

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 25th January 2024 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall

Present: Gaenor Berkin (Chair); Lee Aitken (Vice Chair); John Whittall (Treasurer); Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Suzanne Bunton; Gabby Stevens; Dan Johnston; Brian Cowie; Cllr Grant;

Apologies: Fran Patrick (Secretary); Margaret Basley; Claire Stewart; Pauline Paterson;

Attending: None

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES – The Chair welcomed those attending and gave apologies as above. Due to technical difficulties, a Zoom link was unable to be provided for the meeting. Given the pattern of Zoom links being unsuccessful in the Secretary's absence, the costings of purchasing a Community Council laptop/technology to facilitate this, is to be investigated. The technology can be basic, as long as it is able to facilitate Zoom calls and host online meetings. (**Action** – Item to be added to next month's Agenda).

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 written minutes (prepared by the Vice Chair in the Secretary's absence).

3 MINUTES OF MEETING 30th NOVEMBER 2023 – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh, seconded by J Whittall.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Report from Sgt MacDougall circulated prior to the meeting. Crime remains low in the village, although a worrying increase in the number of assaults and public nuisance incidents in this month's report. Dark nights could be a factor. Although the amount of theft/housebreaking incidents increased, no further breakdown was given. Could a further breakdown be provided by Police Scotland, perhaps providing a trend analysis or a graph showing the pattern of incidents over the last year? Worth noting that the weather may be a contributing factor to any trend. Sgt MacDougall has been made aware of parking issues on the High Street at school drop-off and pick-up times, and has confirmed officers will monitor this.

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

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE

a) **Community Larder/Festive Food Parcels** – Busy time leading up to Christmas, putting together food parcels. There was a substantial increase in requests this past year, but once again generous donations were gratefully received from the wider community and these covered all costs. Thanks to AberNecessities for the children's gift parcels. Feedback from the recipients has been very positive. Thanks also to the Bargain Box and Monymusk Thrift Shop for their donations to the Larder and to the Arnold Clark Community Fund, which once again awarded a generous sum to the Larder. The Larder remained opened for most of the festive period. Both primary schools and the Church Centre now get a share of the fortnightly Fareshare delivery.

b) **PADs** – All defib units have been recalled by the manufacturer, due to the need for a software update. Query on who would pay for the postage when returning the units back to the manufacturer? New batteries and pads have been purchased for all the units and will be installed when the units are returned and reinstated. This has seriously depleted the PADs account, so new funding will need to be found to cover ongoing costs. G Berkin emailed the National Lottery Small Grant Fund but they confirmed they no longer provide funding for PADs. Other leads for funding to be followed up and G Berkin undertook to do this. It is worth noting that the units may still be usable and in the event of an emergency, the unit itself will advise if it can be used.

c) **Flooding** – Replacement sandbags have been requested but no response received as yet. The landslip at the riverbank, and the precarious situation of the telegraph pole, were reported to the Garioch Area/Aberdeenshire Council and BT Openreach. Both responded and took action very promptly.

7. MATTERS ARISING:

a) **Roads & Transport Issues** – *Potholes* – Roads Department was contacted regarding the potholes flagged up to KCC by concerned residents. Glad to see the potholes by the quarry have been filled in, although concern as to whether this is simply a 'quick fix' and will not last. The pothole outside Morrisons Daily has not been rebuilt, rather simply filled in with tar.

Parking – Usual issues with the Co-Op and the top of the High Street highlighted. Police Scotland have been made aware of the issues at the top of the High St. Noted that work vans parking on the High St during peak times does not help the situation, but this should be a short-term issue. The road by the Burnett Arms is also now being used for parking, and is often busy as a result. A previous email sent by the Secretary to AC regarding a crossing on Aquithie Road was finally responded to and a site visit and survey will be undertaken. Despite this, it remains highly unlikely that a crossing will be built there, despite the risks, as it doesn't comply with the policy for installing crossings. Noted that there has been a lot of discussion on social media regarding potholes and parking in the village, but disappointing that despite the various comments, no members of the public attended the meeting.

Rural Transport Survey – This has been circulated prior to the meeting, and posted on social media. The closing date for comment is 11 February 2024. Noted that posters from AC always appear to be sent in PDF format, which is not ideal when advertising on social media. S Wainman contacted AC to request these are also sent in JPEG format. On a positive note, buses appear to have improved of late.

b) **Community Council Insurance** – We now need to arrange our own insurance cover, as AC are no longer able to provide this. Per the recent email, Zurich seems to be the only company offering suitable cover and the question is whether to stay with Zurich as they have provided the cover required for a number of years. Overall consensus to remain with Zurich. G Berkin has reviewed the current policy and it does cover our needs. Questions raised as to how payment is made and whether it will continue to be the same amount paid through AC, or whether it will be more expensive as it is no longer 'blanket cover' and will be on an individual CC basis. Also, whether we'll have to pay the costs upfront and then reclaim from AC. Cllr Grant to raise this with Ann Overton at the next Ward meeting. Date of renewal of the insurance queried and whether a KCC member should take on the annual task of overseeing the renewal. (**Action** – Item to be added to next month's Agenda).

8. TREASURER REPORT

Several donations have been received during the last two months. Over £500.00 received for the Christmas Lights Funds, in respect of a pool tournament held in the memory of the late George 'Dod' Dow. Several donations for the Larder, including sums received from the Bargain Box, Monymusk Thrift Shop, Arnold Clark and donations from the wider community. There will be significant expenditure from the PADs account, with around £1,800.00 being spent on replacement batteries and pads themselves. Healthy sums remain in all accounts, including a newly setup fund in respect of the village planters. All donations received over the festive period are very much appreciated.

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

- a) **Current planning applications** – Circulated prior to the meeting. No action to be taken on
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| <u>Change of use and Conversion of Existing Building to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Garden Room and Home Office</u> | Ref. No: APP/2023/2331 |
| Masonic Hall, St Brydes Road | |
| <u>Demolition of Steading and Erection of Dwellinghouse</u> | Ref. No: APP/2023/2369 |
| Bograxie | |
- b) Regarding the Update on Planning (Permission for Change of Use of Land); Ref No: APP/2023/1064, this has been granted.
- c) Modification for conditions (developer obligations) re APP/2023/2189. The developers were obliged to pay money for each completed house to AC compensate the NHS due to the increased number of patients. Kirkwood Homes, who have since taken over the obligation, now wish to wriggle out of this. G Berkin contacted the GP Surgery, who are aware of this. Unfortunately, the original obligations were poorly drafted and Kirkwood Homes wish to use this to relieve themselves of having to comply.
- d) Proposal of using developer obligation funds to reinstate the Cricket Square at Bogbeth Park. There is danger of losing these funds if they are not spent. KCC Chair alerted Kemnay Primary who will consider approaching AC for the use of the funds to rectify the state of their back field. Queried as to who actually owns the backfield. Concerns also raised regarding the pavement that runs from the top of Bremner Way to Dalmadilly Ponds and who own this, as AC refuse to accept ownership. Cllr Grant to investigate further. S Wainman enquired as to the exact amount that is in this fund but as yet, hadn't received a response.
- e) KCC approached by another CC regarding the proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm Development, who had asked all CCs copied into the email to respond. Issue discussed - there is a presumption in favour of development, and to make a successful objection it has to be shown that the development is contrary to planning policy. The consensus was that there is no real valid reason for KCC to object and therefore, with a majority vote, no further action to be taken.
- f) Used to inform the next Local Development Plan. Circulated prior to the meeting, with comments invited.

10. REPORTS

a) Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS) – D Johnston attended the recent meeting. Talk by a member of the Fire Service regarding what they do. Bottle project mentioned, whereby a plastic bottle with emergency contact details are placed in your fridge, with ambulance crew aware to look here in the event of an emergency, power cut etc. Fire Service were not aware of this and will relay back to the wider service.

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

c) Community Planning – Last meeting cancelled.

d) Greener Kemnay – Latest meeting looking forward to the year ahead. A May event is planned for Birley Bush Community Garden and is currently in the planning stages. To take place on the second Saturday in May. The Energy Group has met and are currently looking for funding for volunteers to do surveys using the new equipment purchased. Unfortunately, an application to National Lottery funding was unsuccessful. Other options have been kept in mind. A survey has been undertaken and will be repeated. Negotiations ongoing with a company regarding a third survey, with the aim of undertaking this at the end of February. Query raised regarding the different routes for the Active Travel Route proposed by AC. Two years have passed since it was first passed by committee, but no update has been received. Regarding the woodland adjacent to Birley Bush, in principle, this was in the Local Development Plan. Will anything further be done regarding this or could GK adopt it? At the moment, it would be owned by AC but Cllr Grant to raise this with Ann Overton. A timescale has been agreed regarding the board design for the Kemnay Steens and funding has been received. Permission has been obtained for the one planned at the Fetternear Car Park, with the location in Bogbeth Park to be confirmed.

e) Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP) – Nothing to report meantime.

f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC – *KAPC*: New Head Teacher appointed. Communications with S Wainman regarding the Plants for Pollinators.

KPPC: No meeting.

AWPC: F Patrick has been in contact with the parent council. Fundraiser planned. The school menus are published weekly on social media.

g) Press Reports– No update received.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS –

Cllr Grant: Complaints received regarding missed bin collections and gritting/salting of paths. Upcoming Ward and Strategic Budget meetings.

Again, noted that despite various social media posts regarding bin collections over the past few weeks, no members of the public were in attendance. Work has now begun on the riverside path, with this scheduled for completion in mid-February.

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 Bunton*: AC no longer using relief cover at libraries. Therefore, if staff are ill etc, the library will remain closed. Query of whether this will be advertised? This will result in more restricted hours. Noted it's the only real AC connection in the village. Agreement for KCC to write to AC regarding concerns (**Action** – G Berkin and L Aitken to draft appropriate letter) *D Johnston*: Has there been any update from the guest speakers who attended KCC's October meeting? S Wainman has been in contact with F Patrick regarding this. *B Cowie*: Attendance at the Youth Club is increasing. Further volunteers continue to be sought. Runs on a Wednesday evening between 6.30pm and 9pm at the Village Hall. Still awaiting games promised by the local youth worker. *L Aitken*: Discussion over the festive period on social media regarding a village switch-on event. One member of the public has been in contact with the Christmas Lights Group. Confirmation once again that the volunteers currently on the Christmas Lights Group are not in a position to take the lead on this, but are happy to help out. Next meeting of the Group to be arranged. *G Berkin*: Wished to thank the Christmas Lights Group for last year's display.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 29th February 2024
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**