

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 29th May 2025 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available

Present: Lee Aitken (Chair); John Whittall (Treasurer); Dan Johnston (Vice Chair & Acting Secretary); Margaret Basley; Gabby Stevens; Gaenor Berkin; Grace Dinnes; Pauline Paterson; Mary Brown; Brian Cowie; Cllr Grant; Cllr Smith

Apologies: Cllr Payne; Sue Wainman; Richard Lamplugh; Suzanne Bunton; Fran Patrick

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 Vice-Chair, in the Secretary's absence.

3 MINUTES OF MEETING 24th April 2025 – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by J Whittall, seconded by G Stevens.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Reports received have covered from 22 April, not 22 February as mistakenly reported. Crime remains low.

(**TREASURER REPORT** was addressed early as John was unwell – see item 8)

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

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* Fran has drafted and distributed a User's Guide for the generator and Pauline has created a video. *Larder* - Larder is going well, very busy. Food drive needed as tins are low.

b) *PADs:* - no report

c) *Flooding:* – A link was circulated to an online Kemnay flood study meeting on 19th June – G Stevens and Cllr Grant pointed out that this should be informed by SEPA flood studies, the latest of which has been done in conjunction with Kintore. Having a Teams account is not necessary to participate online in this meeting. Andrew Bowie MP has written to the Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council regarding flooding at Kembhill Park. It is unknown if he has received a response.

7. MATTERS ARISING – From previous meeting

a) **Road & Pavement Issues:** *Car parks* – Murdo Adam very kindly levelled out the car parks at Dalmadilly and Place of Origin on 27th April – Lee met with Bruce Allan of Malcolm Allan Housebuilders, regarding the Place of Origin car park, who arranged for fresh materials to be laid, ensuring the long term maintenance of the car park. Dalmadilly probably needs a more long term solution (**Action** – letter of thanks to be sent to Murdo Adam). Aberdeenshire Council are adamant that Dalmadilly is not a responsibility of the council – more discussion with Breedons is needed. Rough car parking has also increased outside the Burnett Arms, as an indirect response to the move and expansion of the Co-op and reduced parking in the centre;

Wall repairs Wood Gardens – arrangements for the wall to be repaired are being progressed;

Road Crossing at Aquithie Road – In a written response to our letter, neither Aberdeenshire Council nor the Police seemed aware of the recent near collision incident here, and a crossing assessment was done back in October 2024 which ascertained that the area did not meet the criteria for a crossing. Consequently, they just encouraged residents to report dangerous or inconsiderate drivers to the Police.

20MPH Consultation – some discussion was had last meeting but dates weren't circulated for the consultation until after, when the final date for consulting was revealed to be today (29th May). Given the lack of ability to discuss in a Community Council meeting directly, comments were sought by email and Lee composed and sent a response. These comments were:

1. To propose the extension of the zone on the B993, with the 20mph zone extending from the junction at Fraser Place (current proposal) to the junction at Fyfe Park.

2. To propose the extension of the zone on the B993, from the junction with Station Road, to the end of the village (ending after the chicane traffic calming measures at the new Malcolm Allan development).

3. To suggest a review of the situation at the Horner Junction (where the B994 meets the B993).

An acknowledgement has been received from the council – the report is to be presented to the area committee on 24th June.

Bus Forum feedback – Richard Lamplugh attended. Service 220 times to be streamlined (15 minutes past the hour from Union Square), extra Saturday bus at 12. Not enough cover and no departure board at Stance 1, extra stop on Westburn Drive near hospital.

b) *Bin Collections* – Collections have been good. Food waste that is not collected one week, for whatever reason should just be added to general waste. Councillors raised that it would be interesting to see the rates of food recycling in Aberdeenshire

c) *Bogbeth Park: Users Group feed-back*; - Still seems to be disagreements over access to Bogbeth Park between Cricket club and kids football. Aberdeenshire Council say the park should be open for the use of everyone. It was suggested that the terms of the original gift of the park to the people of Kemnay would be useful to read – Gaenor suggested that contacting Duncan Downie could be valuable to get details of this. (**Action** – Chair to get in touch with Duncan Downie). The safety of cricket balls flying across a public park was again raised. Questions of liability in the event of injury were discussed. (**Action** – Chair to contact Ewan for update on the situation). *Playpark improvements* – a disabled swing has been erected at Bogbeth, along with the area being improved, with a potential path to school also being investigated, and all the area slabs are being replaced. (**Action** – Chair to thank Aberdeenshire Council, and in particular to Ian Mitchell for actioning this).

d) *Removal of Payphone, Kendal Road* – Kemnay Community Council objected to planned removal of this payphone by letter - we finally received a response and it has been rejected. Lee has emailed the council, asking BT to reconsider this decision on resilience grounds.

MATTERS ARISING: New

a) **Dalmadilly Ponds** – Lee thanked Breedons for the generous donation of compost for the planters, as well as mentioning Giant Hogweed at Dalmadilly and the work done to fix the car park. Breedons responded that the small pond at Dalmadilly was given to the community some time ago, but they were looking at voluntary project support for the large pond car park in the future and they were grateful for the work done to return it to a safe capacity in the meantime. Lee advised that the Community Council had never been under the impression that the small pond had been donated to the community, and could they advise who they thought was responsible for the maintenance of the pond and the car park, and also provide proof of this. Having looked at the title search, despite this area appearing differently on the documents, it does belong to Breedons. Councillor Smith pointed out that it is not possible to get any kind of grant or suchlike for maintenance of the car park, without the landowner's consent. It was felt that the titles should be kept with Kemnay Community Council for future reference.

b) NESCANs are holding a community assembly on June 8th, between 10am and 4pm.

9. TREASURER REPORT – not much to report. Garioch Partnership money (£1800) was agreed at the previous meeting to be split between pads, the larder and environmental enhancement. *J Whittall* suggested that the third of the money assigned to the larder might be better kept aside for future purposes, as funding for the Larder is likely to be more readily available. This was voted on and carried by majority. He also pointed out that with the Community Council covering its own insurance, the funds provided by Aberdeenshire Council do not cover KCC's running costs any longer. Accounts have been audited ready to be voted on at the AGM next month. *J Whittall* was then excused from the meeting.

10. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) Recent & current planning applications: No action to be taken on

[Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse](#), Kembhill Park, Kemnay Ref. No: APP/2025/0762

b) Recent & current planning applications: No action to be taken on application for new Burnett Arms signage

11. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – May 12th meeting – update from Fire and Rescue Service. Website is still very popular.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – meeting scheduled on 4th June, presentation on new Peterhead Museum.

c) **Community Planning** – outcome of meeting from area team has been circulated

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

e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC* – G *Dinnes*: 30th May – Sports day S1-3 and last day of exams. Seniors Transition Day Tuesday 3rd June. New S1's coming up for induction day on 18th, 19th and 20th June.

Come and try sports sessions for P7's were held on week commencing 18th May.

Grace asked if there were resources available anywhere to enhance drama equipment and facilities at the school. *KPPC* – no meeting. *APPC* – Duck Race on 1st June.

f) Press Reports – none.

REPORTS – Local Groups

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

b) Greener Kemnay – Sue sent a report.

The Birley Bush Community Garden event at the beginning of the month went well with the dry spring weather contributing to both the event and the opportunity for work within the garden. GK are grateful to Lee, Alison, Suzanne, George and Maureen and the ukulele groups for their help. As the Co-op provided coffee, tea, sugar and milk, Lorna Forsyth a vegetable curry and various folk homebakes expenditure was for cups, bowls and donations covered this.

So far, not had insurance for public liability covered by Aberdeenshire Council. This means unrestricted funds have to be used to cover the liability for paths and community garden work, as these strands have no income.

One top up of water from the Depot and the float controlling the filling of the polytunnel butt is working well. The rain of this last week has replenished the IBCs and of course, obviated the need for watering the raised beds, but there is now some concern over the supports holding the IBCs in place.

The Energy Group is continuing to be frustrated by the funding system and is also continuing to keep in touch with Udney Climate action, Zero Carbon Daviot and NESCAN.

The Paths Group (which is still a joint venture between PSK and GK but with just one member from each charity) have had two sessions on cutting back the Dalmadilly link path. Paddy Hart and Hamish Simpson helped with the work.

Giant Hogweed at the small Dalmadilly pond was sprayed by the Invasive Species Group and they will continue to monitor for further plants, particularly as there was evidence of one flowering in the pond area last year.

There are 26 homes taking part in the Duck Dander - aimed at adding both a walking trail and a nudge for the Alehousewells Duck Race, organised by the Parent Council.

Sue has written to Aberdeenshire Council (as an individual) on the lack of updates on the Active Travel Routes as NESCAN were not able to get any update.

Open Day went well, possible repeat in September. Looking for volunteers from residents of the wooden houses to take part in a free air tightness test carried out by Matt Clubb Architects on Tuesday 3rd June.

c) Kemnay Village Hall – next meeting Friday 6th June.

d) Community Credit Group – productive 'Community Gathering' meeting, though unfortunate non-attendance from Development Trust Association Scotland.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Smith: walkabout with Ian Mitchell was very productive. Went to War memorial, Bogbeth, pitches, went along Horner, Dalmadilly – discussed landowner responsibility for hogweed. Went back to Littlewood Court and Bremner Way. Alehousewells playpark – possible fencing discussed. 'Mini Hampden' – flooding discussed. Mentioned cutting grass at Mrs Pirie's bench near Burnett Arms. Discussed buses running their engines needlessly in School bus park. Alehousewells are soon to start interviewing for a new head teacher. *Cllr Grant*: meeting of Integration Joint Board committee 28th May looking at potential savings. Meeting of audit committee scheduled for 30th May.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- STP Funding Finder – April 2025
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers - 13 May 2025
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin no. 112
- New Equipment at Bogbeth Park
- Kemnay Flood Study
- Responsibility for Car Park at Dalmadilly Ponds/Upgrade of Play Equipment at Alehousewells and Poor State of Boundary Wall at Wood Gardens - Kemnay CC – 1627280950
- Garioch Speed Limit Proposals
- Query re Incident Bremner Way Kemnay – 1659012588
- Query re Food waste missed collections
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin no. 113
- Cyber Alert - Scam emails
- Agenda papers for the CC Forum - 4 June 2025
- Aberdeenshire Payphone removal decision
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers - 03 June 2025
- Garioch Joint Meeting Feedback - 'Place the Golden Thread'
- Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board meeting news release

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

- SSE Networking for Net Zero Stakeholder Newsletter
- Kemnay Primary School Bulletin
- BT Removal of Public Call Box - Kiosk: 01467642444
- SSEN Funding Open
- SEPA online information session for communities on EPAS - 4 June at 7pm
- Reminder about Community Gathering
- Implementation of National 20 mph Speed Limits across Aberdeenshire - consultation proposals
- Kemnay Community Assembly information

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

Mary Brown – Couple of applications for money for the Youth Club. Any builders or architects who would be willing to cast an eye over the old Andrews Fireplaces building would be gratefully received. *Gabby Stevens* – would like Community Council to make a formal request on plan for Active Travel routes (**Action** – Chair to write to Aberdeenshire Council). *Margaret Basley* was wondering about cables on roads – it was ascertained that these were probably speed counters. *Grace Dinnes* – European Rural Youth Department Advisory Board – meeting in Inverurie on 17th June – is there anyone who should be invited? (Jim Savege?) *Lee Aitken* – Sue Wainman had mentioned weeding done from Riverside Road to start of Craig Lea, and asked for council to include this in their street sweeper schedule. Also, previous oil spill at rear of Littlewood Court was due to be reinstated and this has not been done – Cllr Smith thought this could not be done until specific SEPA readings were met.

**Date of next meeting: AGM (followed by monthly meeting thereafter)
Thursday, 26th June 2025
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available**