

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 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; Gaenor Berkin; Dan Johnston; Richard Lamplugh; Grace Dinnes; Mary Brown; Brian Cowie; Cllr Grant(via Teams); Cllr Smith

**Apologies:** Pauline Paterson; Cllr Payne

**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 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025** – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by R Lamplugh.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Reports received have covered from last October. Crime remains low; parking issue at primary school noted.

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

**6.SPEAKER** – *Vicky Stigant, NESCAN:* Continuing with community research, trying to work out who they haven't managed

to reach. Did a visit to Kemnay Primary and some pupils took them on a tour of the village, telling them what they liked/didn't like/wanted, etc. Planning to go into Alehousewells Primary and the Academy. Results will be part of the final report. Still doing workshops; still hoping to talk with representatives of younger men from the village (some groups to approach were suggested by KCC members). Also need to look at specific environmental issues, especially flooding and active travel routes (this was an issue also raised by the pupils). A Community Assembly, possibly on 8<sup>th</sup> June, will be held when the findings will be presented and anything that has been missed can be picked up and what the next steps might be discussed. (**Action:** V Stigant will pass on to KCC any information she gets on the flood report.)

A request from a KCC member that cycle provision at Dalmadilly and the Shakkin' Briggie – eg bike racks and benches – be considered and a push for progress on key active travel routes.

## 7. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* Date for this year's Resilience Conference is 10<sup>th</sup> October; link to funding is still available; communications grant is still available. *Larder* - has had a particularly busy couple of weeks and the cost of food items bought in has noticeably increased. The donation from the John Adam Trust has arrived. (**Action:** F Patrick to write letter of thanks.)

b) *PADs:* The Co-ordinator has been contacted and confirmed that there are no issues currently with the units. (**Action:** F Patrick to contact G Berkin to discuss programme/timeline for purchasing pads, batteries. **Action:** S Wainman to ask the Co-op re applying to be a selected community group for fundraising for the PADs.)

c) *Flooding:* Waiting for Binnies to give information. The Chair of Kembhill Park Flood Group has contacted local MP and MSP.

## 8. MATTERS ARISING – From previous meeting

a) **Car park maintenance** – L Aitken has called and emailed Malcolm Allan re Place of Origin car park, awaiting a response. He has also spoken with Murdo Adam, who offered his assistance to help improve both car parks. (**Action:** Cllr Smith to raise Dalmadilly Ponds at next Garioch Area meeting.) S Wainman has already sent all planning documents, etc to Garioch Area Manager and Garioch Area Project Officer. Question raised whether Garioch Area Initiative funding could be used for this.

b) **Bogbeth Park** – No update received from the Users' Meeting. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Ewan Fraser.)

c) **Environmental Enhancement: Planting; Playpark improvements** – S Wainman shared with KCC the social media post going out; very pleased that people have come forward to do tasks after a call has gone out. The main place left in the village in need of attention is the Place of Origin, although some volunteers do litter pick there. (It was

unfortunate that such a mess was made in the community by Academy pupils during 'muck up' day. A lot of distress/anger was caused, especially when groups of balaclava-wearing and masked youths were gathering.)  
Re playpark improvements at Alehousewells (disabled access swing and fencing), still awaiting update. The disabled access swing has still not been installed at Bogbeth Park, it is apparently still pending.  
The Kemnay Councillor 'walkabout' with Landscape Services will be held on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **MATTERS ARISING: New**

- a) **Future of sheltered housing in the village** – Cllr Smith pointed out that discussions have been going on for some time with tenants at sheltered complexes with potential issues re their future. Littlewood Court not one of these. Misinformation in the media has caused concern and raised anxiety. Some KCC members felt it might have helped if community councils had been made aware of what was happening as they were having to deal with questions from members of their community, they could also have helped with clearer communication of the facts.  
(**Action:** Cllr Smith to share a briefing note with KCC.) Cllr Smith reminded that if any tenant is worried, they should contact their Local Housing Officer in the first instance.
- b) **Garioch Area initiative Fund** – deadline extended.
- c) **Trading Standards Scams Bulletins** – A reminder that these are published regularly. They are very useful and informative and should be shared widely: <https://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/trading-standards-crime-and-scams-bulletin> (**Action:** Reminder and link to bulletins to be put on community social media.)
- d) **Additional item - Bus forum** - To be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May when Kemnay bus routes will be discussed.

**9. TREASURER REPORT** – Microsoft subscription now paid. Money now received from John Adam Trust for the PADs fund (£100) and the Plants fund (£150) and for LaHK Community Larder (£200)

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

- a) **Current planning applications** – No action on  
[Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse](#) Hillfold, Kemnay      **Ref. No: APP/2025/0519**

#### **11. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General**

- a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No meeting.
- b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – No meeting.
- c) **Community Planning** – Report by S Wainman circulated: Information on Local Place Plans and Community Action Plans; workshop session on Place and Wellbeing, originally a ScotGov project, principles from which now being used by some services at Aberdeenshire Council. Discussion on Active Travel Routes, car parking and development, planning and flooding, long term planning for care of space, sharing of assets, sheltered housing. Main comments from attendees seemed to be the lack of information passed on to communities and lack of responses to questions and requests.
- d) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)** – No meeting.
- e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC* – G Dinnes: Study leave now started; S6 pupils piped out on their last day; staff did best to contain 'muck up' day; Awards Ceremony on 25<sup>th</sup> June; assemblies on issue of litter in the wider community caused by academy pupils, still thinking of organising litter picks. *KPPC* – Inconsiderate/illegal parking still an issue. *APPC* – Duck Race on 1<sup>st</sup> June; next PTA meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm, with virtual link available.
- f) **Press Reports**– Item in various media outlets about the proposed distillery at Fetternear.

#### **REPORTS – Local Groups**

- a) **Positive Steps and Strength & Balance** – No update received re PS, S&B but the Paths Group is going to start clearing the path down to Dalmadilly ponds this Sunday. All volunteers welcome.
- b) **Greener Kemnay** – Written update circulated to KCC members. Weeding and planting continues; gutter on Riverside Road finally swept. Pavements, paving, gutters, etc are being damaged by the growth of weeds such as dandelions, dock and grass. An 'It's Your Neighbourhood – Keep Scotland Beautiful' post re what is happening in Kemnay is going out on social media.
- c) **Kemnay Village Hall** – Last old format meeting has been held. Now there will be two 'tiers' – ordinary members and trustees. The trustees group will be meeting regularly to deal with the running of the Hall, the members group can be consulted on certain issues, contribute when they wish and attend the AGM.
- d) **Community Credit Group** – Brief written report received from R Mackay. Plans well advanced for the Community Gathering on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May. Planning to do limited house to house leafleting to encourage more people to attend and have their say. Particularly wishing to involve parents and young children. Keen that community councillors participate but also to encourage others to come along and have their say.

## 11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

*Cllr Grant:* Has been catching up with things after recess; several meetings and committees. Interesting meeting on community wealth building. Looking forward to Kemnay 'walkabout'. Very busy full council meeting, when the Kintore hydrogen plant finally got planning permission. *Cllr Smith:* Very busy agenda for full council; her inbox has predominantly been about the development at Kintore, also about the proposed merger of two small rural schools. Has attended lots of committees, etc.

A KCC member raised the issue of bins and the fact that incomplete collection rounds were now a weekly occurrence. Particular concern over missed green food waste collection as there is nowhere to take this waste. Could/should Aberdeenshire Council make provision at recycling centres for this waste as well? (**Action:** Secretary to contact Aberdeenshire Council.)

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers – 22 April
- Garioch Area Initiative Fund – Period for applications extended
- Hybrid Bus Forum – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April
- Employment Support Team
- Community Resilience Conference and Available Funding
- Garioch Community Planning E-bulletin
- Trading Standards Scam Bulletin, No 111

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

- Ten Feet Tall – New Torphins Social Group
- Aberdeenshire Social Enterprise Network Update
- My Place Awards
- Motorbikes in Leschangie – email received from a resident about motorbikes in Leschangie Woods been ridden dangerously and causing damage. (KCC members noted that this was also happening in Fetternear. Police should be informed.)

## 13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

*R Lamplugh:* Dog poo being left *in bags* in woods. This is a real social and environmental hazard - these bags take a long time to degrade. (**Action:** R Lamplugh to put item in Newsletter.) *G Dinnes:* Brought a few copies of the Academy Newsletter to show KCC members. *Brian Cowie:* Asked if there was any update about proposed replacement Scout hut. (No official update, it would seem the asset transfer hasn't progressed, but fundraising is continuing.) *G Stevens:* Query re the 20MPH consultation. It seems the consultation period has not begun yet. (**Action:** KCC to monitor this.) *M Brown:* Still working on the Youth Club. A meeting was held at the Academy, but not very well attended; plan to hold a disco; most volunteers now have their PVG certificates. *L Aitken:* Christmas Lights meeting held. Date agreed for switch on event – 6<sup>th</sup> December. A couple of fundraisers are planned. *F Patrick:* Will be away for next KCC meeting, so arrangements will need to be made re minute taking and setting up Teams for online attendees.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
**7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available**