

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 26th March 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; Suzanne Bunton; Dan Johnston; Grace Dinnes; Cllr Grant

Apologies: Claire Stewart; Margaret Basley; Cllr Smith

Attending: None

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 February 2026 – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by G Stevens, seconded by R Lamplugh. To note, the abbreviated Minutes in the April edition of the Newsletter do not list the full details of KCC's response to the Call for Ideas. Full Minutes can always be found online, but this is to be clarified in the next edition of the Newsletter.

4 POLICE MATTERS – No report this month. Chair has contacted Sgt MacDougall. Email has been received and circulated from local MSP to Chief Superintendent re police reports, or lack thereof.

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK – *R Mackay: Kemnay Community Trust* : The community assembly, led by NESCAN, is to be held towards end of May. The Community Trust will be launched then. Hoping for close co-operation between the Community Trust and the Community Council. There was some discussion on the differences between the two bodies and a handout – Connections and Comparisons - was distributed. There needs to be strong communication between the two groups, there is a lot of commonality. Some discussion over whether some things currently covered by the Community Council might be better placed under the umbrella of the Community Trust, which will have charity status. Other unconstituted groups operating in the village could equally come under this umbrella, which would then allow them to apply for grants, etc. The main objective is to assist groups and individuals to feel connected to the life of the community. The two organisations do work effectively together in other areas, eg Huntly, Oyne. Could work on local place planning, for example. It was noted that the Community Association no longer exists as such, its activities have been subsumed into the Village Hall. Kemnay Community Trust will focus on community development rather than business development. Rob is appealing for people to publicise this initiative as widely as possible, encouraging people to come forward to take over key roles. Some frustration that NESCAN has not yet produced the final report on Kemnay or set a date for the community assembly.

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* The Larder has continued to be busy; applications in to two funds for potential funding. Email received from Aberdeenshire Council's Resilience team thanking those who completed the resilience feedback survey after the snowstorms, they are now collating all the information. S Wainman has received a response from Aberdeenshire Council re the need to grit essential side roads and pavements, which would have helped a lot of people to get out of their estate and get to their work. Greater strategic thinking is required.

b) *PADs:* No issues reported. The Co-op community fund opens at the end May/beginning June.

c) *Flooding:* Discussion of the response received from Aberdeenshire Council re the withdrawal of support for the Water Gate barrier at Kembhill. A very disappointing and unhelpful response. Ann Overton, Garioch Area Manager, was unaware that this cut was being proposed and called a meeting with the Council's co-leaders, but the outcome did not change. KCC members feel that deployment, maintenance and storage of the barrier is an unreasonable expectation for the community to take on, as Aberdeenshire Council wants to happen. It seems the barrier is to be returned to the container at Birley Bush. This container was originally given by Aberdeenshire Council to store sandbags and the water barrier but when Briggs took on the barrier contract, permission was sought – and granted – to store the Christmas lights there. Sandy Scott at Aberdeenshire Council said at one point that these containers were being transferred to communities and it would therefore be their responsibility to maintain and eventually dispose of their container. And yet, it seems Aberdeenshire Council can still dictate what is stored in these containers. The Kemnay container currently also

stores the crowd barriers used for the Fireworks (moved here after the store at Bogbeth Park was given to another group, without any consultation), the Christmas Lights, sandbags and resilience group gas canisters. It was also pointed out that all resilience advice, conferences, etc stress that technical tasks should always be left to the professionals, and where could the community get the money (currently £12 000 annually) to pay for a contractor? (**Action:** Secretary to write a further response to Aberdeenshire Council.)

Cllr Grant suggested it might be a good idea if local Councillors were invited to Kembhill Flood Group meetings.

7. MATTERS ARISING – From previous meeting

a) **Maintenance of Green Spaces – Dalmadilly:** Chair contacted Ross Cook, still awaiting a response. (**Action:** S Wainman to put an item in next Newsletter about reporting hogweed). Reporting of invasive species can be done via Aberdeenshire Council website, Environment, Report Invasive Plants. *Place of Origin:* Kemnay Paths Group is doing some work there. Project has backing of the Garioch Area Officer; hoping that the quarry might fund it. GreenBelt, the maintenance contractors, have been contacted and they have said the group can go ahead as it is a public space. The group is aiming to instal information boards and maps.

b) **Road, Parking and Transport Issues – Lighting:** Reply has been received from Roads and Infrastructure Services re the switching off of street lighting on private roads. Aberdeenshire Council is currently mapping where these roads are but identified lights will be switched off or offered to residents to take ownership of them. They will then need to source and pay for the electricity required. This will be a particular issue for Bridge Road where the Scout Hut is located and is a popular walking route. (**Action:** Secretary to forward letter received to Cllr Grant.) (**Action:** Chair to contact Scouts to let them know.) (**Action:** Secretary to respond to this response from Aberdeenshire Council.) **Parking:** There have been checks recently on illegal parking, particularly pavement parking, and at least one fine has been issued. There are to be further checks over the next few months. **Buses:** Prompt response received from Stagecoach to complaint about poor service made by KCC on behalf of Kemnay bus users. The issues highlighted are to be looked into. **Aquithie Road Car Park:** S Wainman has contacted Roads Department re the 5-6 spaces being used by the contractors working on the family centre refurbishment. These spaces are being used to store equipment, park work vans, etc. Consequently, fewer spaces are available for village parking. Awaiting a response.

c) **Recycling Point Update** – Confirmation that recycling point is not to be moved.

d) **Funding of Public Services in Aberdeenshire Campaign – Update** – Information has been circulated.

e) **KCC Social Media** - KCC Facebook seems to be run by Meta Business Suite and it is proving difficult to share items, etc. New admin (Sue Wainman) will persevere but would be keen to hear from anyone with experience of Meta Business. Good to see more being posted on the page.

f) **Community Noticeboard** – Men's Shed has agreed to repair the noticeboard. (**Action:** R Lamplugh to find out if/when cabinet to be emptied.)

NEW BUSINESS

a) **Kemfest** – Open Day on 17th May in Kemnay Village Hall, part of Mental Health & Wellbeing Week. The whole Hall Complex has been booked for information exchange/wellness day. Tables are available for local groups – eg Mens's Shed, Community Larder/Garioch Food Forum, Youth Group, Community Council. (**Action:** Groups to confirm tables with R McKay.)

8. TREASURER REPORT

a) **Account Update:** End of financial year. Accounts are now to be audited and presented for agreement at KCC AGM. They will then be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council, when we should get our grant. Standing of accounts currently:

General - £2655	Christmas Lights - £1735	Resilience - £3011
Defibs - £1835 (2 donations, one for £140 from G Berkin's talk, the other for £250 from village residents, for which the Resilience Group is very grateful)	Larder - £4802	Planters - £1576

General expenses for running KCC are currently £1236, a shortfall of £69 from the grant awarded by Aberdeenshire Council.

Insurance premium has been paid; Microsoft subscription is about to fall due.

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

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

Installation of Ramp McCombie Crescent

10. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – No KCC rep in attendance.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Topic covered was Garioch Heating Network being proposed for Crichtie development, based on the energy waste plant at former Stoneywood Paper Mill.

c) **Community Planning** – Cancelled.

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

e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC* – (G Dinnes) Last KCC meeting for Grace as pupil representative. Mental Health ambassadors went to Littlewood Court and invited the LC group of residents back to the Academy for afternoon tea. This event was supported by Premier Coaches and Collies. Study leave is about to start. Head teacher has been out in the community monitoring behaviour and litter, trying to engage as much as possible with residents and businesses. Assemblies have been held recently to tackle disruption in the community, trying to prevent this happening. (R Lamplugh reported some vandalism at Mavis' bench at Place of Origin, wondered if allowing pupils to choose another name for the area might give them a sense of empowerment/responsibility?) G Dinnes to take this back to Headteacher. Other examples of recent vandalism by school pupils were noted: car window broken on Paradise Road, daffodils trampled on Bremner Way, litter being dropped.) *KPPC* – No meeting. *APPC* – Planning for Duck Race underway; still looking for new members of Parents' Council.

REPORTS – Local Groups

a) **Positive Steps and Strength & Balance** – Extremely busy. Paths for All now rebranded as Walking Scotland, which is bringing a lot of changes. However, as Positive Steps is a charity in its own right, it can carry on as it wants.

b) **Greener Kemnay** – Just bought new polytunnel; fence is looking better; bird boxes have been installed, hoping to put in cameras. Very good trail camera footage of a badger at Birley Bush. *Energy Group*: Retrofit project now finished and information sent on to Aberdeenshire Council so the remaining part of the grant can be released. Feeling that this has been a positive project, the householders who took part can now use the information gained as they wish. Have had discussions with a consultant who has written a very favourable report on the process of the project. Now thinking what to do next.

Issue with salt pollution coming down from the Aberdeenshire depot. Polluting run off from the depot is often an issue as there is no drainage system at the depot, run off is deliberately drained into the woodland by the community garden.

c) **Kemnay Village Hall** – Main hall has been repainted. The recent coffee morning held as part of Village Hall Week and as a fundraiser for the fireworks display was very successful, there was a real buzz in the hall. There is now a team producing the Newsletter and this seems to be working well.

d) **Community Credit Group** – See item 5

e) **It's Your Neighbourhood** – Violas planted outside the Hall for Village Hall Week; bulbs coming up around the village. Village looking good; planters on the High Street filled with spring bulbs, etc are lovely and the Littlewood Court beds are filling up nicely. Looking to ask people again for donations (cash or specific items such as compost). (**Action**: Chair to request compost from Breedon's.)

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Grant: Followed up a few things from last KCC meeting. Has attended many meetings, including Area Committee, Infrastructure Services, Education, Police, Fire & Rescue. IJB (Integration Joint Board), which manages adult Social Care and Health Services, seems to be turning a corner.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- For Information: Temporary Road Closure – C109c Craigeam
- News Release: Revised environment climate change policy agreed at Aberdeenshire Council
- Kemnay Place Plan (shared by Cllr Grant)
- Hybrid Bus Forums (shared by Cllr Grant)
- Press Release: Aberdeenshire Council Opposition Group Propose Budget Based on Communities
- Doors Open Days Aberdeenshire 2026
- News Release: Two close calls from battery fires in Aberdeenshire
- Aberdeenshire Council interment changes 4.3.26
- Aberdeenshire Council Development Scheme release 4.3.26
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin no. 130
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers – 17 March 2026
- Media Release: Overnight drainage improvements on A96 between Inverurie and Kintore until Friday 15th May
- Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) Shutdown
- Response to KCC member's query re Winter Maintenance Plan (esp. re Shannoch Drive, Access on to Bremenr Way and Bogbeth Rd)
- Community Resilience Group Debrief
- Response from A Overton, Garioch Area Officer, re lighting provision on the Green
- Initial Response to KCC query re proposed cuts to street lighting
- Free Webinar for Community Councils – Community Wealth building: A Community-led approach to care at home in rural Scotland – Wednesday 25th March

- Garioch Community Planning E-bulletin
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin no. 131
- News Release: Seasonal garden waste recycling points open from Saturday 4 April
- Procession Notification Briefing Note
- Easter and Mayday Services 2026 (Stagecoach)
- Preventing and responding to wildfires in Scotland
- Response from KCC member to Query re Pavement Gritters
- News release: Inspiring Aberdeenshire 2026 – Nominations Open
- Aberdeenshire town centre health checks release 23.3.26
- Fw: For Information: Urgent Road Closure – B993 Leys Way, Kemnay 24/03/2026
- Refreshed Community Council Training Modules on ALDO
- Response re KCC member's reported issue at Aquithie Road car park
- b) General Correspondence Received** - was circulated prior to the meeting.
 - Additional Information – Section 37 Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Line Connection
 - AVA – Inspirational Social Enterprises Forum – Wednesday 25th March 10-12 Teams Online
 - Email received from Cllr Grant reconfirmation that Recycling Point at Aquithie Car park not being moved
 - Local Police Reports (Letter sent to Cabinet Secretary by A Burnett MSP)
 - AVA – Update SE Forum – Inspirational Social Enterprises – 25th March 10-12 on Teams Online
 - KemFest Week 11th-17th May
 - Funding of Public Services in Aberdeenshire
 - Response from Stagecoach re KCC complaint Case #02180304
 - University of Aberdeen research – request to share community survey (20mph limits)
 - Kemnay Primary School – March Bulletin
 - Draft Aberdeenshire Nature Network consultation
 - Aberdeenshire Community Hospitals Review Update for CCs
 - ADP Website Re-launch
 - Updated links for Aberdeenshire Community Hospitals Review
 - Response from Kemnay Scouts to KCC email informing of proposed AC lighting cuts
 - Reminder: KemFest 11th-17th May
 - Garioch District Heat Project

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

G Dinnes: Asked about the level of litter in the village and was given areas of particular concern by KCC members, especially the dip by the Co-op. *R Lamplugh:* Men's Shed going very well. Visited Alford's Men Shed and were very impressed by their set-up. Still looking for premises. *S Bunton:* State of walls at Wood Gardens does not seem to have improved and there also seems to be an abandoned car (**Action:** S Wainman will send details of how to report this.) *S Wainman:* KCC LDP Call for Ideas response has gone in to Aberdeenshire Council. Hopefully the Council will pay attention to it and the Reporter will refer to it when making decisions. *D Johnston:* Concern at possible dog poisoning (due perhaps to Council use of weedkiller?) in Westhill. (Some discussion on whether this was likely at this time of year, more information required.) *L Aitken:* Will not be at next meeting. Meeting will be chaired by D Johnston, Vice Chair.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 30th April 2026
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available**