

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 29th February 2024 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; Sue Wainman; Pauline Paterson; Gabby Stevens Richard Lamplugh; Brian Cowie; Dan Johnston; Cllr Grant; Cllr Smith; Cllr Payne

Apologies: Suzanne Bunton; Claire Stewart **Attending:** One member 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 25th January 2024 – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh seconded by P Paterson.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Report received and circulated. Continued low crime numbers reported for past month. Some concern noted about apparent drug taking by youngsters on buses and in bus shelters and theft of gates from the Fetternear Estate. Police aware of these incidents. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Sgt MacDougall to convey KCC concern at these incidents.)

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – Rob Mackay spoke about upcoming events with a focus on mental health. Mental Health Week is long-established, but this year is going to be a very big event, covering Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray and is to run for the whole of May, with the theme of 'movement', ie being active is very good for mental health. Last year Kemnay did its own programme (Kemfest) and the organisers are keen to keep this going and are planning to apply for funding. They are asking various groups to support Kemfest and its aim to discuss mental health at a local level. KCC agreed unanimously to support this initiative and will help promote Kemfest. More information can be found on the Kemfest Facebook page.

Rob then gave an update of the situation re the long saga of the community minibus and a handout giving the history of the minibus was shared with KCC. Rob has again been in contact with Chris Murphy at Aberdeenshire Council. Cllr Smith has also been looking into this with the Garioch Area Officer. It seems that the minibus has been declared unroadworthy and too costly to repair. However there remain several issues: a replacement minibus for the one SORNed by Aberdeenshire Council; the £16 000 generated by users of the minibus (Kemnay residents) held by Aberdeenshire Council in the minibus replacement fund; recompense to the community for the garage (now taken over by the Academy) which was built for and donated to the community for the specific purpose of storing its minibus. Suggestion made that a public meeting could be held about the minibus with the view of forming a 'pressure group'. Also suggested that community groups could join forces. (**Action:** Councillors are to continue pursuing this and the minibus is to become a standing item on the KCC agenda.)

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Larder:* Robertson Trust is very kindly going to give an additional donation of £500 to KCC. It was agreed unanimously that this money should be allocated to the Community Larder. KCC has been contacted re its requirements for first aid training. (**Action:** Secretary to reply to Aimi Blueman, Community Resilience Project Officer, to confirm interest in this training.)

b) *PADs:* G Berkin is still looking for funding to build up the defib account again. All five defibrillator units are now back in place and working, having had the software update, batteries replaced and been given a service. Thanks expressed to the PADs Co-ordinator for her efforts with this. Garioch Area office has asked that the signed agreements re attaching units to Council properties be returned as soon as possible. (**Action:** Chair and Secretary to arrange this.)

c) *Flooding:* The hessian sandbags in the container have now been replaced by Aberdeenshire Council and the container cleaned up by Birley Bush volunteers.

7. MATTERS ARISING -

- a) **Roads & Transport Issues** – Still issues with potholes and sunken gulleys. KCC received information from Aberdeenshire Council re how potholes are prioritised. (**Action:** Secretary to send this to Councillors.) People are urged to keep reporting potholes and road/gulley damage. The road into the Birley Bush Depot is in a very poor state of repair. Speeding outside Kemnay Primary is causing some concern, as is the illegal parking at the top of the High Street. Riverside Path: very positive feedback about the newly repaired - and 'flood-proof' – path. Thanks expressed to all Councillors who have pushed for the path to be repaired. Active Travel Route: no progress, but more reviews on potential routes, etc are being conducted.
- b) **Community Council Insurance** – G Berkin, J Whittall and G Stevens attended the online meeting re Zurich insurance for community councils. G Berkin is drafting a letter to Zurich to make sure all KCC's needs are covered, especially as Zurich didn't seem to be aware that many community councils are actively involved with resilience work. Also need to check that the defib units, resilience equipment stored at the Village Hall and Christmas Lights are covered. Risk assessments will be required, however, most have already been done. The Zurich policy seems to be suitable for KCC's needs. (**Action:** F Patrick to send all relevant risk assessments to G Berkin to be looked over and to check that KVH insurance covers KCC Resilience Group using the Hall as a 'resilience hub'.) Zurich has produced a useful FAQs document. Note that the renewal needs to be confirmed and paid before the end of March. (**Action:** J Whittall to go ahead and pay the premium. Any additional payments to be dealt with later. **Action:** Secretary to send log-in details of the Zurich account to J Whittall and G Berkin.)
- c) **Community Council Elections:** Proposal to push elections back to September, which was agreed by KCC.
- d) **KCC administration:** a new laptop has been purchased with funding agreed by Ann Overton, Garioch Area Officer. This laptop will be dedicated to KCC work and will allow Zoom to be used at meetings in the absence of the Secretary. It will also act as the archive for all KCC documents.
- e) **Community Assembly and Partnership in the Aberdeenshire Just Transitions Project:** S Wainman, F Patrick and Lorna Forsyth attended an online meeting with Roland Playle. Due to another town becoming involved, Kemnay will no longer participate in the initial project.

9. TREASURER REPORT -

Insurance – query re payment requests for the premium covering the generator. Otherwise, accounts mainly healthy. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Zurich for clarification.)

10. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

- a) **Current planning applications** – No action to be taken on:
Extension to Car Port and home Office Knowe Cottage, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2024/0182
- b) **Modification of Planning Obligation (Cluny Meadows, Sauchen)** – Developer has withdrawn this application.
- c) **Developer Obligation Funds for Kemnay** – Kemnay Primary has applied for, and been granted, funding to re-do the back field. An excellent outcome. (**Action:** G Berkin to check with Kemnay Primary that all permissions are in place for the work.) And it appears that agreement has been reached between the Aberdeen cricket club wishing to use Bogbeth Park and the Kemnay football groups currently using the pitches and facilities. However, a letter has been received by KCC from a resident about the use of the park by a group based outwith the village. (**Action:** Secretary to respond seeking further information re the objection.)
- d) **Draft Development Plan Scheme 2024 Consultation** – KCC members invited to give a personal response.

11. REPORTS -

- a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No meeting
- b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** - On agenda for next week's meeting: 20mph; pavement parking
- c) **Community Planning** – Joint meeting next week.
- d) **Greener Kemnay** – Been planning May event, which is to have the theme of 'Birds'. Birley Bush has been cleaned up for spring. Energy: have now surveyed one property and carried out a second visit with an external contractor to gauge the extent of what volunteers could do. This could potentially mean a significant saving to householders as it could reduce the cost of a full survey. But it would then be up to the householder to organise the work required. The new GK website is now up and running. Cllr Grant suggested GK contact Susan Adams at Garioch Area Office re the woodland behind Birley Bush Garden.
- e) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)** – Only part of the £5000 annual budget was spent, the rest was taken back by Aberdeenshire Council. An evaluation of LLPs is to be held.
- f) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – **KAPC:** New headteacher has been appointed. **KPPC:** Kemnay Primary delighted with the funding received to re-do the back field. Aware of the anti-social and illegal parking at the top of the High Street.
- g) **Press Reports**– None

12. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Payne: Budget has been set; the issues around bins seem to have settled; replacement bus stop has now been installed opposite Littlewood Court; has talked to police about parking issues; pursuing the need for a replacement dog bin on Riverside Path. *Cllr Smith*: As *Cllr Payne*. *Cllr Grant*: Also similar report; Area Committee focusing on Planning; the final report on soil samples taken from Littlewood Court should be in April; Susan Adams at Garioch Area Office has been trying to contact the Scouts but getting no response; will pursue the possibility of a replacement minibus for Kemnay.

13. CORRESPONDENCE (including from the previous month)

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

- Telecommunications Resilience - VoIP
- Garioch Community Planning E-Bulletin February
- Cyber Alert – IOS 17.3
- Potholes – Defect Rating System
- Potholes – Response to email from KCC
- Buy Social Business – 6th March 2024
- Garioch Area Committee 06 – February 2024
- Garioch Area Bus Forum Minutes
- AVA Lunch and Learn – Grant Applications
- Draft Development Plan Scheme 2024 - Consultation
- Sheltered Housing Vacancies
- Trading Standards Bulletin No. 83
- Wellbeing Festival Information
- Implementation of Single Election Date for Community Councils
- Community Council Forum – 6th March
- Garioch Community Planning Joint Meeting
- Engagement – Support at Home Framework
- Overnight Surfacing A96
- Community Council Insurance Renewals
- Road Safety Improvements North of Colpy A96
- Zurich Insurance Renewal
- Road Closure C116C
- First Aid Training
- Garioch Community Planning E-Bulletin
- Sheltered Housing Vacancies
- Scottish Conference on Democracy Matters
- Teams Invite to Zurich Insurance Session – 27th February
- Agenda for Garioch Area Committee
- Last Call – Grampian Wellbeing Festival
- Aberdeenshire Transport Forum
- HSCP Budget Engagement
- Aberdeenshire Council Garioch Services Contacts
- Aberdeenshire Local, Development Plan Evidence Report Topic Papers and Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy
- Trading Standards Bulletin No. 84
- Free Webinar for Community Councils: Scottish Empty Homes Partnership – 24th March
- ACTF Meeting – Start Time
- Enterprising Aberdeenshire Release – 28th February
- Garioch Community Planning Joint Meeting
- Survey – Local Heat and Energy Strategy
- Community Council Forum – 6th March
- Response re Staffing of Kemnay Library

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

- North East Division – Rural Matters Newsletter (Police)
- BSc Honours Project – Scottish Rainforest
- Kemnay Wood Management Plan Consultation
- Forestry and Land Scotland Management Plan Consultation
- Fetternear Concept Tree Planting – forwarded message from Greener Kemnay
- Scottish Water – Survey
- Objection to a Proposed Use of Development Obligation Funds
- Message via fb page on Issues re Waste Disposal

14. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK – *J Whittall*: Ongoing issues with bin collection at Netherton Business Centre *P Paterson*: Has had a query re the route of the 421 bus as it seems to vary depending on the driver. (Advised to contact Madeline Simpson at the Public transport Unit, Aberdeenshire Council) *B Cowie*: Youth Group is going well; is planning to set up a GoFundMe page to raise money. *S Wainman*: A location for the Kemnay Steens information board at Bogbeth Park has been agreed with Aberdeenshire Council.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 28th March 2024
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**