

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 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(via Teams); Cllr Smith; Cllr Payne(via Teams) **Apologies:** Brian Cowie

**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. L Aitken and P Paterson stated that they had an interest in Item 6c.

**3 MINUTES OF MEETING 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025** – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by D Johnston.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – No report received. It seems quiet in Kemnay currently.

**5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK** - None

### 6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder*: Still trying to arrange a suitable date/time to get generator serviced. The Larder is ticking over, number of users remains steady.

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

c) *Flooding*: Provision of sandbags from the Council to cease, with householders encouraged to take measures to protect their own property. Current arrangements for the flood barrier will stay in place for another year, but funding (£12000) will be withdrawn from next year; local Councillors argued strongly for the retention of current arrangements. Reports in the media said the barrier would be handed over to Kembhill Park residents, but there was no clarification on this or on the practicalities of how this would work (storage, training, volunteers, etc). Aberdeenshire Council is to look at the flood requirements for Kemnay; the question was raised about whether residents will be consulted. Cllr Smith urged that KCC councillors listen to the whole meeting (available on AC website) to get full details. Dismay was expressed about any proposal to hand the deployment of the barrier over to residents; any decision should only be made after the publication of the flood study for Kemnay. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Aberdeenshire Council about this and concerns over lack of consultation and poor communication. **Action:** S Wainman will put item in next Newsletter about this and where to buy FloodSax, etc. **Action:** Secretary to contact Planning Dept council re the requirement for vent covers.)

### 7. MATTERS ARISING -

a) **Parking Issues** – Response received from Planning Officer. (**Action:** Secretary to deliver letters to affected residents.)

b) **Bogbeth Park** – Letter from Chair sent to Susan Adams, Ann Overton and Sport & Leisure in support of Kemnay Football Club re use of Bogbeth Park. (**Action:** Secretary to send copy of letter to local Councillors.) It has also been reported that stray cricket balls are landing in the children's play area.

c) **Bin Collections** – There has been quite a lot of discontent and frustration expressed at missed bin collections, and at the lack of communication from the Council. Cllr Smith explained that there have been issues with lorries needing repairs, illness/absence affecting crews, new crews unfamiliar with some parts of their route. (**Action:** Cllr Smith to forward any communication she receives about bin collections to KCC and will also ask about arrangements for excess green waste when collections are missed.)

d) **Dalmadilly Ponds – Update** – The wooden planters and wooden section of footpath have been repaired; S Wainman will try to source new plants for the planters. Noted that the Bee Group has expressed their appreciation for Breedon's support. Still no response re who is responsible for the car park, although general opinion is that it is the quarry. It seems to be the same situation as the Place of Origin car park, where responsibility for upkeep is also unclear. (**Action:** Chair to write to Malcolm Allan re possible help with the repair of PoO car park.)

e) **Removal of telephone box** – (**Action:** KCC to put in an objection to the removal of the phone box and encouraged

anyone with a view also to do so.)

**8. TREASURER REPORT** – No cheque received as yet from John Chapman, Garioch Partnership. Renewal quote has been received from Zurich Insurance. (**Action:** Secretary to pass on additional insurance information to J Whittall.)

### **9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –**

a) **Current planning applications** – Agreed (majority in favour, 3 taking a neutral stance) letter of support from KCC for [Change of Use and Alterations to Agricultural Buildings and Dwellings to Form Distillery, Cooperage \(Class 5\), Warehouse \(Class 6\), Visitor Centre \(Class 10\) and Associated Works](#) Fetternear Stables

Ref. No: APP/2025/0126

(**Action:** G Berkin to write letter of

support.)

b) **Local Place Planning: Training Update** – S Wainman has completed 3 of the 6 training sessions and has found the one based in Argyll and Bute the most accessible; a Place Plan can sit aside other reports or research on an area but is the only one that has official status and is lodged with the Council. The Community Assembly planned for May/June may feed into the Kemnay Place Plan; there should be two council officers allocated to support the community with this. All communities with an academy are to have a Place Plan; the Kemnay Place Plan deadline is December 2026.

### **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.

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

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

e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC* – G Dinnes: Course choices taking place at moment; 4-stage phone policy now in place, if rules not followed, phone can be taken away for a length of time; P7s have been for their first transition session; Sportathon has taken place, to raise money for PE Dept; item for school newsletter about what has been discussed at KCC, to help foster positive relations with the community. *APPC* – The Parent Council is looking for new Chair and Treasurer. *KPPC* – Anti-social parking is still an issue; the Depute Head is leaving due to promotion.

f) **Press Reports** – None

### **REPORTS – Local Groups**

Brief written report received (circulated to KCC members) from Rob Mackay on (a & (b

a) **Positive Steps and Strength & Balance** – Fantastic group of around 15 volunteers lead 5 groups of enthusiastic walkers. Rob gave a history of the construction of the Dalmadilly community path, created to offer a safer walking route and which is well used by members of the community. The land was given by Aberdeenshire Council and was constructed by a local contractor, but the Path Group (a collaboration between Greener Kemnay and PSK) remains responsible for its maintenance. A great example of what can happen when a local community identifies a local problem and works together to find a solution.

b) **Community Credit Group** – Good progress being made on the Community Survey report, which will outline the priorities identified in the responses; have engaged with the Development Trust Association; an open community meeting is to be held mid May, then it is hoped that a constitutional and organisational structure will be clear.

c) **Greener Kemnay** – Written update received from S Wainman, circulated to KCC members: Thanks to Birchgrove Tree Care who have given a load of chipped beech to Birley Bush Community Garden. Open Day is to be on 10<sup>th</sup> May, starting with a birdsong walk. A village trail is planned. The Beavers have been using the garden for 'star gazing'. The Kemnay Steens information boards are still not in place, despite being ready since July 2024. It is very frustrating that Aberdeenshire Council (Landscape Services) have not done this. There is an issue with a dead beech tree on Birley Bush Lane, which needs to be taken down by the Council.

d) **Kemnay Village Hall** – Due to illness, the Hall is currently operating without the services of a hall keeper but volunteers are rallying round. Hoped to have a cleaner in place in near future.

### **11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -**

*Cllr Payne:* Budget setting has taken up a lot of time, but he is now turning his attention to case work, especially bin collection issues. *Cllr Grant:* Apologised that he couldn't attend in person. He has been exceptionally busy with the budget; a lot of pressure due to demographic trends and changes. *Cllr Smith:* Likewise, very busy with the budget. The proposed Councillor 'walkabout' with Landscape Services will now take place later in Spring. She has taken part in Headteacher interview panels. Communities are going to be consulted re the possible turning off of streetlights – there will be no blanket approach to this cost-saving measure and certain places will have priority for lighting to be maintained.

A question was asked of the Councillors re progress on Active Travel Routes and whether there is provision for this in the budget. (**Action:** Cllr Grant to pursue this.)

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 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
- Scotland's Towns Partnership Funding Finder
- Tenant Participation Advert – Tenant Participation
- MET Office Online Training
- Aberdeenshire Town Centre Health Checks Release
- Health & Transport Action Plan 2024-2029
- Trading Standards Bulletin No 106
- The Garioch Partnership – Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March

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

- SSEN Final report on Consultation – Further public Engagement Events = Kintore to Tealing OHL
- Dissertation Research Project
- Kemnay Primary School Bulletin
- Scottish Flood Forum – Winter 24/25 Newsletter
- 10<sup>th</sup> Great British Spring Clean
- National Speed Management Review – Online Engagement
- Zurich Insurance – Renewal

## 13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

*S Wainman*: has asked various people re support with sourcing plants; maybe someone to be fundraiser is needed to help raise the £400 approx required. (**Action**: Chair to email local businesses asking for help/support with this.) *M Brown*: Suggested NTS at Castle Fraser might have spare plants? *S Bunton*: Wall at Wood Gardens is still in a very poor state. (**Action**: Secretary to write again to Aberdeenshire Council.) Also noted that there are cut branches piled up on the Green. *R Lamplugh*: Wished to praise Aberdeenshire Council for repairing many drains in the village. *G. Dinnes*: Wasn't able to attend the latest Pupil Participation meeting. Vicky Stigant (NESCAN) has suggested she take part in a residential visit with Rural Youth Action Network in Inverness, when she plans to visit an organic farm. *G Berkin*: Accident at top of Bremner Way, apparently due to pupil blinded by very low sun. (**Action**: Secretary to inform Aberdeenshire Council and ask again if a crossing is required.) *P Paterson*: Knife found lying in road, picked up and handed in to police. *F Patrick*: Apologised for not circulating the planning survey earlier to KCC members.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available**