

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 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(via Zoom); Pauline Paterson; Suzanne Bunton; Brian Cowie; Cllr Smith

**Apologies:** Gabby Stevens; Sue Wainman; Claire Stewart; Richard Lamplugh; Dan Johnston; Cllr Grant; Cllr Payne

**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> February 2024** – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by J Whittall seconded L Aitken.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Report received and circulated. Continued low reported crime numbers. Error noted in table in police report: 3, not 33 reported break-ins for the previous month.

**8. TREASURER REPORT** – End of financial year; J Newberry has again agreed to audit KCC accounts, which will then be sent on to Aberdeenshire Council, leading to the release of KCC's administration grant. Chair and Secretary drafted a letter to Zurich outlining all additional activities and equipment needing to be covered. This additional premium has now been paid, with a share of the payment taken from the accounts of the various additional activities now included in the cover. (Secretary has asked Garioch Area Office that this payment be covered by Aberdeenshire Council, considering the increasing number and type of activities community councils are being encouraged to get involved with.) Otherwise, all accounts are fairly healthy. Copies of the audited accounts will be shared at the AGM in June.

**5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK** – Hilda Hart (Co-ordinator, Positive Steps) spoke of the group's latest project, supported also by Paths for All, to install strength and balance exercise posts on the Village Green near the 'chatty bench'. Ian Mitchell from Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services has agreed to 6-8 treated oak posts being erected there. The total cost will be £5000-£6000, with £2000 coming from developer obligation funds. There will need to be fundraising for the rest (Positive Steps is one of this year's Co-op's 'local good causes'). The group is now beginning to communicate their plans with the wider community and seeking support. KCC agreed that this is an excellent scheme, tying in with the Strength & Balance exercise classes currently running in the Hall and pledged to support it in any way it can.

Rob Mackay gave an update on the community minibus. He has received a response (handout shared with KCC) from Chris Murphy at Aberdeenshire Council. £16 000 is to be released 'to contribute towards a replacement bus' and a meeting is to be held with interested parties to discuss how a minibus management group would be structured and what the membership, etc would be. Rob has already put an article in the Newsletter asking for anyone/any groups interested to come forward, with the view to holding a public meeting to gauge wider support for a community minibus. Additional funding would be required and it was suggested that the National Lottery might be a possible source; could also bid into the Aberdeenshire Council Community Transport fund if the minibus were to be used to ferry people to ARI, for example. It was also suggested that it might be worth reaching out to other community councils in the area. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Kintore, Monymusk and Blackburn CCs in the first instance, then perhaps Bennachie CC.)

Cllr Smith added that there might be some confusion re what the promised funding could be used for as she was led to believe this money would be for maintenance only. (**Action:** Secretary to seek clarification.)

## 6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* Feedback on Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework (**Action:** F Patrick to contact the Resilience Group about completing this.) Manual handling training will need to be organised for Resilience volunteers, as stipulated in the insurance policy (**Action:** G Berkin to organise this.)

b) *PADs:* No report received but not aware of any use/issues. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Co-ordinator re batteries for the storage box alarms.)

c) *Flooding*: No updates/issues reported.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING -

- a) **Roads & Transport Issues** – Community Minibus (see item 5)
- b) **Community Council Insurance** – (see Treasurer Report, item 8)
- c) **KCC administration**: new laptop has arrived (thanks to John Berkin for his research and advice) and handed over to the Secretary who is in the process of setting it up and transferring files. A new email address has been created, which will be launched at the AGM in June. The annual subscriptions to Microsoft and McAfee will need to be taken into account re future admin costs.
- d) **Castle Fraser Long term Forest Plan 2024-2034**: All seemed straightforward, so felt no response required.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

- a) **Current planning applications** – No action to be taken on:
  - Alterations and Extension to a Dwellinghouse** Bogbeth Rise, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2024/0309
- b) **Coreen Wind Farm Group** – Unanimous decision not to get involved with this.
- c) **Kintore Hydrogen Proposal of Application Notice** – For information mainly, no response felt necessary. KCC outwith potentially affected area.
- d) **Draft Development Plan Scheme 2024 Consultation Evidence Reports: Health & Safety; Historic Assets & Places** – Nothing contentious picked up in these reports, so agreed no response needed.

## 10. REPORTS -

- a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No update available.
- b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** - No update available.
- c) **Community Planning** – No update available.
- d) **Greener Kemnay** – No update available.
- e) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)** – No update available.
- f) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC/KPPC*: No meetings. *APPC* – last meeting unfortunately missed by KCC representative; request sent that *APPC* send a formal invite to next meeting, as per Community Council guidelines. However, a lot seems to be happening at Alehousewells, with work being carried out by volunteers in the playground and plans ongoing for the annual Duck Race.
- g) **Press Reports**– None

## 11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

*Cllr Smith*: busy with council work, quieter at the moment with constituency work. Still issues with potholes and she urged that these should continue to be reported. She raised a lot of local issues at recent ward meeting – eg. tree pruning on the Green, which has been given to a contractor, just waiting to start. Feedback on the repaired Riverside Path has been very positive. (**Action**: Secretary to write to Aberdeenshire Council to acknowledge this work.)

As a resident, *Cllr Smith* expressed her concern at the ongoing poor condition of the car park at Dalmadilly Ponds. This is not the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council and she acknowledged the work carried out elsewhere around the ponds but does feel the car park and paths need urgent attention. (**Action**: Secretary to contact Breedon's about these issues.)

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

- a) **Correspondence from the Council** - was circulated prior to the meeting.
  - FAQ documentation
  - Enterprising Aberdeenshire
  - Pilot Project Request for Groups; Suicide Prevention Action Plan
  - Garioch Community Planning E-Bulletin March 2024
  - Trading Standards Bulletin No. 85
  - Certificate of Lawfulness
  - Garioch Area Committee 19 March 2024
  - Feedback Sought on Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework
  - Kemnay Library Closure
  - SFRS Fire Station – Recruitment
  - Resilience – Your Priorities
  - Social Enterprise Newsletter March 2024
  - Community Map Scotland
  - Garioch Community Planning Joint Meeting – Agenda
  - Trading Standards Bulletin No 86
  - Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Evidence Report Topic Papers

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

- Amey February Newsletter
- Invitation to complete a short survey on Trauma
- Castle Fraser Long Term Forest Plan 2024-2034
- Correen Wind Farm Group
- Quarriers Purple Day
- Scottish water Spring Newsletter
- Networking for Net Zero Stakeholder Newsletter
- Kemnay Community Council - Insurance Policy
- Kintore Hydrogen Proposals
- Portrait of His Majesty
- SEPA Publish – Scottish Waste from All Sources

**13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK** – *S Bunton*: No relief cover now in libraries, so thinks libraries may close if there is an absence. (**Action:** Secretary to seek clarification from Aberdeenshire Council.) *L Aitken*: A Christmas Lights meeting still to be organised. *On behalf of R Lamplugh*: A lot of litter is appearing around the village and on verges on roads leading into the village. Should there be an anti-litter campaign? (It was noted that the new Headteacher at the Academy hopes to be pro-active re issues with pupils in the community, so any pupils witnessed dropping litter should be reported to the school.) *On behalf of Gabby Stevens*: Re offer of free portrait of King Charles – suggested that KCC could consider this if there had already been a portrait of the monarch in the Hall, otherwise not. This proposal was unanimously accepted and, as there had not been a portrait of the Queen, that a portrait should not be requested.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available**