



Minute of Inaugural Meeting of Kemnay Community Council

Thursday 26 September 2024 at 7pm

Kemnay Village Hall

Present:- Lee Aitken, Margaret Basley, Gaenor Berkin, Mary Brown, Suzanne Buntton, Brian Cowie, Grace Dinnes, Dan Johnston, Richard Lamplugh, Pauline Paterson, Fran Patrick, Gabby Stevens, Claire Stewart, Sue Wainman, John Whittall

Ex officio:- Cllrs Grant, Payne and Smith

1. The meeting was chaired by Ann Overton, Garioch Area Manager who welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all Members to provide information about their background, interests and key skills.

2. Appointment of Officer Bearers

Ann sought nominations for the Office Bearer positions and the following appointments were made:-

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Lee Aitken	Pauline Paterson	Fran Patrick
Vice Chair	Dan Johnston	Richard Lamplugh	Margaret Basley
Secretary	Fran Patrick	Suzanne Buntton	John Whittall
Treasurer	John Whittall	Claire Stewart	Richard Lamplugh

3. Adoption/approval of Constitution and Standing Orders

The constitution and standing orders were circulated. The Community Council **agreed** to approve and adopt the Constitution and Standing Orders.

4. Confirm Meeting Dates and Venues for 2024/25

The Community Council **agreed** to continue with the pattern of meetings of Last **Thursday** of each month (excluding July, August and December)

31 October, 28 November, 30 January, 27 February, 27 March, 24 April, 29 May, 26 June (AGM), 25 September, 30 October, 27 November

All meetings to be held in Kemnay Village Hall

5. Induction Training Information

Ann provided details of the training opportunities available to all members and encouraged them to register for these.

General Meeting Training – 30 October 2024 at 7pm online

Planning Training - 6 November 2024 at 7pm online

ALDO training

Ann closed the meeting, and the Community Council went on to undertake a business meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 26th September 2024 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available

Present: Lee Aitken (Chair); Dan Johnston (Vice Chair); John Whittall (Treasurer); Fran Patrick (Secretary); Gaenor Berkin; Margaret Basley; Pauline Paterson; Suzanne Bunton; Gabby Stevens; Sue Wainman; Brian Cowie; Richard Lamplugh; Sue Wainman (via Teams); Claire Stewart; Grace Dinnes; Mary Brown; Cllr Grant; Cllr Payne; Cllr Smith

Attending: Ann Overton, Garioch Area Officer

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES – The new Chair welcomed recently re-elected members and the two new members elected to the Community Council. Thanks were expressed and a small gift given to the outgoing Chair, Gaenor Berkin, for her hard work and commitment during her time in the role.

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 27th June 2024 – One correction to the abbreviated Minutes published in the Newsletter of previous meeting – **Krissie Wright** is the new Chair of the Hall Management Committee. The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by D Johnston, seconded by J Whittall.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Report received and circulated. Public nuisance, mainly caused by youths, has been an issue and is a worrying development. A letter from the outgoing Chair was sent to Sgt MacDougall but no direct response has been received. Some disagreement that the situation in Kemnay is 'stable' as per this month's report. Everyone is still encouraged to report any incident, even if it does sometimes take a long time to get through when phoning 101. Reporting via online Contact Police Scotland form might be more effective <https://www.scotland.police.uk> (**Action:** G Dinnes to feed back to the Academy about recent incidents and may also organise an assembly to highlight the issue.) Sgt MacDougall will not be available for a few months, Kemnay's new liaison will be Insp Rae Christie. (**Action:** Secretary to follow up response to Chair's letter.)

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

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* Winter is approaching so the **Just in Case** . . . information pages will be going in to next month's Newsletter, encouraging everyone to prepare for potential bad weather ahead. A Ready Scotland webinar for community councils has been held; resilience advice is being shared by Aberdeenshire Council, through a Resilience Month initiative; the Aberdeenshire Council Community Resilience Framework is now published and on the website; the Resilience Conference is on 3rd October. The Community Larder is back to regular opening times, although this is to be reviewed over the coming weeks.

b) *PADs:* There has been a glitch with Ambulance Service system, which indicated that the unit at Alehousewells had been used. This turned out not to be the case.

c) *Flooding:* Additional remedial work to increase the size of the bund, etc has been carried out by Stuart Crescent Residents, the neighbouring farmer and Aberdeenshire Council, with some funding coming from the Garioch Area Committee. A resident from Craigearn has contacted KCC Resilience about potential flooding near their property – advice was given to contact the various official agencies which deal with flooding issues and that a Place of Safety was always available at Kemnay Village Hall in the event of a serious weather emergency.

People are urged to report any blocked drains and gulleys as this can cause street flooding. No update on the Flood Strategy.

7. MATTERS ARISING -

a) **Roads & Transport Issue/Community minibus – Parking:** Still awaiting a response from Aberdeenshire Council re the parking/pavement issue on Aquithie Road; illegal pavement parking on Station Road still a problem. *Community minibus:* four people are working on a project to gather relevant data on how to spend the £16 000. Setting up a new minibus service is not viable so now embarking on community consultation on how to use/invest the money for community benefit.

- b) **Playpark Upgrade at Alehousewells** – A request has been made to Garioch Area Office and now waiting to hear about possible funding.
- c) **Additional Issues raised over Summer Recess** – Overgrown bushes have been cut back that were blocking sight lines for motorists. Bin collection issues – there have been problems caused by lorries breaking down. Updates on collections can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council website.
- d) **It's your Neighbourhood** – Quite a lot of work done, clearing weeds and planting. Some plants donated, others bought in quite cheaply. Several people are litter picking off their own bat, which is greatly appreciated. There is an issue with leaf fall becoming mushy and unsightly; still trying to encourage people to clear their own gutters and to be aware that weedkiller will no longer be applied to pavement weeds. Next year's theme is Biodiversity. No donations have been received to support the purchase of compost for the High Street planters; the beds at Littlewood Court are looking better but still waiting for Aberdeenshire Council input; a volunteer is now looking after the war memorial; ELS Window Cleaning has kindly done some watering over the summer. Big thanks to S Wainman and her small team for all their work.
- e) **Just Transition Communities Project** – This doesn't seem to be progressing, consultation on the life of the village is still not underway. (Action: A Overton to pursue this.)
- f) **Christmas Lights/Event** – Three further motifs have been purchased with matched funding from the Garioch Area Initiative Fund. All motifs will be PAT tested over the October holidays. Event date is Saturday, 30th November, 4.30pm-7pm. A fundraiser for the event is to be held at the Bowling Club. Next meeting of the steering committee is on 30th October.
- g) **Kemnay Village Hall** – Meeting is to be held on Monday when a further update will be given.

8. TREASURER REPORT – Very little activity over the summer due to the Larder operating slightly differently over the holidays. A donation to the Larder of £300 has been received from St Anne's Church, which is greatly appreciated. An interesting part of this donation was £17 collected from dropped coins picked up on the street. The grant of £508 from GAC towards the Christmas lights has also been received.

The cost of the Hall rental has increased, an extra £6 per month. The various accounts currently stand at:

General Fund - £2600

Christmas Lights - £740

Resilience - £3400

PADs - £730

Community Larder - £7700

Plants - £243

Zoom account now cancelled.

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

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

Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse Templar's Croft, Aquithie Ref. No: APP/2024/1266

Erection of Agricultural Building Southern Croft, Kintore Ref. No: APP/2024/1445

b) Response re **Alleged non-Compliance with Condition 13, Formation of Footpath: Milton Farm** - The footpath has now been created.

c) **Local Development Plan** – *Topic Papers: Play, Recreation and Sport; Quality Homes*
All circulated for individual response, if wished.

10. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

Review of list of groups reported – In order to expand number of local groups highlighted, it was agreed that all groups should be invited to attend in person and/or to submit subsequent written reports. An additional item for local groups will therefore be added to the KCC agenda. (Action: Secretary to put item in Newsletter inviting engagement from all local groups.)

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – Meeting held but KCC rep unable to attend. Awaiting the minutes.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** - Police on intervention work re anti-social behaviour, if the police are aware. There are community engagement officers. However, the police can only react if incidents are reported; Insp Christie is very keen to hear from people. The noisy dirt bike has been reported. Roads Department has been issued with 'pop-up Bobs' – not yet deployed - to discourage speeding, funded by Garioch Safety Group. (Action: Secretary to put item in Newsletter about reporting incidents and giving the police's contact information.)

Warning about garden services contractors who are fly-tipping garden rubbish - anyone taking away waste after doing work should have a waste carrier licence and householders should check that this is the case. The onus is on the householder to check, fly-tipped waste is gone through for evidence.

c) **Community Planning** – Very intense meeting covering information from NHS Scotland, home carers and the redistribution of residents from Westbank. The vaccination centre may be moving from the warehouse at Burghmuir to Inverurie Hospital. There are ongoing issues with capacity at the hotel housing asylum seekers in Westhill. There is a new fire service station commander who has been doing a lot of work with pupils at Kemnay Academy on the dangers of lithium batteries, vaping, etc. Issue of food poverty and the accessibility of foodbank services out with normal opening times was discussed, as were the efforts being made to reduce calls to the police due to people suffering from mental health issues, etc.

d) **Greener Kemnay** – See following item.

e) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)** – There have been problems getting people to attend these meetings, but this was a joint meeting with the Garioch Health Improvement Network which was well attended. Report from S Wainman to be circulated to all KCC members, issues covered included: high anxiety levels in young people; capacity building continuing at Port Elphinstone; more Assistant Community Learning and Development officers being employed; the lack of transport; cost of venues; health waiting lists; Stationhouse Media unit.

f) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC* – No meeting. *APPC* – AGM held, new PTA in place. *KPPC* – Grand opening of new outdoor all weather play area, which is an excellent facility. Concern about the road crossing. Cllr Smith believed that an assessment may already have been carried out. (**Action:** Secretary to send a letter to Aberdeenshire Council to find out about this and the possibility of getting a pelican crossing and safety railings installed.) Ongoing issue of dangerous and illegal parking at the top of the High Street opposite the school.

g) **Press Reports**– An item on the opening of the new Kemnay Primary play area.

REPORTS – Local Groups

a) **Greener Kemnay** – *Community Garden*: Very successful time at the garden. *Energy Group*: On-going application to

SSEN to be able to do house surveys, if successful will need to move quickly to find 15 suitable households; looking into sourcing funding for specific properties, especially in council tax brackets A-D.

Footpath in Bremner Way which was originally commissioned by Greener Kemnay, in conjunction with Aberdeenshire Council, now needs some attention, made worse by recent work on the new bus park. (**Action:** A Overton to ask if the contractor can improve the path.)

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Smith: Busy on casework, including issues with the return of containers at the car park at Alehousewells; anti-social behaviour and the difficulty in getting through to 101 to report an incident. *Cllr Payne*: Roads winter maintenance policy is coming to Infrastructure Services next week – residents asked to check grit bins near them and report if needing filled; issue of the illegal parking at the top of the High Street; Kemnay Academy bus park now open but is not available for use by other vehicles outwith school times; graffiti reported at skatepark. *Cllr Grant*: Busy with casework. At Garioch Area Committee, discussion of the Hill of Fare wind turbine application, which GAC has objected to. Health and Social Care Partnership Road Show on 24th October, 3pm-7pm, at Kemnay Village Hall, looking to gather local views. (**Action:** Secretary to advertise this.)

12. CORRESPONDENCE (including from the previous two months)

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

- Routes not out due to Crew Issues
- Introductory email from Michael Taylor – Suicide Prevention Officer, North East
- ACTF Draft Agenda
- Health Walks Network Event
- First Aid Training
- Sheltered Housing Availability
- Aberdeenshire News, Grants Available, First Aid Training, etc
- Masterplan Consent Areas – Statement of Consideration, Aberdeenshire Council
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin – No 94
- Review of Passenger Transport Strategy – Survey
- Response re Flooding Issues & Other Queries
- Summer Newsletter from Scottish Flood Forum
- Aberdeenshire Decides – Free Alerts
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Evidence Report Topic Papers
- Garioch Area Committee Agenda Papers
- Update on Community Council Elections
- Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Engagement Elected Members Briefing
- ACTF Meeting 27 June - Minutes
- Coastal Communities Challenge Fund
- Aberdeenshire Rural Communities Challenge Fund
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin – No 93
- Garioch Area Funding – second round
- Reminder – Community Council Forum
- Webinar for Community Councils: Hearing Children and Young People's Voice in the Community
- Meeting with Piers Blaxter re NPF4 and LDP
- Kemnay Festive Lights 2024/5
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda papers 17 September
- Arrangements for Inaugural Meetings
- List of Names for Ballot

- Aberdeenshire LDP 2029 Newsletter
- Webinar for Community Councils with Ready Scotland – Wed 25th September, 6pm
- Rural Community Led Local Development – Consultancy Support for Paths & Business Planning
- Result of Kemnay Community Council Elections 2024
- Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) – a Community-focused Litter Education Programme
- Preparing your Home for Winter Sessions
- UNCRC Event for Community Councils – Young People in the Community
- Trading Standard Scams Bulletin - No 98
- Aberdeenshire Council Resilience Month Release 25.9.24
- HSCP Engagement Session – Drop-in Event Inverurie

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

- Media Release: Road Safety Improvements on A96
- July to September Roadworks on North East Trunk Road Network
- Flood Resilience Query
- Issues with exit from Cemetery
- Statera - Kintore Hydrogen Application
- A96 Keith Landslide
- New News on Engage – SSEN Funding Aberdeenshire Community Resilience Framework
- Bus Service Revisions
- Stakeholder Consultation – Forest Management carried out by RTS Ltd
- Scotland-wide Community-led Research Funding from the RSE

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

G Dinnes: Pupil Participation Forum meeting at Alford Academy on Tuesday. *D Johnston*: Query about progress of Active Travel proposals for the area. (**Action**: A Overton to send link to last meeting about this but it seems there have been issues with land ownership and the fact that the budget for this has been cut by the Scottish Government.) *G Berkin*: The broken sleepers on the path round the Dalmadilly Ponds have still not been repaired. (**Action**: Secretary will send off another email to Breedons.) Has bought a wreath to lay on behalf of the Community Council at war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. *L Aitken*: Enquired regarding the booking system at Bogbeth Park, with A Overton confirming this has been sorted out. *F Patrick*: The Strength and Balance exercise posts are being installed on the Green on Monday. Thanks to the Strength & Balance and Positive Steps groups who have organised this, a really good health & well-being initiative for the village.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 31st October 2024
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available**