeting but given the Secretary's absence, clarity to be sought on whether this has already been highlighted to AC. (**Action:** Secretary to write to AC regarding a blind summit sign, if this has not already been done).

The Secretary had been contacted by a resident with concerns regarding the upcoming Performance Car Event at Castle Fraser in August. Issues noted from last year that parking was a major issue. Secretary has passed the concerns to the police.

b) **Christmas Lights** – Nine new motifs have been purchased, together with a further motif for the roundel beside Littlewood Court. The costs of this have been covered by the National Lottery Grant Funding received at the end of last year. Cllr Smith had been contacted by local residents around Christmastime, complementing the displays but also enquiring whether the lights could be spread more evenly throughout the village, perhaps nearer the schools, for example. All motifs at present are on the main thoroughfare road and the High Street. AC's previous position was that they would not install further sockets to lampposts. Unsure whether AC would allow KCC to cover the cost of installation of sockets. R Lamplugh to clarify with AC whether this is the case. Noted that the type of lamppost may also be an issue. (**Action:** R Lamplugh to write to AC regarding whether KCC can meet the cost of installing new sockets and if not, the reasons why).

c) **Shared Prosperity Fund** – Email received and circulated on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. £8.3million allocated to Aberdeenshire by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. The aim is to "build pride in places and increase life chances across the UK". Noted that no project by KCC would meet the criteria at the moment, but worth noting for future reference.

d) **Scottish Conference for Community Councillors** – Email received on 17<sup>th</sup> May and circulated. Online conference to be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023, between 10am-1pm. Subject is "Democracy Matters" and any Community Councillor wishing to attend can do so via the email.

## 8. TREASURER REPORT

Admin Grant received from AC. Noted there has been a slight decrease from last year. The Treasurer confirmed the current position regarding each account. Regarding the Larder, the account has a positive balance, with 50% of that being made up by grant funding from AC and Arnold Clark. The remainder is made up of donations. Despite this, spending has increased significantly. In respect of Resilience, the generator has now been paid. The sum remaining will be used in installing the same. All outlays have been paid to date and the Accounts will be circulated, prior to being approved at next month's AGM.

Noted that just over £2,000.00 remains in the General KCC Account. Discussion on whether the additional funds could be used towards a worthwhile cause. Caution raised on whether the funds were simply built up due to online meetings, and no hall bookings, during the pandemic. Sums could also be used towards a fund for plants for the village planters and troughs. Discussion on the method of buying compost and plants for the troughs will be delayed until the June meeting. (**Action:** Treasure to check back previous years' accounts to see whether this sum has increased over a period of time, together with the exact outlays met from the General Fund). Issue also raised on whether the insurance cover currently covers exactly what it needs to. G Stevens offered to work with the Secretary to go over this, albeit it was noted that it would be best to do this when the policy is up for renewal.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** – Circulated prior to the meeting. No action to be taken on:  
- Alteration and Extension to Dwellinghouse – Pitmunie Place, Kemnay, Ref. No: APP/2023/0843  
- Erection of Agricultural Machinery Storage Building – Bograxie, Ref. No: APP/2023/0815

b) The Local Development Plan Scheme 2023 – the draft has now been approved by AC Infrastructure Services Committee.

## 10. REPORTS

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – D Johnston attended the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 and asked for clarification on the planned 20mph residential speed limits to be enrolled across Aberdeenshire. All primary school pupils to be provided with reflective tags to use when walking to and from school.

**b) Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – No recent meeting.

**c) Community Planning** – Presentations from previous meetings have been circulated by S Wainman.

**d) Greener Kemnay** – Well-attended open day event. The Boules Piste was well used and plans in place to launch a Boules Club on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Good weather was also a bonus. Disappointment that the e-bikes – booked the previous year and well-advertised – did not turn up, apparently due to staffing issues. Energy Group awaiting grant funding to enable training with the new equipment recently purchased, and the subsidy of allowing 20 homes in the village to be surveyed.

A Roadshow by British Gas, with NESFIT, took place at the village hall, showcasing e-pumps and highlighting the worthwhile exercise of improving insulation before buying new equipment (e.g. heat-pumps). Despite the event being advertised on the village social media page, as a whole, it hadn't been well advertised, e.g. in the Newsletter or local press, and more publicity may have resulted in more attendance at the event.

**e) Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP)** – Nothing to report since the last meeting.

**f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC*: No update. S Wainman to again participate in English projects, on behalf of GK, where pupils in small groups learn about local groups, before preparing a presentation.

*KPPC*: Major issue raised by parents regarding the size of school meals. There appeared to be no difference in the size of portions provided to pupils in P1 and P7. Upcoming school fundraiser.

*AWPC*: Advertising of the Duck Race, coinciding with the annual Raft Race.

**g) Press Reports** – Article in the Press & Journal regarding Openreach Full Fibre Broadband, with properties in Kemnay being eligible. Terms of the article confusing, given that fibre broadband has already been installed in the village and most of the surrounding area.

**(h) Bus Forum** – (Not previously on the Agenda) – R Lamplugh attended the recent forum, with not much to report regarding Kemnay. Some communities irate that the Ready2Go service had been withdrawn with no real replacement. Anger that the previous Service 37 (to Aberdeen) being withdrawn and replaced with the Number 9, which now does not serve Kintore. No hospital service covers Kemnay. Issues raised regarding the X20 and not leaving the correct stance at the bus station. Anti-social behaviour at the bus station was also highlighted. Query raised on whether the Number 37 (Inverurie Town Service) could be included to cover both Kemnay and Kintore? Noted that the bus and rail timetables do not correspond with each other, to allow passengers to utilise connecting travel options.

#### **11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –**

*Cllr Smith*: AC Chief Executive, Jim Savege, toured the village with Cllr Smith earlier this month. The tour began at Insch, highlighting issues at the railway station, the possibility of a nursery at the local primary school and options for the local hospital. The tour in Kemnay began at the weekly coffee morning, before a tour of the hall (generator/resilience, newsletter, bargain box and Larder). Parking issues at Boat Croft junction were also highlighted, together with the wall at Bogbeth. The riverside path at Kembhill Park and the proposed bus park at the Academy was also mentioned.

#### **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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

**13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** – *S Wainman*: At a recent Community Planning meeting, noted Insch Hospital to provide community services, such as physio and chiropody services. Regarding the recent Newsletter article from Kemnay Surgery, and issues with funding for nursing staff, possible upgrades may be made to Fyfe Park Clinic, with staff being provided by the NHS.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**AGM at 7.30pm**

**With monthly KCC Meeting thereafter  
at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**