

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 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; Brian Cowie; Cllr Grant; Cllr Smith; Cllr Payne

**Apologies:** Claire Stewart; Gabby Stevens; Dan Johnston; Suzanne Bunton; **Attending:** Two 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 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023** – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman seconded by J Whittall.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Report received and circulated. Substantial increase in incidents of public nuisance, as often happens over the summer holidays. Very disappointing, but otherwise low crime in area. Some discussion followed on Police Scotland's 12-week trial of proposed new approach to certain crimes – ie if there is no evidence, an incident will be booked and a number given but there will be no further action. Question over who decides on whether there is sufficient evidence and whether the police will monitor for patterns and trends (then take action?). Opinions are being sought on this trial. However, people must continue to report incidents.

(**Action:** Secretary to invite Sgt MacDougall to a KCC meeting and to seek clarification on this trial.)

**5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK** – Mrs J Lees addressed the meeting re the planning application for the piece of land that includes the old drovers' road, an ancient right of way. The applicant has put in an amended application to Aberdeenshire Council but issues still remain, including the covering up of part of the original road and the much poorer standard of path being proposed, contrary to planning policy. KCC has already objected to the original plan and is to discuss the amended plan (see Item 9b). The deadline for objections is 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE** – a) The generator has now been connected and will be fuelled up in the next couple of weeks, when some training will be given on how to operate it. Thanks expressed to Ross Cook and Michael Low for moving the generator unit and setting it on its plinth. The security cage has also now been amended and re-installed.

F Patrick and S Wainman attended an online meeting with Aimi Blueman, who is being funded for a period by SSEN to work with Aberdeenshire Council on reviewing resilience across the region. She will be looking particularly at communication and the situation in care facilities. Littlewood Court, for example, now has its back-up generator, but is still waiting for battery packs for those residents who need to use hoists, etc. (Further testing is required for oil contamination at Littlewood Court, so the back area still has not been re-instated.)

S Wainman and G Berkin are to attend the Resilience Conference to be held in Aberdeen on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

b) No report received in time for meeting. (**Action:** Secretary to request report from PADs Co-ordinator and will circulate.) There was a query over the balance in the PADs account, as shown on the financial report. (**Action:** Treasurer to check.) Replacement batteries will soon need to be purchased for the five units and these are expensive. (**Action:** Secretary will contact the PADs Co-ordinator about the batteries. **Action:** Chair will research funding sources for replacement items for the PADs units.)

c) Kemnay may be in line to get a flood resistant (tarmac) path at the riverside. The height of the bund at Milton Meadows has been increased. No further information on the 'dip' at Stuart Crescent.

d) (Additional item) Digital Voice: this is going ahead. Notification has already been received re the Village Hall. This means that landline will run through the internet rather than remain analogue, which will have resilience implications in the case of another failure of the mobile/digital system due to power outages. This will also potentially affect a lot of rural areas, whose internet often comes through phone line. Some confusion about the roll out of this, as it had been believed this had been put on hold after the problems caused during the last major storms. The public phone box in the village is now also digital. (**Action:** Secretary to find out more about this by contacting Jack Rigby, Digital Engagement Newsletter.)

## 7. MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Roads & Transport Issues** – Chris Murphy was invited to attend KCC meeting but has responded to say that the investigation into the Kemnay minibus is ongoing and that he will be in touch once he knows more. S Wainman has circulated the plans for the proposed bus park (for 9 coaches) at Kemnay Academy, which are now with Planning at Aberdeenshire Council. Hoping to start construction in January. Plans for the Riverside Path were shared at the recent Community Councils Forum and it is in line to be tarmacked from just before the water works up to the houses. However, still awaiting official tenders for the work. New road layout at the new Malcolm Allan housing development has taken quite a few people by surprise. Welcome that speed calming has been introduced at this entrance to the village (question on whether similar speed calming could/should be installed on other roads coming into the village), but the layout seems confusing and the signage is very poor, even dangerous. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Aberdeenshire Council Roads Dept about improving this.) The 421 bus service will continue to be operated by Bains in the meantime, until result of appeal or end of current contract in August 2024.

b) **Community Councils: Networking Event Webinar; Democracy Matters Event** – For information, community councils are being strongly encouraged to attend these.

c) **Environment: Carbon Literacy Workshop; the Big Bulb Plant** - S Wainman attended this workshop but discovered that there is a cost involved if anyone wants to get the toolkit and undertake the training, with a view then to train others. She has asked Alison Cumming at Aberdeenshire Council to see if the Council would/could offer this training. Have not registered this year for the Big Bulb Plant due to fact that the area chosen by Green Space may not be available in the longer term. However, Alehousewells Primary and the Academy will be taking part.

## 8. TREASURER REPORT

F Patrick to be reimbursed for the cost of the Zoom subscription; a regular standing order donation has been set up for the Community Larder; Treasurer to investigate the charges on the account, although it was noted that these only kick in after 10 transactions in a month; request for a more detailed monthly report; the balance in the PADs account shown in the financial report to be checked.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** – No action to be taken on:

**Erection of Garage** Hope Cottage, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2023/1207

**Felling of 1 Mature Beech Tree** Old Schoolhouse, Kemnay Ref. No: TRE/2023/0064

**Erection of Dwellinghouse** Land at High Street Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2023/1379

**Alterations and Extensions to Garage** Leschangie, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2023/1400

**Erection of Storage Building for Existing Car Spare Business (sui generis)**

Beechbank, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2023/1436

**Formation of Vehicular Access and parking Area**

Austin House, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2023/1447

**Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse**

Forrestview House, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2023/1556

**Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse**

Bremner Way, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2023/1638

b) Update: **Change of Use of Land to Domestic Curtilage and Erection of Boundary Fence & Wall:**

Dalmore House, Kemnay; Ref No: APP/2023/1064

It was discovered that this planning application affected a right of way, so KCC decided to change its original decision to take no action and to put in an objection. A second objection was made to the revised plans. KCC members unanimously agreed to maintain their objection.

c) **LDP 2028 – Topic Paper – Soils; LDP 2023 – Draft Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligation:** Re developer obligation, it was noted that for some developments in Kemnay, this is supposed to go towards the expansion of Kemnay Academy, which has now been put on the back burner by Aberdeenshire Council.

## 10. REPORTS

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No update.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Presentation on GP provision in Kintore, Inverurie and Westhill. Kemnay seems in a better position in this regard. Information was shared re the Kemnay Riverside path.

c) **Community Planning** – Still discussion Place Plans and poverty inequalities. (**Action:** Should KCC explore doing a Place Plan for Kemnay? This to be considered by KCC over the next few months.)

d) **Greener Kemnay** – Meeting at the beginning of the month when looking to expand membership. The community garden has had a really good year; the GK AGM is in November, with the focus again on energy; planning for next year's May event is underway; the boules are going from strength to strength - the meeting time likely to change to a Sunday afternoon. At the AGM, hoping to have GK's two trained thermographers present, also people who've had external

insulation fitted, someone with a granite steading and someone who has recently had PV panels installed. Wanting to move forward with paths around the village. The section of path from Bremner Way to the Dalmadilly Path has narrowed substantially. Aberdeenshire Councillors present were asked if they could get this path widened again.

**(Action :** Secretary to contact Garioch Area Office and Landscape Services about this.)

Kemnay Steens – money has been granted from Community Planning for two new signs – one at Bogbeth Park and one at Fetternear car park. The current sign at Fetternear also needs renewing, so might be able to combine both.

**e) Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)** – Good discussion; £5000 fund available for projects in the area. Groups put forward their various projects, but no update received on outcome as yet.

**f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – Unfortunately F Patrick not able to attend meeting at Kemnay Academy as the invitation came very late. *KPPC:* Still some anti-social behaviour, but are reporting all incidents to police. *APPC:* F Patrick has contacted the PTA with a view to offering the support of KCC.

**g) Press Reports**– Armed police in attendance at a false call out at Craigearn Park; Right of way issue at Dalmore House; Active Travel routes, feasibility study re linking Kemnay/Kintore/Inverurie; Kemnay Academy oversubscribed; resolution of Farm Shop retrospective planning; Letter published re Kemnay Academy being over capacity; Letter published on behalf of Kemnay Buggy Walks re positive effect of Kate Forbes speaking out on postnatal issues.

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

*Cllr Payne:* Involved with issues re X20 bus, damage to the bus stop on Aquithie Road, the roll out of the orange bins. Conducts surgeries the last Wednesday of the month in the Library. *Cllr Smith:* New legislation re pavement parking – Aberdeenshire Council has received money to conduct a survey on possible exemptions to the ban on parking on pavement. Only 7 or 8 exemptions across the 'shire, none in Kemnay. This is about pedestrian safety and is a Council responsibility. Communities should report any areas/roads they think should be assessed for exemption. *Cllr Grant:* Dealing with issues arising from the new orange bin roll out. Pothole on Quarry Rd has been repaired. Has contacted Susan Adams at Garioch Area re Kemnay Community Larder. *(F Patrick has been in touch with Susan Adams about this.)*

Participatory budgeting – 1% target, although Aberdeenshire Council does fall short on this. Ongoing issues re budgets and budget shortfalls.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE (including from the previous month)**

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

- Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund Open
- Scottish Health Council Recruitment
- Community resilience Conference – Monday 2 October 2023
- Annual Canvass
- The Big Bulb Plant 2023
- Drainage Improvements on A96 near Kintore
- Welfare Rights Officer Vacancy
- Consultation on Aberdeenshire's Common Good policy and Creation of Common Good Asset Register
- Formal Consultation of Statement of Licensing Policy
- SSEN Resilient Communities Fund
- Aberdeenshire Council's Digital Engagement Newsletter
- North East Division Rural Matters – July 2023
- Community Council Engagement re Just Transition
- For Sharing: Wildfire
- Temporary Road Closure – U118c Mill of Braco
- Trading Standards Bulletin, No 72
- Aberdeenshire Rural Communities Challenge Fund 23-24
- Temporary road Closure – U118c Burnhervie
- Community Council – Saved the Dates and Information Required
- Bus Service Revision (Garioch) – 21 August 2023
- Stakeholder Consultation – Forest Management by RTS Ltd
- Temporary Road Closure – U109c Craigearn
- Road Restriction – Kemnay
- Trading Standards Bulletin No 73
- Upcoming Works in Kemnay to Install new Water Main
- Upcoming Webinars for Community Councils: Carbon Literacy Toolkit training + Democracy Matters Conversations
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2028 – Topic paper – Soils
- For Information: ACTI grant Application process for 2024/25-2026/27
- Aberdeenshire Council's Digital Engagement Newsletter – July

- Aberdeenshire Rural Communities Challenge Fund 2023-24 – Deadline Reminder
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 – Draft Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations and Affordable Housing – Public Consultation
- Grampian Community Resilience Conference
- Trading Standards Bulletin No 74
- Bus Park – Kemnay
- North East Crime Alert
- Complimentary (online) Conference Places for Community Councils
- Overnight Resurfacing Scheme on A96 at Inverurie
- Community Council Induction Training Event – Thursday, 28 September 2023
- Invitation: National Democracy Matters Webinar: Helping to imagine a different democratic future for Scotland's communities
- Community Councils – Democracy Matters 2
- Trading Standards Bulletin No 75
- Update for CCLOs – Community Councils: Scottish Parliament Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
- Aberdeenshire Council's Digital Engagement Newsletter – September
- Aberdeenshire Council Local Place Plans Release 27.9.23

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

- Query from a Kemnay resident re the Kemnay Academy bus park
- Confirmation of Cover for Generator
- Amey August Newsletter – North East trunk road network
- SSEN Transmission East Coast 400kV Phase 2
- Stakeholder Consultation – Forest Management carried out by RTS Ltd
- SSEN Transmission East Coast 400kV Phase 2 Project
- SSEN Transmission – Annual Engagement Plan 2023/24
- SSEN Transmission Community Benefit Fund Consultation
- Councils – Connect your community to the Slow Ways national walking network
- Query re Newsletter submission
- SSEN Transmission – Networking for Net Zero Summer 2023 Edition
- My Place Awards 2024 Open for Entries
- Which AC Waste Bin to Use
- SSEN Transmission Webinar Invitation – Delivering Net Zero
- Zoom Renewal
- Letter to L Aitken re Kintore substation and pylons
- Letter to L Aitken re the possibility of setting up a 'Fixing Factory' in Kemnay. (This was briefly discussed at meeting and, although very supportive of any such initiative, KCC didn't think this was a project they could take on at the moment. However, would certainly support any other group willing to take it on.)
- Request to Attend Community Council Meetings
- Opinion sought re "proportionate response to crime pilot" in the North East

**13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** – *B Cowie*: Has spoken to local Youth Workers re the possibility of setting up a youth club in the village. *J Whittall*: Reminder that due to Scottish Water works, the junction at bottom of High Street/Station Rd/Aquithie Rd will shortly be closed for 4 weeks. Information shared on behalf of *S Bunton* and Kemnay Parish Church - Kemnay Church is now to be part of an amalgamated parish, run by a team ministry. However, the church and Church Centre will remain open. *R Lamplugh*: Christmas Lights are to be checked and PAT tested over the October holidays. (**Action**: *S Wainman* to ask Shane Easton about possibility of borrowing his small generator.) *S Wainman*: Tree at Bremer Way roundel to be replaced, but Landscape Services to be asked to find out why tree not doing well before another is planted. Gathering information on Place of Origin to send to Ann Overton at Garioch Area Office. Some hedges in the village are becoming an issue as they overhang pavements, as are some trees whose branches are concealing road signs. (**Action**: Secretary to put item in Newsletter encouraging people to cut back hedges.) *G Berkin*: Zoom – responses from KCC members indicated that the Zoom subscription should be renewed for another year, at least over winter.

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