

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 27th March 2025 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available

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

Apologies: Gaenor Berkin; Claire Stewart

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 27th February 2025 – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by J Whittall, seconded by D Johnston.

4 POLICE MATTERS – No report received again, despite a reminder. (**Action:** Chair to follow up.)

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – *Rob Mackay (Community Credit Group):* Rob handed out an invitation to a Community Gathering on Wednesday, 14th May in the Village Hall; thanks to the six volunteers who make up the Kemnay Community Credit Group - Lee Aitken, Claire Neesham, Ian Booth, Irene Reid, Grace Dinnes, Rob Mackay - for their input. More detail will be given at the Gathering, based on the over three hundred comments received. The group has contacted the Community Development Trust Association Scotland and Julia Dall from the Association is helping develop the May meeting. The group has visited the Belhelvie Trust to see how their community development trust is set up and has plans to visit another couple, both of which operate different models. The group is hoping that people will be willing to come forward to establish a community development trust here. Aberdeenshire Council set three expectations for any eligible project: it must benefit the community & add to its capacity, reduce poverty and inequality, and aid the move towards net zero. All KCC members are encouraged to attend.

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* Field Engineering Services have been in touch about re-scheduling the maintenance check for the generator. The Resilience Group has decided to postpone this now until September/October. A step-by-step guide on how to start up the generator will be posted in the projection room next to the generator switch. *Larder:* Grateful for the donation from the John Adam Trust; continued, steady number of users. The Larder is designed to be a safety net/a helping hand and will never turn anyone in need away. Very grateful for the food support received from the local Co-op and Premier supermarkets, M&S in Inverurie and CFINE/Fareshare.

b) *PADs:* No report of any issues or incidents. Very grateful for the donation to the PADs fund from the John Adam Trust. Giving some thought to the timeline for ordering replacement sets of pads as all expire at the same time early next year.

c) *Flooding:* SEPA have published new flood maps; the interim results of the flood report are due in June. A lack of extensive publicity for the consultation process was concerning. Kembhill Park Flood Group is to hold a meeting at the beginning of April, when the flood barrier and its future (non)deployment by Aberdeenshire Council (with no prior consultation with the group or residents) will be discussed. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Aberdeenshire Council about this issue, stressing the need for consultation with the local community.)

7. MATTERS ARISING -

a) **Parking Issues** – Issue on Aquithie Road seems to have been resolved. Both GreenBelt and Aberdeenshire Council were contacted to confirm who was responsible for the upkeep of the car park for the Place of Origin. Both said it was the other. Similar situation with the car park at Dalmadilly, where neither the Quarry nor Aberdeenshire Council claim responsibility. (**Action:** Chair to contact people who might be able/willing to help with this, eg Malcolm Allan, Aberdeenshire Council, neighbouring farmer.)

b) **Bin Collections** – Communication re missed collections seems to have been a little better recently, although the reason given for non collection is often still rather vague. It might help if the actual reason could be given as rumours do start spreading via social media and having the actual reason might instil greater trust and understanding.

c) **Bogbeth Park** – The response received by KCC from Aberdeenshire Council was not particularly positive. No further action to be taken by KCC until an update is received from Ewan Fraser following the Park Users meeting held last week. It does seem that some work has been carried out on the 'mini Hampden' pitch.

d) **Environmental Enhancement** – Planting is going on and a lot of weeding has been done on Station Road/Riverside Road. Aberdeenshire Council has tidied the flower bed at the top of the High Street, which is appreciated. Donations have come in from the John Adam Trust and from the Golf Club Quiz and some local businesses have also promised donations. Breedon's have offered to supply the compost for this year. Thanks to all for their contributions.

A reminder email has been sent to Aberdeenshire Council about requested improvements at the play park next to Alehousewells primary school and about the poor state of the wall at Wood Gardens.

Litter picking – individuals are still going out and doing litter picking, which is very much appreciated. It was pointed out that there is a lot of litter caught in the 'dip' at the side of the Co-op, which a member of KCC offered to clear. (**Action:** S Wainman to give M Brown the contact details for the Community Pioneer at the Co-op.)

8. TREASURER REPORT – Garioch Partnership money (£1829) is now in the account – some discussion as to how this money is to be distributed. (**Action:** Chair to check past KCC minutes.) There has been a donation to the Plants Fund. McAfee cover now cancelled; Microsoft subscription due in April.

Accounts: Xmas Lights (£2186); Resilience (£3230); PADs (£734); Larder (£8200); Plants (£413)

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** – No action on

[Change of Use and Alterations to Agricultural Buildings and Dwellings to Form Distillery, Cooperage, Visitor Centre and Associated Works](#) Fetternear

Ref.

No: APP/2025/0265

There was a good turn out at the recent open day for the planned distillery.

[Erection of Replacement Dwellinghouse with Associated Ground Works Without Compliance with Conditions 1 \(Demolition of Existing House\) of Full Planning Permission](#) Craigearn, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2019/1768

10. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

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

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Mike Cassie, Fire Officer. The fire service has funding for out of hours emergency food parcels, also for breakfast clubs and 'brew with a crew', all intended to increase community engagement. Service is also doing work at Kemnay Academy on river safety.

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

d) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)** – This tends to be a general chat/networking discussion. Seem to be gaps in CLD knowledge about what is currently happening in Kemnay.

e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – **KAPC** – G Dinnes: Final exam timetable issued; new school values ('Work Hard, Be Kind, Grow') now displayed; Sportathon raised over £7000 for the PE department, school newsletter can be accessed via the school Facebook page. G Dinnes attended the latest Pupil Participation Forum in Huntly, where there was discussion around renaming 'resilience' groups to make more accessible and to engage young people more. Also, discussion on the cost of the school day (uniform, PE kit, equipment, etc). Some discussion on the effects of poverty on young people in still fairly affluent Aberdeenshire. **APPC** – New Chair, Secretary and Treasurer elected. (**Action:** Secretary to contact school to request that all employees and visitors to the school use the car park rather than park on the street, which has been causing problems, especially at the corner of Kembhill Park.) **KPPC** – Bulletin has been circulated.

f) **Press Reports**– Item in P&J about walk around Fetternear and follow up letter by Dr Penelope Dransart correcting some of the information given (eg confusing Fetternear House with the Bishop's Palace).

REPORTS – Local Groups

a) **Positive Steps and Strength & Balance** – Have gained grants from three local groups – the Bargain Box, the John Adam Trust, Monymusk Thrift Shop – which will be used to fund two bus trips.

b) **Greener Kemnay** – Written update circulated to KCC members. The Kemnay Steens information boards have now been installed. Open Day is on 10th May and help would be appreciated; KCC could have a stall?

c) **Kemnay Village Hall** – There was a speaker from Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, who went through the requirements of the two-tier SCIO constitution and the feasibility study which has been produced for the Hall. The Hall roof has been examined. (**Action:** G Stevens to share with the Village Hall, and any other interested group, the documents re internal policies and procedures now often required by project funders.)

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Smith: Has been busy up to recess, which is about to start. Attended an informal developer obligations session, a good format as Councillors can ask relevant questions – it's not always clear how these funds are allocated. Has also been looking at the Scottish Government proposals re 20MPH speed limit. For Kemnay, this could be all of Bremner Way, on Aquithie/Station Road from the junction of Bremner Way to the war memorial, and on Victoria terrace from the garage to the war memorial. These proposals are going out for consultation. (**Action:** S Wainman to send the consultation link to all KCC members. If KCC makes a collective recommendation, Councillors should be included so they can support.) The Garioch Area Committee budget has just been agreed, drastically reduced but there is still funding available for small grants and for Garioch Area Initiatives. The Village Hall might be interested in the match-funded energy efficiency grant. Not a great deal of case work currently, although anticipates increasing issues with the aging bin lorry fleet. *Cllr Payne:* Parking at the top of the High Street is an ongoing issue. Still awaiting a response re active travel routes. *Cllr Grant:* Apologies for inability to attend in person due to illness. Found the presentation on developer obligations very interesting, the Community Council Forum would also find it useful. An additional Area Committee meeting was held to discuss the hydrogen plant at Kintore, which GAC decided not to support, so it will now go to full council. The Audit Committee meeting was a follow on from the budget; the Health and Social Care Partnership is looking how to attain for financial sustainability.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Consultation on Aberdeenshire Public Call Box Removal
- Scotland's Town Partnership – Funding Finder
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin No. 108
- Garioch Community Planning Joint Meeting
- Warp-It Information
- Request for Participation: Trading Standards Project on new and second-hand car industry
- Response to KCC Query re Place of Origin Car Park
- Emergency Closure St Brydes
- Support No Mow Meadows Initiative
- Garioch Area Committee Special Meeting Agenda Papers
- AHSC Partnership – Draft Equality Outcomes Survey
- Area Committee Funds
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin, No 109
- Area Initiative Fund Now Open
- Update on Local Place Plans
- Garioch Community Planning E-bulletin
- Councillor Notification of SEPA Guidance Consultation

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

- Inverurie Community First Responders Spring Newsletter
- Changeworks Energy Advice Sessions
- Aberdeenshire Social Enterprise Network Update – March 2025
- SEPA New Surface Water Flood Maps
- University of Aberdeen Lunch & Learn Sessions
- Kemnay Primary School March Bulletin

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

G Stevens: attended the distiller open day, spoke with a P&J reporter and got contact details (livenews@pressandjournal.co.uk, 01224 343311), which might be useful to share what is happening in Kemnay. *G Dinnes:* Feed-back from residential trip to Inverness, a group of sixty 16–30-year-olds, through Youth Local Action Groups. Really good visit to a working croft. No such group in Aberdeenshire, so discussing how to introduce scheme to this area with help from Vicky Stigant of NESCAN. Grace and two others are looking to set up a group and to devise a programme for rural industries in schools to propose to the Scottish Government. Grace has applied to be a delegate at the European Rural Youth Parliament to be held in Inverurie in October. *P Paterson:* Cars parking on the brow of the hill by the Co-op is causing a real danger. *S Bunton:* Branches on the Green have now been cleared. *M Basley:* No information on area of land cleared at top of Bremner Way by Safelift but to be monitored and Planning contacted, if required. *L Aitken:* Asked for update re incident at junction with Bremner Way and whether Aberdeenshire Council informed and a crossing possibly required. (**Action:** Secretary to contact the Council.)

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 24th April 2025

7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available