

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available

**Present:** Lee Aitken (Chair); Fran Patrick (Secretary); John Whittall (Treasurer); Gabby Stevens; Sue Wainman; Pauline Paterson; Richard Lamplugh; Gaenor Berkin; Mary Brown; Suzanne Bunton; Brian Cowie; Cllr Grant;

**Apologies:** Dan Johnston; Margaret Basley; Cllr Smith

**Attending:** One member of the public (via Teams)

**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> November 2025** – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by R Lamplugh.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – Report circulated. Reported incidents remain low. Views are being sought on the proposed new reporting format. (**Action:** Chair to circulate again the draft of the new format, any thoughts should be passed on to him.)

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

### 6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning:* Fortunate that so far there has been no serious flooding reported in the village. Many people were snowed in and couldn't get out during recent weather emergency; it was lucky the power didn't cut out, people were able to communicate and ask for assistance when needed and were able to stay warm. Heartening to see how the community pulled together to help one another, but frustrating that efforts were often hampered by essential side roads and pavements not being cleared and the lack of available grit. F Patrick has responded to the Aberdeenshire Council Resilience Team feedback survey, highlighting these issues and also that the High Street should be included in the essential routes for clearing and gritting as this is where food shops, the medical centre and the chemist are located. People did seem more prepared this time and better able to cope (but again noted that it would have been a very different scenario if there had been power outages), but the resilience information sent out maybe needs to state that people should be prepared for 7 days, rather than the 3-4 currently advised. Good to see that the huge piles of snow were cleared, as they were causing serious obstruction. **Thanks to everyone who helped clear snow, dig out cars, do essential shopping and generally look out for their neighbours.** Kemnay Resilience was asked to deliver a couple of food parcels and would like to thank Carol Robertson-Brown and Cameron Brown for helping with this. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Roads Department and request that the High Street be added to the clearing and gritting list.)

*Community Larder/Festive Food Parcels:* The Larder remained open during the snow emergency, which was appreciated by those who did manage to get through the snow to pick up a few essential items. Feedback from recipients of the Festive Food Parcels has been very positive. A slightly increased number of households applied for a parcel; after a slight concern at the beginning, enough funding did come in to cover the cost of the Christmas meal, plus a few festive treats. **Again, grateful thanks to all who donated and to the Bargain Box, Monymusk Thrift Shop and The Farm Shop.**

F Patrick attended the first meeting of the Garioch Food Forum, the next meeting is to be held in February at Kemnay Village Hall. The aims of the forum are to promote food resilience and to reduce food waste, as well as promoting effective networking across the area.

b) *PADs:* Co-ordinator reports no issues. G Berkin is to give a talk - 'War Detective and Kemnay Loon' – to raise funds for the PADs. It is to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> February at the Village Hall, cost £5. The Co-op community fundraising effort should be opening shortly and this might be a good fundraising event for PADs. (**Action:** S Wainman to contact Vicky Prendergast at Co-op about this.)

c) *Flooding:* Options for Kemnay have been released by Infrastructure Services – ie a bund at Kembhill. There are also a few amendments proposed for Milton Meadows, including a balancing pond. Still evidence of a lot of water at Victoria Terrace entrance to the village, particularly at the Fyfe Park junction, the field behind and at side of the SUDS basins,

past the garage. According to a soil survey of Kemnay, there is a large swathe of the central area of the village where the ground type does not absorb water. Some relief that there is no flooding coming from the river so far this time. No date has been given for the construction of the bund, the original timeline was for 2028. If this remains the case, the village will have no flood protection for at least a year as the current Watergate contract with Briggs ends this year. Ann Overton at Garioch Office is apparently looking into this to see if funding might be found to cover the gap. (**Action:** Secretary to contact all Councillors and Aberdeenshire Council again expressing KCC's real concern about this situation.)

It was also mentioned by one or two present that they felt the Chief Executive's response to residents re the recent snow emergency was rather unhelpful and a little tone deaf re the issues that can go along with rural living.

d) See above.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING – From previous meeting

a) **Maintenance of Green Spaces – Place of Origin:** The event to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is to be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>, when there will be a trail, talks, etc. All the paths now have names; there will be a wildflower seed spreading event; a new website is being developed with QR codes giving information. The Quarry has been approached for support. **Dalriadilly Ponds:** Chair has written to Breedon's again but still no response. The Wilderness area by Kemnay House is in a bit of a mess due to the recent heavy snow and rain, but also due to a lot of dog poo either not being picked up or being left in bags in the woods.

b) **Road and Parking Issues** – Still a lot of pavement parking; pleased to see that potholes which have recently appeared and been reported have been very promptly repaired by Aberdeenshire Council. Several cars had sustained damage due to these. People are reminded to report all potholes, etc to Aberdeenshire Council via the FixMyStreet app or webpage.

c) **Participation in North East Convention of Community Councils** – Draft unified statement was circulated but not many responses received re KCC's potential support of this initiative. Many members have mixed views – support renewable energy but want there to be a robust overview of where and how much development should take place in our rural or scenic areas. It was finally agreed unanimously to support the NE CCC. (**Action:** Secretary to contact NECCC)

d) **Aberdeenshire Council Funding Share** – KCC has agreed to support this initiative; Secretary has contacted the organiser.

## MATTERS ARISING – New

a) **Christmas Lights – New Policy from Aberdeenshire Council** – Unfortunately, the switch-on event had to be cancelled due to bad weather; the sockets on the lampposts have now been repaired. The new policy of Christmas displays is 'seeking full cost recovery'. There is apparently an allocation of funds to cover current costs, but if any additional motifs are added or a lamppost needs to be replaced, then this will potentially incur a cost. This is a consultation paper. (**Action:** Secretary to send this on to Cllr Grant.) There has been a delay in taking down the motifs due to the recent poor weather but they should be down by this weekend. Thanks again to Rood Signs for their help with this.

b) **Removal of Recycling Point** – Aberdeenshire Council is looking to remove the recycling bins from the Aquithie Road car park and are seeking alternative suggestions. Some confusion and anger at this proposal – no-one can see the need for it to be moved and it was agreed that there is no better place for the village's main recycling point than its current, very central, very accessible location. The only possible alternative might be the rough car park at Birley Bush or for a lorry to come weekly, as for green waste. But neither of these solutions was deemed satisfactory. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Nom Wright at Aberdeenshire Council seeking clarification and expressing KCC's objection.

**Action:** Cllr Grant to ask Ann Overton about this.)

## 8. TREASURER REPORT

A £600 donation came in from *Monymusk Thrift Shop*. Most has been used for the Festive Food Parcels; the remaining amount has been added to the Larder account. Another monthly donation to the Larder via direct debit has been set up by a local resident. *Big Beastie Competitions* has kindly donated £100. The dropped coins picked up and collected by a parishioner at St Anne's has raised £21, half of which has been donated to the Larder. (The Larder volunteers are very grateful for the ongoing support the Larder receives. Although the account is relatively healthy, the cost purchasing essential stock is increasing, so additional grant funding will be actively sought this coming year.)

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** – No action to be taken on:

[Erection of Garden Room](#) Bogbeth Rise

[Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse](#) Bremner Way

[Erection of Stables](#) Bogfur Gardens, Kemnay

Ref No: APP/2025/1964

Ref No: APP/2025/1976

Ref No: APP/2025/2061

b) **LDP – Call for Ideas:** The sub-group (G Berkin, S Wainman, G Stevens, F Patrick) has met and discussed the evident issues with each of the three sites now being proposed for housing development. All three sites (Wellbush, field next to Stuart Crescent, Birley Bush) are unsuitable due to serious – and well-documented - flooding and drainage issues. With additional traffic/access issues pertaining to the Wellbush and Birley Bush proposals. The group thought the Birley Bush depot site could be retained for community use – eg the Men's Shed; new Scout Hut. There might still be drainage issues, however. It was noted that water comes down from Leschangie and Bogbeth, through the Wilderness down to Milton Meadows. Increased development at Wellbush or Birley Bush would add to the amount of water draining down to Milton Meadows. (**Action:** Sub-group to complete the Call for Ideas consultation. **Action:** S Wainman to send information on soil types to Cllr Grant.)

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

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No update.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Main topic was the proposed new police reporting format.

c) **Community Planning** – Meeting next week.

d) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)/Garioch Health Improvement Network** – No meeting.

e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – **KAPC** – No representative present. Secretary has checked the KCC Constitution and it is allowed to have a school rep who doesn't live in the village. An older pupil can become an associate member. **KPPC** – No issues currently. **APPC** – Recent meeting held; no issues.

## **REPORTS – Local Groups**

a) **Positive Steps and Strength & Balance** – Chair shared report sent in by R Mackay: Extended Christmas break due to bad weather; Positive Steps was not involved in the devising of the Walking Scotland survey, not sure why Kemnay has been chosen for this. Active travel Routes – Chris Menzies is willing to give an update, so a meeting is to be organised.

b) **Greener Kemnay** – Polytunnel has been flattened by the snow; will be helping to organise the PoO celebration event. Participatory Budgeting – GK was not successful in bid to get community garden fence replaced through the recent round of participatory budgeting. Energy Group: House surveys are ongoing, 9 have been completed so far. Public feedback will be given on 26<sup>th</sup> February at KVH, 4.30pm. Still waiting for first invoice to be repaid by Aberdeenshire Council. (**Action:** G Stevens to email details to Cllr Grant.) £400 has been received from Monymusk Boules.

c) **Kemnay Village Hall** – New LED lighting and replacement doors have been installed. The new printer is now up and running and will be used to print the Newsletter. Utility costs have been sorted out. A sub-group is to meet to draw up a business plan for the community asset transfer.

d) **Community Credit Group** – Progressing slowly. Still looking to increase membership, need greater involvement from interested people. A minimum of 20 people is required, currently only 5. Next meeting to be held Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February at KVH, 7pm.

e) **It's Your Neighbourhood** – Not a lot of work can be done at the moment but bulbs are coming through.

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

*Cllr Grant:* Busy with the snow/ice emergency and the Council response. Quite a lot of committee meetings coming up, including the Kintore flood meeting.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Aberdeenshire Weather Update – 5.1.26
- Aberdeenshire Community Transport – 8<sup>th</sup> January - Invite
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers – 13 January 2026
- Free Training by Planning Aid Scotland
- Pavement Gritters
- Aberdeenshire Council Winter Weather Update – 6.1.26
- Aberdeenshire Council 6pm Winter Weather Update – 6.1.26
- Aberdeenshire Council Latest Update – 7.1.26
- Aberdeenshire Council Evening Update – 7.1.26
- Aberdeenshire Council 6pm Winter Weather Update – 8.1.26
- Aberdeenshire Council Latest Update – 9.1.26
- Trading Standards Scam Bulletin No 126
- Aberdeenshire Council Morning Update – 10.1.26
- Aberdeenshire Council Update for Sharing with Communities
- Community Resilience Further Weather Impacts
- Aberdeenshire Council Morning / Evening Weather Update – 11.1.26
- NEWS RELEASE: Aberdeenshire Council ends 'major incident' but emergency response efforts continue

- Aberdeenshire Council Latest Update / Evening Update – 12.1.26
- Free webinars this month for Community Councils
- Thank you to Communities from Ann Overton
- Operational Update: Extra off-schedule bin collections
- Operational Update: Waste and Recycling Service
- Additional Communication – Aquithie Road – Sockets on Lampposts
- S36 Representation Briefing – 20 January 2026
- Operational update: Extra bin collections 23 and 24 January
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin No. 127
- Kemnay Flood Study – Garioch Area Committee, Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026
- Recycling Point – Aquithie Road
- Aberdeenshire Christmas Lights Policy Update
- Debrief for Severe Winter Weather
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers – 3 February 2026
- Garioch Community Planning E-Bulletin

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

- NHSG PIN – Current Job Opportunities
- Unlock Our Future Fund (Vattenfall) – Now Open
- Kemnay PS Bulletin
- Email from resident re proposed development at Wellbush
- Joint Statement re Funding for Public Services in Aberdeenshire
- Kemnay Walking Consultation
- Fair Share of Funding for Public Services Debate - Letter from R Fairley on behalf of Alexander Burnett MSP's office
- Scottish Parliament Motion Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January
- 29 January Members' Business Debate Postponed – Letter from R Fairley on behalf of A Burnett, MSP
- Email from resident about proposed attendance at KCC meeting
- EZO begins rollout of new EV charging network across the north-east of Scotland
- Just Transitions Communities Project

**13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –**

*G Berkin:* Vote of thanks to everyone who looked out for one another during the recent snow emergency. *P Paterson:* Wished to express her thanks to *Big Beastie Competitions* for their recent donation to the Larder. Also wanted to thank all parents and supporters who have purchased items from the Youth Club's Amazon wish list. So many items have been bought and it has made a real difference. *M Brown:* The Youth Club has really taken off, with an increase in young people attending. Now applying for grant funding. *R Lamplugh:* Men's Shed is looking for temporary premises. Have considered KVH, in return for handiwork/small tasks done around the Hall. Also looking for projects to do around the village.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available**