

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available

**Present:** Fran Patrick (Secretary); John Whittall (Treasurer); Gabby Stevens; Sue Wainman; Pauline Paterson; Richard Lamplugh; Gaenor Berkin; Mary Brown; Brian Cowie; Dan Johnston; Grace Dinnes; Cllr Grant

**Apologies:** Lee Aitken (Chair); Margaret Basley; Suzanne Bunton; Cllr Smith

**Attending:** Alison Cumming, Area Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council

**1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES** – The Vice 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 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026** – The Minutes were previously circulated and proposed as accurate by S Wainman, seconded by R Lamplugh.

**4 POLICE MATTERS** – New format Quarterly Report circulated. It is now a more general report, covering a wider area, with no statistics or details particular to Kemnay. (**Action:** Secretary or Chair to give feedback to the police on the report, pointing out that more meaningful, local information would be helpful for KCC.) Community Councils also seem to be now getting additional crime notices (cable theft; fuel theft; monthly Crime Alerts). Some discussion on how this information can be best shared more widely. (**Action:** Secretary to explore possibility - and potential cost – of a 'Community Council News' page in the Newsletter.) It might also be a good idea to request a police representative to attend a KCC meeting at least once a year, to show police and community sharing information and working together.

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

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

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* Recent applications for funding were unsuccessful. Looking at other possible sources, but volunteers have also met to discuss how the deficit between the Larder's income and expenses might be reduced. More items have been moved from the 'free' to 'buy' shelves; a new shopping list spreadsheet has been developed to try to keep a tighter rein on spending. The Larder has paid the £175 annual 'subscription' to be part of the CFine/Fareshare scheme. The Larder shares the produce it receives through this scheme with the two primary schools, the Church Centre and Littlewood Court. Items received can be rather random and often near their 'Best Before' date – it would be difficult to make a meal from the cupboard items, although the crates of fruit and veg are mostly pretty good. The cheque from the John Adam Trust has been received and will be passed on to KCC Treasurer.

b) *PADs:* No issues reported.

c) *Flooding:* A response has been received from Ann Overton, Garioch Area Manager, reiterating the fact that funding for the deployment of the WaterGate barrier would not be reinstated. It will be up to the community to sort something out. There is still a great deal of frustration and anger at this situation and the apparent 'abandonment' of residents in Kemnay at risk of flooding. Taking on the WaterGate and its deployment is a huge responsibility and would require an extensive team of trained, physically fit volunteers, with access to equipment such as a forklift/trailer, floodlights, pumps, etc. And insurance cover would be an issue. Ann Overton is offering to organise meetings to discuss the way forward. S Wainman, P Paterson, M Brown and G Berkin have volunteered to be KCC's reps at these meetings. Aimi Blueman, Community Resilience Project Officer, part of Aberdeenshire Council's Risk and Resilience Team, has been informed of the situation re the WaterGate and also of the proposed cutting of lighting on a key pedestrian route in the village.

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

a) **Maintenance of Green Spaces** – *Dalmadilly:* Gary Will is still apparently contracted by Breedon's to look after both ponds and the top of Place of Origin. He will need to be reminded that the hogweed will need to be dealt with. (**Action:** Secretary to get Gary's contact details from Hilda Hart.)

b) **Road, Parking and Transport Issues** – *Roads:* Good to see the potholes along Quarry Road being filled in. Now hoping for the other streets with a lot of potholes (particularly Bridge Road and Victoria Terrace) to be done. *Parking:*

Police seem to have been more active recently, although maybe not a lot of sustained improvement. Issue with a large van apparently permanently parked in Aquithie Road car park which is obstructing sight of spaces available. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Lorna Hogg, Aberdeenshire Council Parking Officer for advice and also about two abandoned cars in the village. Both have 'Police Aware' notices on them but no sign of them being removed.) (**Action:** Secretary to put item in Newsletter.) *Buses:* No date as yet for the next Bus Forum. *Street Lighting:* Chair has received a response from the Scouts. They did not know about the proposed street lighting switch off and want to take it further. Agreed that Ann Overton should be cc'd in to any future correspondence. Some discussion on who could take over responsibility for Bridge Road, who owns the road?

c) **Community Noticeboard** – David Wyness has collected the key for the cabinet from F Patrick and has explained how he plans to refurbish it. He is to liaise with R Lamplugh re arranging payment for any materials needed.

d) **Kemfest:** Tables are now booked – Youth Club, Community Larder/Resilience, Community Council, Community Trust, Men's Shed.

## NEW BUSINESS

a) **Community Benefits Briefing** – For information/interest as Kemnay does not currently have an asset that brings any community benefit.

## 8. TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer not present. No major changes from last month. Accounts being audited in preparation for the AGM.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

a) a) **Current planning applications** – None

## 10. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

a) **Garioch (& North Marr) Safety Group (GNMS)** – Meeting next month.

b) **Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF)** – Next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, when community benefit will be discussed.

c) **Community Planning** – No KCC rep present.

d) **Garioch Area Local Learning Partnership (GALLP)/Garioch Health Improvement Network** – No KCC rep available, but there is to be a community cafe at Inverurie Campus on a Friday, aimed at younger and older males. Objective is to alleviate social isolation and help people get back into work.

e) **KAPC/KPPC/APPC** – *KAPC* – (G Dinnes) Muck Up Day was much quieter this year as all S6 were taken to Skyline in Inverurie. Request that community monitors amount of litter now that study leave has begun. *KPPC* – No meeting. *APPC* – Meeting held, but not aware if more people stepped forward to become committee members. Planning for Duck Race well underway, would appreciate help.

## REPORTS – Local Groups

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

b) **Greener Kemnay – Community Garden:** New polytunnel is up; fence repairs are ongoing (both in collaboration with the Men's Shed). Hoping to have a community fence painting session. And looking to get the cabin repainted. Trail cameras now installed in woodland. *Paths:* Work party held at Place of Origin. No additional volunteers turned up this time, but bird houses and squirrel feeders were put up, and cameras were installed at the squirrel feeders. Still looking to get funding for PoO celebration. Susan Adams, Project Manager, Aberdeenshire Council, is going to get in touch, to work together. Alison Sutherland, Ranger, has been a great help at PoO. Breedon's have expressed an interest in helping with the noticeboards but need to check with Head Office. *Energy Group:* Now thinking about what to do next, so next meetings will be thinking about future projects. And sourcing funding. One possible project might be home air quality monitors.

c) **Kemnay Village Hall** – Slowly putting together the business plan to be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council. Thanks to the Men's Shed for the painting work they've done in the Hall complex. There have been quite a few improvements, all covered by grant funding. The path at the side of the Hall is to be replaced with a resin path. Fundraising needs to be done if the fireworks display is to go ahead this year.

d) **Community Credit Group (Community trust)** – Community Event to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> May when the NESCAN report will finally be released. It is hoped to launch the Community Trust at this event but will need to get at least twenty people to sign up as members, from which the trustees are elected. John Adam Trust Fund, set up to support older residents, will possibly join the Community Trust.

e) **It's Your Neighbourhood** – Kemnay has registered for the scheme again, despite a rather disappointing report last year, which didn't seem to take into account the amount of community effort and engagement. The planted areas around the village are looking lovely. (Well done to Sue Wainman, who leads this initiative in Kemnay.)

**f) Men's Shed** – Has a group of around eighteen, meeting every Wednesday, and is going well. A place to chat as well as to do things. Not have charity status yet, but once a bank account has been set up, funds can be applied for. Currently negotiating for premises. Hoping to help the bee group with their cabin. Trying to get up and running before taking on too much. Always keen to welcome new members.  
(*Men's Shed and Youth Club to be added to Local Groups Reports.*)

## 11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

*Cllr Grant:* Council has been on recess. Has attended Area Committee (planning decision), Ward 10 meeting, full council, IJB development session.

*Alison Cumming, Area Committee Officer:* All ALDO content has been reviewed and revised, with all modules now updated.

Community Council Networking Event – Would like feedback from community councils about whether it is worthwhile running this event, devised to share good practice and ideas. There is a provisional date of 26<sup>th</sup> September, 10am-3pm, and it will probably be held in Inverurie. Hoping it would be a useful meeting. Alison Cumming has shared a survey that she asks all community councillors to complete (deadline 30<sup>th</sup> May). Community Council grant proposal goes to Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, will be slightly increased to cover inflation.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- For Information: Temporary Road Closure – Paradise Road, Kemnay
- Trading Standards Scam Bulletin No. 132
- PATS 2026 – North East Transport Training
- Temporary Road Closure – C108c Bilbo Bridge
- Care of War Memorials in Aberdeenshire
- Low Demand – Provost Lawrence Court, Kintore
- Response from A Overton to S Wainman re Vehicles displaying advertising parked in Aquithie car park
- Garioch Area Committee Meeting Agenda Papers – 21 April 2026
- Community Councils Scotland Free Training: Develop a healthy culture around conflicts
- Garioch Community Planning E-Bulletin
- Trading Standards scams Bulletin no. 133
- Sheltered Housing Vacancies
- Community Benefits Briefing
- Urgent Road Closure – C115c Aquithie Road, Kemnay
- Aberdeenshire Community Council Networking Event
- Response from Roads & Infrastructure re request for advice about dealing with obstructive parking in Kemnay.

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

- AVA – Aberdeenshire Social Enterprise update 20.3.26
- Confirmation of grants awarded by John Adam Trust
- Grant Funding – SSEN – Closing date 21/05/2026
- Response from Scouts re Street Lighting
- SSEN - Preparation ahead of Storm Dave
- Update to Microsoft 365 subscription
- Form Cllr Smith re bins route not completed
- Email from resident re progress with cycle paths
- SSEN Transmission Quarterly Newsletter
- SGN – Tell us what you think and Win a £250 gift card or charitable donation
- Responses from Funds4U (Kintore & Kemnay Rotary) re KCC applications
- AVA Aberdeenshire Social Enterprise Network Update 2026
- Request to send supporting letter for Bowling Club grant funding application
- Self-Watering Planters, Zero-Maintenance Benches, Hardwearing Noticeboards, etc

## 13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –

*R Lamplugh:* Asked that KCC agree to support a nomination for Community Champion at the Pride of Grampian Awards. This was agreed unanimously. (It was suggested that KCC could give its own recognition award, as has happened in the past.) *G Stevens:* The straps have gone again on the disabled access swings. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Aberdeenshire Council again.) Pavements getting obstructed by bushes encroaching – people reminded to keep bushes under control. *M Brown:* Youth Club going from strength to strength; applying for charity status. *F Patrick:* Has written a letter of support of Kemnay Bowling Club's application for funding on behalf of KCC. Due to tight deadline, did not have time to consult with KCC beforehand. *R Lamplugh:* Starting a 'Kemnay Talks' series. Plans to do a talk in June on his sister's disappearance; M Brown to do a talk in October on John Buchan. If anyone is interested in giving a talk, should let R Lamplugh know.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
7.30pm at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available**