

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 25th September 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; Richard Lamplugh; Mary Brown; Gaenor Berkin; Grace Dinnes; Dan Johnston Cllr Grant; Cllr Smith

Apologies: Claire Stewart; Cllr Payne

Attending: Rob Mackay, Community Credit Group; 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 26th June 2025 – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh, seconded by S Wainman.

4 POLICE MATTERS – No September report received but the August report was circulated. Crime figures continue to be low; a youth initiative was carried out over the summer; there is a new inspector, who is to speak at the next CC Forum.

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – *Rob Mackay (Community Credit Group):* R Mackay shared information on developments and is looking for comment/feedback. There is now a steering committee for the emerging Kemnay Community Trust and there will be a meeting in February 2026 to launch the constitution. The group is focusing on four aims, with the essential purpose to identify issues and find solutions. It is planned to be a long-term strategy. Still looking to reach out to the wider community/groups to inform about what a Community Trust is and to encourage involvement. Management of the funds, including fundraising and applying for grants, will be the responsibility of the trustees of the trust. The £16 000 will be used to help gain additional funding, much of which will require match funding.

R Mackay then went on to speak of an event to be held on Sunday 5th October – *Place of Origin – Discover Kemnay's Hidden Treasure*. This is being organised by the Paths Group to coincide with Climate Week. The success of the recent work party at the PoO has led to a rediscovery of the area, with paths and the area around Mavis' benches cleared. Hoping to clear the area further around the benches and sow wildflower seeds.

Greenbelt, sub-contracted to Nurture, have now cleared the area by the car park but have still not cleared the core path or the area by Wellbank, local volunteers have sprayed, strimmed and mowed the area. Breedon's are responsible for the top area and look after it well. **(Action:** Secretary to get back to Greenbelt about the work still needing done, including the need to thin out the trees.)

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* A reminder that the Resilience Conference 2025 is to be held on 10th October at Kings Church, Bridge of Don. Keith at FES has been contacted re the generator service and has kindly agreed to do it free of charge in return for an advertising poster displayed at the Hall. Community Councils may be able to 'adopt' a grit bin but would need to source/purchase the grit and that could be costly, and there is a formal adoption process. An engagement pack is being developed by Aberdeenshire Council. **(Action:** Cllr Grant to ask Aberdeenshire Council about helping community councils to source grit.)

b) *PADs:* No issues reported. The Final Commissioning Certificate for the installation of the PADs unit at the Hall has now been found and will be kept by the Secretary.

c) *Flooding:* The recent exhibition on the Kemnay Flood Report presented by Aberdeenshire Council and held at the Hall was very informative. The proposals presented were generally positively received by those who attended but there is apparently still a long way to go to get grant funding. Many expressed concern and anger about the cancellation of the Briggs contract for storing and deploying the Kembhill Park barrier. Local Councillors have raised these issues but as yet there has been no change to the decision made by the Infrastructure Services Committee. **(Action:** Councillors present agreed to raise this again at next ward meeting.)

The Milton Meadows group has also been active in consulting with Lee Watson. The flood maps, etc used for the exhibition have been left with KCC for future exhibitions, etc.

7. MATTERS ARISING – From previous meeting

- a) **Bogbeth Park** – L Aitken, F Patrick, S Wainman and G Berkin met with Ann Overton, Susan Adams, Jim Robertson, and a representative from LiveLife Aberdeenshire for a site visit at the cricket pitch. The booking system has been improved after problems with it had been identified by users. Risk assessments were raised re cricket balls reaching the play park – the boundary was measured and is within regulation distance from the centre of the crease. The cricket club has been reminded about safety issues and is aware of the possibility of balls straying into the play park and do apparently patrol the boundary there. Some suggestions were discussed about how this section of the boundary might be made more secure. Regular users of the pavilion and pitches have been sent reminders to get their bookings on to the system, it seems one or two of the football groups had not done so yet. The use of other pitches in the village was also discussed. A new standardised pricing structure has been introduced.
- b) **Maintenance of green spaces** – Landscape Services were contacted and some work has been carried out at the Village Green but the cutting down of the saplings and other general tidying still have to be done.
- c) **Road and Parking Issues** – Ian Robertson, a resident at Horner, wanted to raise the speed of traffic coming into the village, making the exit from their road on to the main road very dangerous. Could the speed limit be reduced? This is an issue raised before by KCC with relevant authorities but no change was made. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Roads Department and the Police.) Seems to have been less of an issue with cars causing an obstruction at junction High Street/Aquithie Road, situation still to be monitored. Email received re obstructed sightlines for vehicles at exit to cemetery, Aberdeenshire Council and house holders informed, situation now resolved.

MATTERS ARISING – New

- a) **Participation in Aberdeenshire Council Funding Share Action Group** – Most KCC members support this initiative. (**Action:** Secretary will respond to the invitation.)
- b) **Participation in North East Convention of Community Councils** – This is to held on 11th October in Stonehaven to discuss concerns over renewable energy projects and major energy infrastructure in Aberdeenshire, Angus and Aberdeen City. If anyone plans to attend, they should let the organisers know.
- c) **Christmas Lights & Event** - A fundraising event has been held and £1700 raised; the Bargain Box has granted £250, so the cost of the new motifs has been covered. The switch-on event will be similar to last year and is on Saturday, 6th December 3-5pm, with the tree lights being switched on at 4.30pm.

8. TREASURER REPORT –

Over the summer break, only two sums of money have been paid in - £400 for planting and £300 from St Anne's for the Community Larder, raised from their Green Mondays. F Patrick expressed thanks for this much appreciated donation to the Larder. All accounts currently stand at: General: £3272 Larder: £6450 Xmas Lights: £1800
Resilience: £3200 PADs: £1444 Planting: £1576

For a future meeting, need to think about KCC's budget requirements for the Aberdeenshire Council grant.

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

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

[Erection of Dwellinghouse \(Change of House type and plot Layout to Planning Permission\)](#)

Westerton, Fetternear

Ref. No: APP/2020/0444

[Alterations and Extension to Garage](#) Kendal Road, Kemnay

Ref. No: APP/2025/1257

[Erection of Domestic Stables](#) East Keithney, Burnhervie

Ref. No: APP/2025/1258

[Erection of Agricultural Storage Building](#) Manitowish House, Pitcaple

Ref. No: APP/2025/1381

- b) Majority of KCC members felt that no objection should be made by the community council to the planning application for land at the top of Bremner Way but did request – and got – an extension for responses to be made. KCC keen to maintain dialogue with Peter Innes about this proposed development.

- c) Social housing development of 65 houses next to Fyfe Park now pencilled in on Local Development Plan by Scottish Reporter, but no developer partner identified on the LDP.

10. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

- a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – Discussion re campaigning to allow car accidents/incidents recorded on film to be used as evidence, currently not the case. (**Action:** D Johnston to circulate minutes from meeting.)

- b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Presentation update on Peterhead Museum. Then issues raised by various community council areas: travellers, refugee hotel (Westhill); development on flood plain (Cluny,

Midmar & Monymusk); application for mountain biking trails, but with no facilities (Pitfichie); concern re amount of battery storage facilities being proposed over a number of CC areas, creating a cluster (Bennachie). And grit bins. A lively meeting, with very full attendance.

c) Community Planning – Meeting cancelled.

d) Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)/Garioch Health Improvement Network – Looking at employment for young people. A Practitioner Day held in September to try to get more connection between various professionals.

e) KAPC/KPPC/APPC – **KAPC** – G Dinnes – Exam timetable issued; appeals published soon; Headteacher to allocate £10 000 to the school captains and prefects who then have to decide how to spend the money to the benefit of all pupils (part of leadership programme); litter still an issue, school captains trying to organise litter picks; showcase for S1/S2 parents; pupil participation forum to be held this Monday in Ellon; Newsletter for term1 being put together at moment. **KPPC** – No meeting but latest newsletter circulated. **APPC** – Permanent appointment of new Headteacher; Facebook Parents Page is introducing new members of the Parent Council, a welcome initiative. FB page also advertising several events taking place.

f) Press Reports– Item on Kemnay Academy apparently being over capacity (although noted it was noted that temporary classrooms are not included in the calculation); item on hedge dispute.

REPORTS – Local Groups

a) Positive Steps and Strength & Balance – No update.

b) Greener Kemnay – Two applications for funding in process, one for the home retrofitting project, the other for replacement fencing at Birley Bush Community Garden. The fence application is through the participatory budget scheme and will require people to vote for it, which everyone urged to do. Aberdeenshire Council would take away old fence to be recycled at Pitscurry. The work carried out at Place of Origin (see item 5 above) was a joint initiative with Greener Kemnay and the Paths for All group. Still looking for more volunteer houses for the retrofitting project, particularly former council houses.

c) Kemnay Village Hall – Five-year lease (full insuring and repairing) has now been signed; the trustees have agreed to go ahead with the asset transfer, with a sub-committee being formed to take this forward. *Newsletter*: is to be printed in-house on a printer which is to be leased and which will also be open for the wider public to make use of. *Fireworks*: going ahead this year but if can't get enough donations or volunteers, this may be the last time the event takes place. A second fundraising event has been cancelled due to lack of support and organisers are now considering a Bingo Night at the Ashvale in Inverurie.

d) Community Credit Group – See Item 5.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Smith: Trees on Green now dealt with and remedial work taken place at entrance to bus park to alleviate flooding issues. She attended the Kemnay Flood Report exhibition and has shared her experience of flooding events. A video is available on YouTube on Aberdeenshire Council performance report. *Cllr Grant*: Always raising issues at ward meetings; two meetings of full council; recent Audit Committee meeting had a very full agenda; attended meeting with Heads of Service, a very useful, more informal opportunity to ask a range of questions. Attended Kemnay Village Hall Open Day, it was very interesting to see the old photos and read historical documents. Potholes, etc can be registered on the *FixMy Street* website. (KCC members appreciated that many potholes in and around the village have now been repaired.)

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Aberdeenshire Licensing Board – Consultation on Draft Gambling Policy 2025-2028
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin No 116
- North East Tenants Residents and Landlords Together, Tenant Participation
- Consultation Survey on Draft Aberdeenshire Adult Carer Strategy 2025 to 2030
- For awareness: Independent Review of Boundaries Approval Process
- Aberdeenshire Council Grit Bin Removal Update
- Aberdeenshire Council LDP Call for Bids Release 16.7.25
- Agenda Papers for Community Council Forum – 3 September 2025
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin No 119
- Temporary Road Closure – U115c Kemnay
- Temporary Road Closure – C115c Kemnay
- Grass Cutting Kemnay
- Aberdeenshire 20MPH Speed Limit Release 27.8.25
- Aberdeenshire Loves Local Goes Digital – 25.8.25
- Arrangements for CC Admin Grants for 2025 Onwards

- Conference, Get Set September! / Emergency Alert Test
- Garioch Community Council Forum – Meeting Arrangements
- Garioch Community Planning E-bulletin August 2025
- ACTF Meeting: HTAP Project Group – Volunteers
- Ember Services
- News Release: Turning Data Into Collaborative Climate Action
- CT Reps at HTAP Project Group
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers – 16 September 2025
- Place of Origin Kemnay (from Garioch Area re Greenbelt's response)
- Aberdeenshire Town Centre Health Checks release 11.9.25
- 20MPH Speed Limit Roll-Out Webpage
- News release: Daily Half-hour Closure at Recycling Centres
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin No 121

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

- Amey June Newsletter
- July to September Roadworks on North East Road Network
- Re Maintenance of Place of Origin Kemnay
- NHSG PIN – Consultation Survey on Draft Aberdeenshire Adult Carer Strategy 2025 to 2030
- Networking for Net Zero Stakeholder Newsletter
- Customer Vulnerability Strategy Webinar – SSEN
- Climate Week North East 2025 - Garioch
- Scottish Water – Customers Asked to Save Water after Dry August
- SSEN Transmission 'Pathway to 2030 – Building a Lasting Legacy' Webinar
- Have Your Say: AHSCP Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2035
- Forest Management Carried Out by RTS Ltd SA-FM/COC-007176
- Aberdeenshire Council Funding Share
- Scotland-wide Community-led Research Funding from the RSE
- North East Convention of Community Councils
- Aberdeenshire Social Enterprise Network – September 2025
- Reminder to Join Pathway to 2030 – Building a Lasting Legacy Webinar
- NHSG PIN – NHS Scotland Weight Management Service Planning – Give your views
- There's still time to register for our Customer Vulnerability Strategy Webinar - SSEN
- Apply Now: Apache Tree Grant Programme 2025-2026
- Section 37 Consultation – Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line Connection – ECU00005225
- Reminder: Apply by 30th September – Apache Tree Grant Programme
- Only Two Weeks Left to Apply for an Electrical Safety Grant
- Email received from member of the public about obstructed sight lines at exit to Kemnay Cemetery
- Email received from member of the public about advertising banner on safety barrier Victoria Terrace.

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

S Wainman: *It's Your Neighbourhood* – a wildflower meadow is to be planted at the old tennis courts site, which will be maintained by Aberdeenshire Council. Some shrub areas are to be maintained or replaced; war memorial railings to be fixed and a work party organised to paint them and other railings around the village; the rear of Littlewood Court to be gravelled; cherry trees in Springfield, and others, to be trimmed. Thanks to Shane Easton for dealing with the shrubs at Shannoch. *G Dinnes:* Kemnay Academy came 2nd in Aberdeenshire for exam results. *S Bunton:* Princess Anne is to visit Bennachie Parish Church – Kemnay to recognise volunteers and to visit Commonwealth War Graves. *M Brown:* Youth Club has peaks and troughs; Club has received £170 grant from the Bargain Box; two more volunteers have come forward and are going through the PVG process; going to have another publicity drive. *R Lamplugh:* Still has concerns re the ownership of Dalmadilly Ponds as doesn't want this community asset to be lost (**Action:** This to be added again as item on next KCC agenda.). Noted that some more planks have broken on the path at the larger pond. Queried the 'camp' set up with table and chairs, etc on the river bank and whether it is permissible?

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