

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 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; Brian Cowie; Cllr Grant; Cllr Smith (via Teams)

**Apologies:** Dan Johnston; Margaret Basley; Suzanne Bunton      **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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by R Lamplugh.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – No local report but have received a NE-wide report.

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

### **6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -**

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* The Larder has been busy; have contacted M&S to see if there is a problem with our weekly collection as it seems to have tailed off recently; possible sources of funding have been identified.

b) *PADs:* £130 was raised from G Berkin's recent talk in the Village Hall. (**Action:** S Wainman to contact Vicky at the Co-op re community fund)

c) *Flooding:* A lot of pumping of water was done at Fyfe Park SuDS pond. At today's Aberdeenshire Council budget meeting a possible reconsideration of the withdrawal of funding for the Kemnay barrier was mooted. (**Action:** KCC to monitor this.)

### **7. MATTERS ARISING – From previous meeting**

a) **Maintenance of Green Spaces – Dalmadilly:** No update. Some discussion on whether the Cook family (Moss side) might have some knowledge about the ownership of the small pond. (**Action:** Chair to pursue this.)

Aberdeenshire Council budget proposals would seem to cut the funding for the upkeep of green amenity spaces, with the implication that communities should take over this work. Which raises a lot of questions – equipment use, insurance cover, etc.

b) **Road, Parking and Transport Issues** – The budget is also planning to cut lighting on unadopted roads. In Kemnay, this would potentially impact Donview Rd, Church Lane, Bridge Rd (past the Burnett Arms to the river). Some of these are popular and important pedestrian routes and it would be a real issue if they were not lit at night. There was also some discussion about the status of the paths and lights on the Green, both of which were put in by Aberdeenshire Council. Cllr Smith thought they might come under Housing rather than Roads & Infrastructure. (**Action:** Secretary to write to Aberdeenshire Council about this.) Real disquiet expressed at this cost cutting, which wouldn't seem to be saving a lot of money, but which does raise safety issues. (**Action:** Councillors to raise this at next ward meeting.) It was pointed out that these cuts are being put forward by Officers, not Councillors, and an equivalent saving would need to be found elsewhere. (**Action:** Cllr Grant to check on the type of roads and affected.)

Buses: Stagecoach have had a lot of issues with breakdowns and poor service/punctuality. (**Action:** S Wainman to ask Madylene Simpson when next Bus Forum to be held.) (**Action:** Secretary to contact Stagecoach re poor website, lack of communication when buses running late or not at all, the effect on rural connectivity.)

Parking: There was an incident recently outside the Co-op caused by parking issues and speeding. Cars are still parking on the pavement; congestion there is causing real problems, buses even have difficulty getting past at times. Cars parked for long periods. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Council about devising some way to discourage pavement parking.)

Potholes: Quarry Road potholes have been reported and should be inspected in the next few days. There are several deep holes on the Burnhervie road. Pothole and ironworks issues at Shannoch Drive, all reported to Aberdeenshire Council.

c) **Recycling Point Update** – According to Nom Wright, Aberdeenshire Council, it probably won't be moved unless the new occupants of the family centre report an issue with its location. A new clothing bin is to be installed by Nathan's Wastesavers.

d) **Joint Statement on Aberdeenshire Council Funding Share** – This was raised at the Scottish Parliament.

## NEW BUSINESS

a) **KCC Social Media** – It was agreed that KCC needs to improve its presence/reach on social media. S Wainman volunteered to take this on. (**Action:** Secretary to arrange addition of S Wainman as KCC Facebook Admin.)

b) **Community Noticeboard** – An email has been received re the poor state of the noticeboard next to the pharmacy. It was suggested this might be a project the Men's Shed might take on. F Patrick now has a key for it. (**Action:** R Lamplugh to ask if Men's Shed might take this on.)

## 8. TREASURER REPORT

a) **Account Update:** Money to be reimbursed by Farmshop after cancellation of Christmas event. J Whittall has gone through past KCC financial records, as far back as 1978. According to Alison Cumming at Aberdeenshire Council records need to be kept for seven years. It was agreed the main financial documentation should be retained as a historical record of the community council, the rest will be got rid of. The Community Larder has used £3000 of its funds over the past financial year, leaving just over £5000 in the account.

The KCC general account does have a reserve, which could possibly be used to finance the refurbishment of the community noticeboard.

b) **KCC Budget:** J Whittall presented the KCC budget for 26-27. It may be that the budget will not be covered by the grant from Aberdeenshire Council, which will not be known until June.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) **Current planning applications** – None to consider this month.

b) **LDP – Call for Ideas:** The sub-group has prepared a document in response to the potential housing developments. The main issues for all three developments are: water/drainage and roads/access. (**Action:** S Wainman to circulate the report to all Councillors.) The report has been circulated to all KCC members. The following resolution was proposed and unanimously agreed:

*Kemnay Community Council's response to the LDP 2029 Call for Ideas, as set out in the report entitled Response to Call for Ideas and Settlement Statement – Kemnay be submitted, and the Council agreed that in relation to the three sites included in the LDP 2029 Call for Ideas:*

BID 20250338 – Land East of Stuart Crescent, Kemnay (65 Units):

- KCC does not support the inclusion of this site in the LDP 2029 for housing development
- KCC would support the inclusion of this site in the LDP 2029 for light industrial or retail provided that the existing drainage and sewerage issues can be solved prior to any development taking place.

BID 20250048 – Land East of Wellpark (120 Units):

- KCC does not support the inclusion of this site in the LDP 2029 for housing development
- KCC would support the retention of this site in the LDP 2029 for agricultural purposes, as we can see no practical or desirable alternative use.

BID 20250175 – Land at Birley Bush Depot (24 Units):

- KCC does not support the inclusion of this site in the LDP 2029 for housing development
- KCC would support the inclusion of this site in the LDP 2029 for community use.

Proposed: G Stevens

Seconded: F Patrick

(**Action:** S Wainman to submit the report.)

## 10. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

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

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Subject is to be proposed district heating in Port Elphinstone and Inverurie.

c) **Community Planning** – April meeting cancelled.

d) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)/Garioch Health Improvement Network** – No KCC rep able to attend.

e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC – KAPC** – (G Dinnes): Winter Ball has been held; prelims have taken place; there were snow closure days; Mr Scott, HT, would like to know if any difference in amount of litter was noticed during study leave (difficult to say due to the amount of snow at the time, although litter seems to be back to 'normal' – ie high – levels.\*) (**Action:** S Wainman to send on to the academy photos of discarded food boxes with pupil names on them. **KPPC** – No issues; reminded about the deadline for responses to Call for Ideas. **APPC** – Recently held a 'sparkly disco'.  
\*Men's Shed are holding a litter pick on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

## REPORTS – Local Groups

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

b) **Greener Kemnay** – Reasonably busy; some money available to replace polytunnel but more needed; wood for fence has been sourced, Men's Shed to do the repairs. PoO/Paths – there is to be a seed sowing event on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March; celebration for PoO gaining some momentum, need to talk to GreenBelt; A Overton (Garioch Area Officer) is supportive of the idea of a self-guided trail. *Energy Group*: The retrofitting surveys have been completed, although only 10 instead of 15; a feedback meeting was held today, Matt Clubb is to speak with each householder involved individually; a representative from Aberdeenshire Council External Funding team attended the meeting. S Wainman and G Stevens have met with a consultant re the rural communities challenge fund, which is a ScotGov fund, but accessed via Aberdeenshire Council, and gave a few suggestions.

c) **Kemnay Village Hall** – Stage has been painted; Men's Shed volunteers have painted some of the corridors; new doors all installed; additional work done on the lighting; new boiler installed; main hall is being painted; new flooring has been laid at the front and side entrances. A sub-group has been set up to devise a business plan for the asset transfer; still waiting for approval from Aberdeenshire Council for signs for the car park. (**Action:** Cllr Grant to pursue this.) There is to be a review of the Newsletter and how it is produced.

d) **Community Credit Group** – Draft constitution is almost complete; there is to be a public meeting at the end of May, possibly in conjunction with NESCAN. Leaflet/poster ready to go, but do need to improve social media reach.

e) **It's Your Neighbourhood** – Some nice snowdrop displays in the roundels and at John Mitchell statue, daffodils are coming up at rear of Littlewood Court. Hoping to organise a village co-operative event around April to spruce up the railings around the war memorial, if they have been repaired by Aberdeenshire Council. Shrubs have been pruned by Aberdeenshire Council work team.

## 11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

*Cllr Smith:* Hasn't been available recently due to a health issue but has been monitoring emails, etc and has organised for Area Office to deal with any constituency queries that have come in. She is gradually coming back to work and is trying to catch up. Has not been involved in the budget setting but has been following the discussions. Good to note positive outcome re grit bins at Parkhill. *Cllr Grant:* Short meeting of the Area Committee; IJB meeting; budget discussed and set at full Council meeting; ward meeting coming up where items raised at KCC meetings will be raised. Only a handful of community councils have adopted a grit bin, with Westhill the only one in this area. (Westhill have, in fact, adopted all their grit bins due to having a very healthy fund raised from advertising in their Newsletter.)

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Trading Standards Scam Bulletin No 128
- Response to email re Water-Gate Flood Defence System
- Flood Risk Management Plans – Community Council Update
- Nathan's Wastesavers adds 54 sites across Aberdeenshire for recycling clothes
- Garioch Community Council Forum – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers – 24 February 2026
- ACTF Meeting – 30 April 2026
- Complimentary places for forthcoming conferences for community councillors
- Aberdeenshire energy Development Charter
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin No. 129

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

- Correspondence from Bennachie Community Council re Insurance for Resilience
- AVA Social enterprise Network Update, February 2026
- GRAM Grampian Pharmacy Practice Committee Lay Reps
- A Call to Kindness: Help us Find a Home for Hope in Inverurie and Garioch
- SSEN Transmission – Annual Infrastructure Stakeholder Engagement Survey
- Members' Business Debate – 19 February
- North East Crime Alert – February 2026
- RURACTIVE Flood Inform Community Representative Meeting: Kemnay
- Funding of Public Services in Aberdeenshire – Acknowledgment

- Shaping NHS Grampian's 2026/27 priorities – Community Conversation invitation
- Reminder – SSEN Transmission – Annual Infrastructure Stakeholder Engagement Survey
- Poster to share – Asthma + Lung UK
- AVA – Inspiring Social Enterprise Forum – 25 March 10-12 noon Online
- Kemnay Primary School Bulletin
- Kemnay Community Council - Your Insurance Policy is Due for Renewal

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

*M Brown:* Offered to deliver a talk on the author John Buchan as a community fundraiser. (**Action:** R Lamplugh to help organise this.) *P Paterson:* The Youth Club is going really well, with nearly 30 youngsters (S1-S3) attending this week. M Brown and P Paterson have attended a course on working with youth.

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