

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 28th November 2024 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available

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

Apologies: Claire Stewart; Dan Johnston

Attending: David Fyffe; Jonathan Dunne; Rob Mackay

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 31st October 2024 – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by G Stevens.

4 POLICE MATTERS – No report received. Response received re request for trend analysis. No plans for this at the moment as levels of crime in the community remain quite low.

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – David Fyffe introduced Jonathan Dunne, who gave a presentation on his proposed plans for the re-development of the former steading/stables at Fetternear currently in a state of dilapidation. The plans are to establish a small distillery on the site, including cooperage, with possibly a visitor centre, café, dog wash. The buildings are listed and are on the at-risk register, so the hope is to save them and give them a new lease of life. It would be planned to install a green energy system incorporating ground-source heat pump, solar panels and a CHP system. It is hoped that a number of skilled jobs could be created. It is planned to work in tandem with the farm which would produce the barley required for the distillery. Mr Dunne expressed a keenness to involve the community and is happy to give further information and has supplied the community council with his contact details; the website is going live shortly. In response to a query over increased traffic, reassurances were given that the enterprise should not cause any marked increase in traffic.

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* The **Just in Case**. . . information pages have been published in this month's Newsletter and copies will be available at the Village Hall and Library. Confirmation that the basic manual handling training will take place on Monday, 16th December, 10am-12noon at the Village Hall. Kintore Community Council has been in touch for more information about the training. No further progress on communication system, but a decision will need to be made shortly. *Community Larder:* Number of weekly users continues to be steady; the Larder will be closed on 24th December and 2nd January. The deadline for applications for the Festive Food Parcels has now passed, around thirty requests have come in; fundraising continues through the Lend a Hand Kemnay Festive Food Parcels Just Giving page and donations via the Larder.

b) *PADs:* No report of any issues or incidents.

c) *Flooding:* Flood Strategy Questionnaire online, with paper copies also available which have been handed in to the Hall for collection. Cllr Smith has reported the 'puddling' happening at entrance to new bus park and Ann Overton, Garioch Area Officer, is going to look into it with the construction company.

7. MATTERS ARISING -

a) **Roads & Transport Issues/Footpaths** – *Parking:* A letter has been drafted and circulated to KCC for comment. The Parking Officer at Aberdeenshire Council has also been informed and has requested she be sent the letter before action taken. (**Action:** Secretary to send letter on to Parking Officer.). *Footpaths:* Breedon's has acknowledged the repairs required on the footpath of the large pond at Dalmadilly. Some confusion, however, on who owns and is responsible for the smaller pond, the Land Registry documentation would seem to show that Breedons have the title deeds. (**Action:** Secretary to write to Breedons to ask that they check their documentation. **Action:** Secretary to write to Aberdeenshire Council for clarification, particularly re responsibility for the maintenance of the car park.) *Pelican Crossing:* A response has been

received from Aberdeenshire Council re the KCC request for a pelican crossing at Kemnay Primary. The Council has a standard procedure for assessing locations for a form of controlled crossing and the road by Kemnay Primary 'will be considered for inclusion in the current assessment workplan'. Cllr Smith advised that the school should also contact the police and seek their support in this. (**Action:** G Berkin to raise at next meeting of Kemnay Primary Parents Council.)

b) **Just Transitions Communities Project** – Work is ongoing by NESCAN; interviews have started. The process might prove useful for the work being carried out by the Community Credit Working Group. (**Action:** Secretary to ask if Nescan representatives could attend a KCC meeting.)

c) **Christmas Lights/Event** – Event all organised; a cherry-picker needs to be hired to put up the lamp-post motifs this year.

8. TREASURER REPORT – A banker's order will be set up after Christmas to cover the regular Community Larder insert in the Newsletter.

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** – Updates on:

Erection of Dwellinghouse Boghead Cottage, Dalmadilly Ref. No: APP/2024/1586

This was refused because of settlement planning – ie over development of a rural site.

Masterplan for Residential Led Mixed Use Development Crichtie Ref. No: APP/2024/1710

This was circulated for information. The proposed new road layouts will be a potential issue for Kemnay residents travelling into Inverurie.

Additional item 1: A96 duelling – Inverurie does not seem to be included in the revised plans just published. (Action: S Wainman will circulate the link to the survey.)

Additional item 2: The land originally designated for business use next to Stuart Crescent has been re-zoned for housing and there is a housing development plan for the site, which is earmarked for social housing.

10. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No meeting

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Meeting next week, on scams and on the situation re libraries in Aberdeenshire (no decision is being made on the future of libraries before February).

c) **Community Planning** – Meeting cancelled.

d) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)** – Lot of discussion on mental health initiatives.

e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – **KAPC** – G Dinnes met with the Headteacher, Mr Scott; the Christmas Concert is next Thursday at Kemnay Kirk at 7pm and all are welcome; the next Parent Council meeting is in January, Mr Scott is keen to get more involved in the community – if KCC has any questions, can be passed on via G Dinnes. F Patrick attended the Connections event and has also received an email re KCC representation on the Parent Teacher Council. (**Action:** Secretary will attend and inform that there will be a representative from KCC.) **APPC** – No update. **KPPC** – No update, meeting next week.

d) **Press Reports**– None

REPORTS – Local Groups

a) **Positive Steps and Strength & Balance** – Rob Mackay briefly outlined the purpose of the Project Case Study, an evaluation report to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Positive Steps and the 5-year anniversary of Buggy Walks. Feedback from a variety of users was included as well as a reflective commentary from Rob, especially on the effects of lockdown and the bounce-back since, with now over 40 walkers participating on a Friday. He recommended that people have a look at their website. He expressed thanks to F Patrick who attended the recent official launch of the Strength and Balance posts on the Village Green on behalf of KCC and Cllr Smith who gave a speech on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council. These are the only posts of this kind in Aberdeenshire (and maybe even beyond the central belt) and are the first and only ones situated in a community location; the posts are for the benefit of the whole community.

b) **Community Credit Working Group** – There are six people in the working group taking this forward. The money is about to be transferred - thanks expressed to Cllr Smith and Ann Overton, Garioch Area Manager, for their help and support to make this happen. (**Action:** Secretary to send thanks to Ann Overton.) A registered charity was required to hold the funds, and Bennachie Parish Church has agreed to do this for a year on behalf of the group. The money will be held until a framework is agreed. A survey is underway, and everyone is urged to complete it. By the end of January, the full report should be complete; by May, should be in a position to present full results and likely framework. Rob pointed out that this transfer of money is a unique situation and is an opportunity to prove to Aberdeenshire Council that the community can be trusted with money and use it effectively. It is also an opportunity for all groups to work together.

c) **Greener Kemnay** – AGM was held but poor weather affected attendance. **Energy Group:** Unfortunately, didn't get the SSEN funding, so the group is still looking for funding to carry out the 15 house surveys. It seems funding is given for equipment but not for training.

d) Kemnay Village Hall – Survey re potential asset transfer ongoing; looking to upgrade projection equipment in main hall.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Smith: The future of libraries to be discussed at Community Council Forum; has been looking at this year's budget and ahead to next year's. All looking pretty gloomy. *Cllr Grant:* At full council, there was a fair amount of discussion on libraries and on the substantial overspend of NHS Grampian. Informal sessions with the Fire and Rescue Service; busy with meetings, although libraries have been the main issue.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Aberdeenshire Decides
- Kemnay Primary School – Pelican Crossing
- Nestrans Community Sustainable Travel Grant – Open to Applications
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin No.100
- Reminder: ACTF Thursday 7th November 2024
- Sheltered Housing Vacancies
- Trading Standards Bulletin No. 101
- Garioch Community Planning
- Aberdeenshire Council Noise APP
- Garioch Area Committee Agenda Papers
- Community Council Induction Training Recordings
- Aberdeenshire Restaurant Week Reminder
- Response from Aberdeenshire Council re status of area at foot of High Street/Aquithie Road
- Complimentary Conference Places for Community Councils at Mackay Hannah events
- Update: Complimentary Conference Places for Community Councils at Mackay Hannah events
- Aberdeenshire Council Budget Engagement

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

- Electricity Infrastructure Consenting in Scotland – Consultation
- Positive Steps Project Case Study
- Paths for All – Positive Steps Kemnay Quotes request
- Media Release: Paths For All: Walking Group brings Outdoor Exercise Space to Kemnay
- Media Release: Woodland Management on A96 between Kintore and Inverurie in Aberdeenshire
- SSEN Transmission East Coast Community Benefit Fund
- SSEN Transmission Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Alignment Consultation

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

J Whittall: Pointed out that there is another micro distillery business at Fetternear, Little Brown Dog Spirits. Feels the new development is likely to complement the current business. *R Lamplugh:* Still concerned about the potential traffic in Fetternear as a result of the proposed development. *G Berkin:* Has approached the Co-op re fundraising for the defibrillators and is also exploring another potential source of funding. *G Stevens:* Good to see that the wall at Bogbeth Park is now being repaired. *S Wainman:* One item of missing playground equipment at Bogbeth Park has now reappeared. The Steens signs have still not been erected, despite having been paid for. Susan Adams from Aberdeenshire Council has been in touch re the maintenance of the grounds at the Family Centre, to make the area more attractive/appealing for the new project at the Family Centre, Children First 'Bairns' Hoose'. (**Action:** Cllr Smith will raise this at ward meeting and ask if there might be some funding for tubs, plants, etc.) *L Aitken:* has been in touch with Aberdeenshire Council about a wall on Station Road, beside Littlewood Court in need of repair. KCC business will continue via email over the Christmas and New Year recess. He wished everyone a Happy Christmas and to have a good break.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 30th January 2025
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available**