

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 30th January 2025 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available

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

Apologies: Claire Stewart; Brian Cowie

Attending: Vicky Stigant, NESCAN; 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 28th November 2024 – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by G Stevens.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Report received and circulated. A 'stable report' with 'low levels of incidents/crime'. An item reminding people to report any incidents was published in this month's Newsletter.

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – Ewan Fraser from Kemnay Football gave an update on the current difficulties the club is facing in finding adequate training and playing space in the village, given that the main facilities – Bogbeth Park and the Astroturf at Kemnay Academy – are both heavily booked by clubs from outwith the village. Around two hundred children attend the various football groups run by the club, including a growing number of girls eager to play. Aberdeenshire Council has been made aware of the increasing problems arising from the shared use of Bogbeth Park with a cricket team from Aberdeen, a situation which came about without any local consultation. This has been raised previously with the Community Council, which had thought that the issue of the shared use had been amicably resolved. (**Action:** Secretary to write to Aberdeenshire Council in support of the local Football Club.)

5a. SPEAKER – Vicky Stigent from North East Scotland Climate Action Network gave an update on the Just Transitions Communities Project re Kemnay. Funding has been made available for this initiative, which has the aim of communities reaching Net Zero/Greener Future but also to link communities with the industrial/economic side of future development. From conversations already held with a range of Kemnay residents, the issues of transport and community connection, amongst others, were raised. A Community Assembly will be held probably in June to bring it all together and discuss findings. The information generated can then be used as the community wishes and also feed into a Local Action Plan. Vicky and her team have also been working with the Community Credit working group. Vicky is keen to speak to anyone/group not yet reached.

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* The Resilience Group was on alert during Storm Eowyn but stood down when power was finally reconnected throughout the village. It is hoped to rearrange the generator service in the next few weeks. The group is still discussing how to strengthen communications in the event of a prolonged power and mobile outage. The Community Larder continues to have to a steady number of customers; the Festive Food Parcels have been well received. Thanks again to all who contributed to make the parcels possible.

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

c) *Flooding:* SEPA Toolkit now available, a copy to be pinned to Hall noticeboards. No additional information re possible housing at Fyfe Park entrance to village; recent works do appear to have helped ease the drainage issue on Victoria Terrace.

7. MATTERS ARISING -

a) **Roads & Transport Issues/Footpaths** – *Response to recent bad weather:* Thanks to Graham Collie for his efforts on clearing snow in Paradise Road and surrounding streets. Only a limited number of streets is designated for clearing and gritting by Aberdeenshire Council - residents are encouraged to clear their own paths, etc (although not everyone is able to do this) and to look out for their neighbour or anyone less able who might need help. Grit bins should be checked regularly

and Aberdeenshire Council informed if needing to be refilled. No-one has come forward to be a Snow Warden for Kemnay. It was agreed that the refuse collection teams should be commended for their efforts during the snowy and icy conditions and praise also to the bus companies for keeping their services running. (**Action:** Secretary to feed this back to Aberdeenshire Council.) *Parking Issues:* No response from the Parking Officer at Aberdeenshire Council re the parking/obstruction issues on Aquithie Road. (**Action:** Secretary to contact the PO again with the proposal that the KCC letter passed on for her perusal should be sent out, if no response received in the next few weeks.) Awaiting a response from Breedon's and Aberdeenshire Council re clarification of ownership of Dalmadilly Ponds.

b) **Christmas Lights/Event – L Aitken/R Lamplugh:** Switch on event went well, a real success for a first attempt and small profit was even made. A feed-back meeting is to be held to discuss what went well and what could be improved/added for next year. The help given by Rood Signs to take down the motifs was much appreciated; it is hoped they might do so again next year. Thanks in particular to Dan for his efforts, and to Graeme Milne for helping with the motifs. Three lamppost sockets didn't work, reported to Aberdeenshire Council; looking to purchase another few motifs to replace those that didn't work quite so well. The battery-operated lights on the Green are coming to the end of their life and will also need to be replaced.

A vote of thanks was proposed by KCC to all those who helped with the Christmas display and the switch on event, especially to Vicky Mackie for her efforts and enthusiasm in organising the event, and to Fran and Doug Patrick for their contribution to the lighting display over the past number of years but who are now stepping down.

c) **Care of Flower Beds:** No plants will be coming from Aberdeenshire Council this year, which creates a real issue for Kemnay's floral displays. There may be funding available for perennials, but these would not be so useful for planters. (**Action:** S Wainman to contact local businesses re possible sponsorship and to work out how much money would be required.) (**Action:** Secretary to request that information go on community Facebook pages and will put item in Newsletter.)

d) **The Garioch Partnership: Outstanding Monies:** The amount is £1829.37 and can be used for community projects – eg. the Community Larder, PADs, environmental enhancement. (**Action:** Secretary to contact John Chapman to arrange for the money to be transferred to the KCC account.)

8. TREASURER REPORT – Standing order now set up to cover the regular Community Larder insert in the Newsletter.

Accounts: General Fund - £2300; Xmas Lights - £2240; PADs - £734; Resilience - £3400; Larder - £8400; Planting – £243

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications –** None

b) **Local Development Plan: Evidence Report –** For information, deadline for response has been extended.

c) **Local Place Planning: Training –** Community councillors can sign up for this, which runs over six Wednesday evenings.

10. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS) –** Traffic and driving safety was discussed. Twenty per cent of road traffic fatalities occur because no seat belt worn.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF) –** No meeting.

c) **Community Planning –** No meeting.

d) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP) –** No meeting.

e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC – KAPC –** F Patrick attended recent meeting of Parent Council. The Headteacher gave an update on: staffing (quite positive currently with few vacancies); the procedure for snow closures; Promoting Positive Relationships Policy to be circulated to Parent Council for feedback; mobile phone policy is under review; discussion/review of reporting and parents' evenings. Some discussion on possible PC fundraising initiatives and how monies raised might be spent. The purchase of bins was mooted but there would need to be consultation with Aberdeenshire Council. G Dinnes also highlighted the updated School Vision and Values about to be launched, the use of mobile phones currently under discussion, community litter picks conducted by academy pupils, which it is hoped will happen again. **APPC –** The Parent Council keeps parents updated via regular Facebook posts. **KPPC –** KCC now receiving regular KP bulletins.

e) **Press Reports–** Report on Kemnay resident involved in high-speed police chase; items on the Strength & Balance Posts, It's your Neighbourhood scheme recognition for Kemnay, positive report for Kemnay Nursery and Primary.

REPORTS – Local Groups

a) **Positive Steps and Strength & Balance and b) Community Credit Group –** Written updates received from Rob Mackay: a) Many walks had to be cancelled due to health and safety concerns as a consequence of the recent snowy & icy weather. b) The community survey attracted 145 returns, presently working on a report that will include a summary of the main themes and examples of practical actions. High level of support for a working Community Development Trust, the Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) has been contacted for help with this. Aberdeenshire

Council has now transferred the £16k, stipulating that "Eligible Projects must benefit the Kemnay Community". Community groups & services will now be contacted, and a report produced to make recommendations.

c) Greener Kemnay – Written update received from S Wainman: GK website has been updated Greenerkemnay.org.uk

The Birley Bush Community Garden volunteers have thinned the willows, replaced wood chip around the beds; people can now have a larger area to tend/grow crops. A clearing is being formed to add oak trees, etc to increase the diversity within the woodland. A BBCG event to be held in May; groups encouraged to use the space for meetings and events. The energy group has completed recording all the Energy Performance Certificates available for the wooden houses, mainly those upgraded by the Council with the addition of solar panels bringing them up to a B 81 to 85. For the other houses, difficult to know if the EPC is still correct, as many people will have done work on their house eg replacement glazing, installation of a combi boiler or heat pump but not applied to update their EPC.

d) Kemnay Village Hall – Feasibility study almost finalised. The committee has decided to defer any decision for a year and the lease has been re-signed, giving more time to study the report and consult more widely before coming to final decision re asset transfer of KVH. Also looking at the requirements of the constitution and structure of the committee.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Grant: Councillors met with local Headteachers, the three Councillors for Ward 10 meeting with Kemnay Academy Headteacher, Kyle Scott. Libraries continue to be a very live issue. Budget meeting next month, lots of cuts are being sought. *Cllr Payne:* The Council is operating essential spend only; the budget is taking up a lot of time. Is looking into the issue of bin collections in Kemnay. *Cllr Smith:* Found the meeting with Kemnay Headteacher very useful. Recognition that 78% of pupils are not from Kemnay itself, he wants to be informed of any issues within the community involving academy pupils, eg at lunchtime. But would also like to hear of any positive stories. Bin lorries did very well in Kemnay over the recent snowy weather, under difficult circumstances. Councillors have been doing a lot of work leading up to the budget in February, it has often been quite distressing as further cuts are having to be found. It is the same situation across the country.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Reminder – Rural Communities Poverty Alleviation Fund
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda
- Garioch Community Planning E-bulletin
- Joint Winter Resilience Message Dec 24
- Media Release: Overnight Resurfacing
- Equality Outcomes 2025-29
- Grampian Wellbeing Festival
- Free Local Place Plan Training and Webinars for Community Councils
- Community Council Elections Survey
- SCIS Event for Rural Islands Community Councils
- Strom Eowyn – Useful numbers
- Aberdeenshire Trading Standards Scams Bulletin – KCC contact update
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers – 04 February 2025
- Upcoming Events for Community Councils – LPP training + Scottish Climate Intelligence Service Webinars
- Briefing to Community Councils – Renewables and Energy Consents
- Garioch Community Planning E-bulletin January 2025

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

- Tall Ships 2025 – Trainee Opportunities
- Community Wealth Building – AVA
- Correspondence re Kemnay Village Hall Contract
- Kintore to Tealing 400kV overhead line - February/March 2025 Public Consultation Dates
- Reminder: Unveiling our RIIO-T3 Business plan Webinar (SEEN)
- Scottish Water responding to impacts of Storm Eowyn
- Dissertation Research Project – Kintore to Tealing OHL
- ICYMI: Sign up to the Pathway to 2030 Overhead Line Project Update Webinar
- For CC awareness & information – SEEN Final Report on Consultation – Further Public Engagement Events

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

M Brown: Youth Club still on hiatus but a meeting is going to be held with youth Worker to try to get through the bureaucracy, particularly re PVG checks. *Grace Dinnes:* Attended a meeting of the pupil Participation Forum in Inverurie in November when how the lack of funding affects learning was discussed. The next meeting is to be held in Banchory in February. A school newsletter has been produced. (**Action:** G Dinnes to bring a copy for all KCC members at next meeting.) *S Wainman:* Attended the Democracy Matters consultation where the future of

community councils and local government was discussed. *F Patrick*: Reminded KCC of the survey on community council elections to be completed by 28th February.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 27th February 2025
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available**