

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 30th May 2024 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Zoom link available

Present: Gaenor Berkin(Chair); Lee Aitken (Vice Chair); Fran Patrick (Secretary); Margaret Basley; Gabby Stevens; Sue Wainman; Dan Johnston; Brian Cowie; Cllr Smith; Cllr Grant; Cllr Payne(via Zoom)

Apologies: John Whittall (Treasurer); Richard Lamplugh; Suzanne Bunton; Claire Stewart; Pauline Paterson;

Attending: 2 members of the public; Alison Cumming, Area Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council

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 April 2024 – Minutes of meeting were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded G Stevens.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Report received and circulated. Continued low reported crime numbers but will need to be vigilant in case of increased youth disorder over the summer holidays. Noted that the police had not received reports of alleged misbehaviour on the buses, which had been much discussed across local social media. (**Action:** Secretary to put article in Newsletter reminding people to report any incidents.)

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – *Jim Morgan, 1st Kemnay Scout Group:* Update on the replacement scout hut, the current hut being beyond repair. Aberdeenshire Council has been contacted re an asset transfer of land near the telephone exchange on Bremner Way. The group is now embarking on public engagement, to let the wider community know what is happening. The asset transfer and business plan documentation are now with the Council. The new premises will be as 'green' as possible, using ground source heat pumps and solar cells, etc. The building will be soundproofed and insulated to a very high standard. The building will be set back from the road and there will be car parking, although the location was chosen because it would allow most of the youngsters to walk to it. Other youth groups have not been contacted as yet, but it is hoped the building will be widely used. It is not anticipated there will be any conflict with the Village Hall re lets as expect to be targeting a different set of potential users, but a meeting is planned with the Village Hall Management Committee. Hoping to break ground this year, the group's centenary year.

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* Seems to be an issue with getting items uploaded on the village website, so the updated Community Resilience Plan has not been uploaded. And recent KCC minutes and agendas have not been uploaded. Secretary has attempted to contact the administrator via email but with no response. (**Action:** Secretary to try to contact website administrator through other means.) Information has been shared about the next Resilience Conference to be held on 3rd October. Larder spending continues to be quite high to make up for the shortfall in useful stock currently coming from Fareshare. Very grateful to Kemnay Co-op which is now also giving the Larder overstock/surplus items.

b) *PADs:* No report received but not aware of any use/issues.

c) *Flooding:* Kemnay was fortunately not affected by recent heavy rain. Kemnay Flooding Survey now delayed due to funding/staffing issues; will no longer be done before end September 2025 but Kemnay and Kintore have now been moved up the priority list.

7. MATTERS ARISING -

a) **Roads & Transport Issues** – *Minibus:* Update from Rob Mackay: R Mackay and I Booth attended a meeting with Ann Overton and Chris Murphy from Aberdeenshire Council. The £16 000 is being considered as a "community credit" for Kemnay and the Council will support however the community wants to use this. So now need to see if demand exists (six replies were received in response to the recent article in the Newsletter) and a management committee will need to be set up. The Council would be willing to offer training, such as inspection of vehicles, how to set up a new community group, etc. The funds would have to be transferred before the end of the current financial year, to a SCIO (a registered charity). R Mackay was very encouraged by the open and constructive meeting with Ann Overton, who also suggested looking at how

the Westhill Community Bus is organised. If there is not enough support for a minibus or the capacity to set up a new group to manage one, the community would still have access to the money.

Questions asked by KCC members present re the consultation process and whether the funds could be used rather as a 'transport fund' which would allow groups to apply for financial support to help subsidise the hire of transport for a community activity. R Mackay sees the consultation process starting with other constituted groups operating in Kemnay to gauge potential use and then calling a public meeting. He asked for any ideas re the consultation process to be sent on to him. Quite a lot to consider, including the size of the minibus and types of driving licence required, etc (**Action:** R Mackay will put together a written report outlining all that was discussed at the meeting.)

R Mackay also gave updates on the Strength & Balance poles on the Green (funding package in place and will be installed in near future) and the Covid Memorial Walk & Memorial Benches (Claudia Zeiske, the artist for Aberdeenshire's COVID memorial, is walking from Glen More Lodge to Peterhead, with bespoke benches being installed at key points en route, including one in Kemnay on Riverside Path just down from the Academy – film crew will be at the Kemnay site on Friday, 7th June around 9.30am and all are invited to attend, and/or walk with her. An inspiring and excellent initiative).

Parking issues: Email received re parking at Bogbeth Park when events are being held at the park. There have been ongoing issues with residents unable to get out at times, particularly during the fireworks display and when some football competitions are on. Acknowledgment that events like the fireworks display are important for the village but also some sympathy with inconvenienced residents. Difficult to see how the situation can be better managed without police or Council intervention. And there is still illegal pavement parking on Station Road. (**Action:** Secretary to contact police about both issues.)

b) **Community Council Election Arrangements** – Alison Cummings, Area Committee Officer: New system, with all community councillors stepping down at the same time (18th September) across the 'shire. There will be promotion of community councils (radio adverts, social media posts, etc) to encourage greater participation. Each community council is also asked to promote participation. Nominations open 19th August and close 8th September. (**Action:** Secretary to put notice in Newsletter.) The AGM will take place as usual; the elections will be run centrally by the Council. Current community councils will need to update their constitutions to take account of these changes. Once elections held, there is to be a short 'inaugural meeting' when someone from Aberdeenshire Council acts as 'facilitator'. Date of 'inaugural meeting' can be agreed at the AGM. (**Action:** Chair & Secretary will meet to look at the KCC Constitution, which will then be shared with full KCC for approval, then sent on to Area Manager before AGM for ratification.)

c) **Playpark at Alehousewells** – Message received from a parent asking if the playpark at Alehousewells could get additional swings, particularly disabled/adapted ones, and a fence put up along the car park side. Parent asking for help/support. Real concern about lack of a fence, a potential safety risk. (**Action:** To be added to agenda of next KCC meeting to allow further research. There might be specific funding available from Scottish Government.)

d) **Kemnay Village Hall** – AGM is on Monday. All urged to read email and attend, if possible.

8. TREASURER REPORT – Treasurer not present but has sent brief report that little has changed with the accounts. Pointed out the current deficit in the monthly Larder accounts, which is to be monitored.

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

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

Alterations & Extension to Dwellinghouse Crathie Cottage, Kendal Rd Ref. No: APP/2024/0709

b) Correspondence re: **Erection of Dwellinghouse** APP/2023/2350 Blythewood – Chair has drafted a response to the email received, explaining how original decision to take a neutral stance had been reached and that neither of the community councillors with potential interest in the application had participated in that discussion. In any case, as current rules stand, KCC cannot now put in an objection to this type of appeal, given it had not objected previously.

c) **Local Development Plan – Links to Documents:** Nothing controversial in these. Seems to be a priority to provide for the elderly. Responses encouraged – deadline on Engage Aberdeenshire by 31st May.

10. REPORTS -

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – Presentation on scams, etc. Information on 'parking buddies' to be placed outside Kemnay Primary School. Road Safety presentation.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** - meeting next week. LDP – looking at conflicts.

c) **Community Planning** – S Wainman unable to join meeting, but seemed to be focussing on Council priorities.

d) **Greener Kemnay** – Birley Bush event was very successful. S Wainman has done quite a bit of work on promoting the bio-diversity evident in the gardens; boules piste is being well used. *Energy Presentation:* on how to make houses more energy efficient, covered topics such as issues with getting grants via Home Energy Scotland. An article is being prepared for the Newsletter. Now want to start lobbying re the difficulty in applying, including the issues with finding suitably qualified tradespeople.

e) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)** –

f) KAPC/KPPC/APPC – *KAPC* – Meet the Headteacher event to be held; consulting on changing to a single lunchtime; bus-park being constructed. *KPPC* – new school play area being done now. *APPC* – KCC has now received formal invitation to next meeting on 25th June. Duck Race now to be held virtually due to ongoing water quality concerns. Storage containers now gone from Alehousewells car-park.

g) Press Reports– An article in P&J on new Academy Headteacher. Local radio piece on Guinness World record attempt at Bowling Club, which is fundraising for two cancer charities.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Smith: Containers now gone from Alehousewells car-park; presentation to Councillors from SSEN on infrastructure projects.

Cllr Grant: most items already discussed (flooding review, etc); tree surgeon will be dealing with the trees on the Green in the next few weeks.

12. CORRESPONDENCE (including from the previous month)

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

- Garioch Community Planning May 2024 E-bulletin
- Community Council Grants 2024-25
- Trading Standards Bulletin No. 89
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Evidence Report Topic Papers
- Garioch Area Committee Agenda 14 May 2024
- ACTF Minutes and Next Meeting Details
- Message from Trading Standards
- Community Council Inaugural Meeting Arrangements
- Media release: Overnight lining work on A96
- Virtual Dementia Awareness Event
- Proposed Council Plan for 2024-2029
- Community Resilience Conference 2023/4 – Hold the Date
- Garioch Community Planning – Joint Meeting Feedback
- Digital Engagement Newsletter – May 2024
- The Lived Experience of Food and Fuel Insecurity in Older Adults Study
- Aberdeenshire Council Development Plan Scheme
- Community Council Forum Meeting – Wednesday 5 June 2024
- For information: Garioch Surface Dressing Programme
- Process and Documents for mending CC Constitutions
- Garioch Community Planning E-Bulletin – May-June 2024
- Drones in the NHS
- New Resilience Information on Engage
- Agenda for Garioch Area Committee, 4 June
- All Stars programme – Cricket for 5-8 years olds at Bogbeth Park
- Consultation on Aberdeenshire's Draft Local Housing Strategy 2024-29

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

- SSEN Transmission commits to consider community and landowner proposed alignments on Kintore-Tealing 400kV Overhead Line Project
- Aberdeen International Airport's Airspace Change Proposal
- Scottish Water appeal to Donside Communities to be vigilant
- Amey May Newsletter – North East trunk road network
- Information: Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund open for Applications
- Correspondence re APP/2023/2350/Erection of Dwellinghouse
- Correspondence re Minibus
- Kintore Hydrogen Proposals
- Covid Memorial Project – join Claudia Zeiske on her final mountain to sea walk
- Kemnay Village Hall AGM

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK – *L Aitken*: public meeting for Christmas Lights Display/Event on Monday, 24th June at Village Hall. *F Patrick*: Good to see the Cricket Club reaching out to the community.

Date of AGM and next ordinary meeting: Thursday, 27th June 2024

**AGM 7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, followed by ordinary meeting
Zoom link available**