

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available

**Present:** Gaenor Berkin(Chair); John Whittall (Treasurer); Fran Patrick (Secretary); Margaret Basley(via Zoom); Pauline Paterson; Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Brian Cowie; Gabby Stevens; Dan Johnston; Suzanne Bunton; Cllr Grant; Cllr Smith(via Zoom); Cllr Payne

**Apologies:** Lee Aitken (Vice Chair); Claire Stewart **Attending:** One Guest Speaker

**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 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023** – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh seconded by S Wainman.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Report received and circulated. Low crime numbers reported for past month. Response received and circulated from Sgt MacDougall re the procedures for investigating incidents currently being trialled in the region. He wanted to reassure the community that 'assessments are always carried out of any crime reported, with any possible lines of enquiry identified that can be progressed such as CCTV, properties nearby for house-to-house or a witness account.' The difference is that 'with the pilot, the enquiry is not allocated to an officer as the assessment has already been made there are no lines of enquiry for progression and the person reporting the incident will be fully updated regarding this.' All incidents should still be reported to the police so trends and patterns may be identified.

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

### **6. GUEST SPEAKER – Roland Playle (Community Chartering Network): Just Transitions Community Project**

This project aims to help communities develop consensus-based plans similar to a Place Plan. It is ScotGov funded and its focus is to help communities close the gap on inequalities. This is the only socially focussed project as part of the Just Transition initiative and in Aberdeenshire it is looking at 3 communities – so far, Banff & Macduff and Huntly, but Kemnay could be a suitable third community. In the first year of the project, the aim would be to develop a place-based plan, involving all demographics in the community. Bringing representatives of all groups within the community together would be the main job of Roland and his colleague, Jamie Hamilton. The task would be to draw up a plan for the next 5-10 years (looking at all three aspects: environmental, social and economic), listening to voices from all areas of the community; the plan would then be taken back to the community to see if anything had been missed or maybe wouldn't work. In the second year (starting May/June 2024), representatives from across the three participating communities will meet with representatives from Aberdeenshire Council and experts in the fields of the focusses identified, with a view to implement the plan. If the diversity of representation is correct, the process should highlight what should be the focus. Quarterly meetings would be held across the three communities. The community council's contribution would be to help identify the various groups in the community who should be represented on the project. Re funding - the involvement of Aberdeenshire Council is key. The Council has so far been very positive in their response to this project and have agreed to the follow-up meetings to support the implementation of the plans; they recognise the need to find another way to work. The idea of 'transition' is transition to a more 'sustainable' community – not just environmentally but socially and economically.

*The proposal was put to Community Council members that KCC should participate in this project. It was agreed unanimously.*

A preliminary meeting will take place on Friday at the Village Hall when Roland will have the opportunity to meet others from the community. (Unfortunately, no Coffee Shop or Bargain Box this week, but some others will be around.)

**7. KEMNAY RESILIENCE AND COVID RESPONSE** – a) *Community Resilience Planning:* The generator has been fuelled up and a number of people shown how to operate it. Although not needed this time, members of the resilience group did start it up to see how it would operate under real conditions during Storm Babet. All worked well, apart from a couple of fuses tripping, which has been noted. Re Storm Babet, the Resilience Group was asked by Aberdeenshire Council to open the Village Hall as a Rest Centre. The Group also supported the Aberdeenshire Council staff allocated to the Village Hall, which was open 24 hours from Thursday through to Sunday lunchtime. Fortunately, no-one needed to make use of the Rest

Centre this time, although a request for sandbags was dealt with. The poor quality of some of the sandbags held by the Resilience Group has been reported to Aberdeenshire Council and replacements requested. Vote of thanks given to all volunteers who helped. *Community Larder*: continues to be busy; very grateful to the Robertson Group for their recent funding award and also to all Co-op members who scanned their card in support of the three selected community groups, the scheme is now finished for this year. This new funding allows the Larder to support more people with an expanded range of items offered either free or at supported prices. (Request that the fortnightly Fareshare delivery be shared again with the Church Centre. **Action** : F Patrick to arrange this and also to contact the other former recipients.) *Resilience Conference*: Attended by G Berkin and S Wainman – the conference was very useful, with very good speakers. A pity that attendance from community councils and resilience groups was not very high; would be interesting to get feedback on how Culter's very detailed resilience planning coped with recent flooding there, to see if any ideas could be used in Kemnay's planning. SSEN gave information re the recent power cuts in Kemnay – caused by the ceramic contacts being damaged by lightning. The Resilience Conference will be an annual event. *Digital Voice (using the internet for phone service)*: A reply received from Jack Rigby at Aberdeenshire Council - need to be aware that some mobile contracts don't allow this service; batteries on community alarms and fibre cabinets will only last a couple of hours in the event of a power outage.

b) *PADs*: a report has been requested from the Co-ordinator. (**Action**: Secretary to ask Co-ordinator about replacement batteries.)

c) *Flooding*: Kemnay as a whole had few major issues this time. The water level rose quite high but did not breach defences; the Fire Service came round and warned people in Kembhill Park; water needed to be pumped in a couple of residential areas due to drainage issues; the flooding on Victoria Terrace caused some concern. Residents at Stuart Crescent looking at having their own pumps and have requested support from the community council. KCC happy to do this but will need to check where any flood water would be pumped to. A resident reported apparently increased water coming down off the hill at the Horner.

(**Action**: Secretary to contact Aberdeenshire Council again about the drainage on Victoria Terrace.)

The Resilience Group will be conducting a review of its planning, especially with regard to Zone Contacts.

SEPA Kemnay water survey still to be done - should be complete by 2028, with all remedial work done by 2034.

Thank you to Brian Cowie for being the 'voice of Kemnay' after being interviewed by STV re the Village Hall Rest Centre.

## 8. MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Roads & Transport Issues** – Response received from Aberdeenshire Council about the new road layout, several issues acknowledged: the 'operation of the junction and build outs is going to be monitored and a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit will be carried out at the time of the new junction opening to help improve road safety in this area'.

Response received by KCC and Cllr Smith from Aberdeenshire Council re the use of the Alehousewells/Waterside Court car park by contractors. The contractors have permission to use part of the car park while carrying out work for the Council, however the car park should not be accessed by the contractors at dropping off and picking up times. After Covid- related delays, the contract is now due to be completed in March 2024 but Aberdeenshire Council is to keep a closer eye on the situation to make sure that guidelines are followed. It was noted that this has been going on since 2018 and that a residential area has in effect become an industrial area and that there is a knock-on effect with increased parking on Bremner Way and Kembhill Park. (**Action**: Secretary to contact Aberdeenshire Council to ask if risk assessment has been carried out.)

421 bus route – Premier Coaches is to take over this route from 12<sup>th</sup> November.

## 9. TREASURER REPORT

All accounts are relatively healthy. The final payment has been made for the generator, money remaining will be used for maintenance and annual service. The money from the Robertson Trust is now in the Community Larder account.

(**Action**: P Paterson to set up JustGiving page for Christmas Parcels.)

## 10. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

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

**Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse**

Kembhill Park, Kemnay

Ref. No: APP/2023/1816

**Installation of Static Caravan, erection of Amenity Block, Wall, Fence and Formation of Access, Ancillary/Touring Stances and Installation of Gates (Retrospective)**

Quarry Wood, Greatstone, Kemnay

Ref. No: APP/2023/0933

Very disappointing that this is yet another retrospective planning application. (**Action**: Chair to write to Planning to express KCC's frustration about the retrospective nature of this application and also to find out where the agreed replacement trees have been planted.)

It was noted that the plans for the additional house at Blythwood, High Street have been rejected due to issues with sight lines on to Church Lane. This ruling may affect other applications in the village currently under consideration.

## 11. REPORTS

**a) Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – Cllr Anne Simpson gave feedback on community safety. (**Action:** D Johnston will circulate the minutes.)

**b) Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF) / c) Community Planning** – No meetings.

**d) Greener Kemnay** – AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> November, Energy Group will be presenting its findings on some of the house surveys; GK has been asked by NESCAN to take part in a video; was unsuccessful in application for funding from Neighbourly but will now look again at National Lottery funding. Training volunteers in surveying properties for retrofitting costs over £600 per person for a 3-day on-line course. At Trustees' meeting, met with Paths Group and a survey of paths around the village is to be carried out to progress the creation of a paths network. Still waiting to hear from Aberdeenshire Council re the Kemnay Steens noticeboards. (*The Kemnay Steens Facebook page* is highly recommended as it has excellent 3D representations of the Steens.) The May event is going to go ahead next year.

**e) Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)** – Application forms are now available for the £5000 funding pot.

**f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC*: No meeting. *KPPC*: G Berkin missed last meeting, but only issue seems to have been the difficulties around procurement of CCTV system. *APPC*: F Patrick has been in correspondence with Mary Thomson and has shared information on CCTV costs and installation.

**g) Press Reports**– P&J article on *The Great Baldini* show coming to the Hall; information on the Fireworks display.

(**Action:** Secretary to contact Sgt MacDougall re the Fireworks display, seeking input from the police, especially with parking.)

## 12. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

*Cllr Smith*: Council has been in recess, so has been concentrating on casework, especially around bin collections. *Cllr Payne*: Couple of issues with the road closure (eg cars going up the top of the High Street the wrong way). Has requested better signage. Has also requested that the painted signs on the roads be re-done properly. General feeling that the contractors, Seivewrights, have done quite an efficient job on this. *Cllr Grant*: Fewer issues re bin collection at the moment. It has been quite quiet over recess but has several meetings about to be held (Communities Committee; Audit Committee)

## 13. CORRESPONDENCE (including from the previous month)

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

- October to December Roadworks on NE Trunk Road Network
- Upcoming works in Kemnay to install new Water Main
- Temporary Road Closure – U118c, Pitcaple
- Aberdeenshire Council Budget Engagement Release
- Community Council Induction Training
- Community Councils Networking Event
- Kemnay – Community Assembly – Help with Creating a Community Plan
- Aberdeenshire Council Treasure Trails
- Service 421 (Alford-Kemnay-Inverurie)
- Trading Standards Bulletin No. 77
- Winter Challenge Fund – Privacy Notice
- Storm Babet – Weather Warnings, Updates & Briefings
- Association of British Insurers – Flood Guide
- Winter Challenge Fund Application
- Community transport Forum
- Road Closure - Monymusk
- Community Councils Networking Event – Cancellation
- New Road Layout – Monymusk Road (Response)
- Use of Waterside Court car park (Response)

Chair finally got a response from Roads about issues re the High Street/Station Road, which claimed not to find any problem. (**Action:** Chair will contact Roads Dept again as feels this response is unsatisfactory, especially with regards to the blind summit.)

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

- River Dee revived after one of Scotland's biggest ever dams removed
- Use of Alehousewells Car Park
- SSEN Transmission Next Steps for Pathway to 2030
- Aberdeen Airport Airspace Change Proposal
- Co-op Local Community Fund – Now closed

**14. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** – *B Cowie*: Still keen to get a Youth Club going but finding volunteers is proving a barrier. *D Johnston*: Asked if any update on the cycle path. (**Action:** Cllr Payne will pursue this.) *R Lamplugh*: Christmas Lights – is to bring the motifs to his own house for testing

this weekend. *G Berkin*: Showed the KCC wreath for Remembrance Sunday. R Lamplugh agreed to lay the wreath in the place of G Berkin who will be attending the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall and taking part in the ceremony at the Cenotaph.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**