Kemnay Community Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, 29th October 2026 7.30 pm, Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available

Present: Dan Johnston (Vice Chair); Fran Patrick (Secretary); John Whittall (Treasurer); Gabby Stevens; Sue Wainman(via teams); Richard Lamplugh; Gaenor Berkin; Mary Brown; Suzanne Bunton; Brian Cowie; Gillian Wilkie; Cllr Grant; Cllr Smith(via Teams)
Apologies: Lee Aitken (Chair); Pauline Paterson; Margaret Basley; Grace Dinnes; Claire Stewart

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES – The Chair welcomed those attending and gave apologies as above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/AUDIO RECORDINGS/MEETING PROTOCOL – Meeting chaired by Dan Johnston, Vice Chair. 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 24th September 2026 – The Minutes were previously circulated. Proposed as accurate by R Lamplugh, seconded by G Stevens.

4 POLICE MATTERS – Q3 report circulated. A wide-ranging overview of policing in the area, and the main issues tackled. A few specific mentions of Kemnay: foot patrols; shop lifting (one of the highest number reported in Garioch); suspected driving under influence of drugs. General feeling that this new format has improved now that it is mentioning issues in specific communities.

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

6. KEMNAY RESILIENCE -

a) *Community Resilience Planning/Community Larder:* Fortunately, Kemnay was not hugely affected by recent Storm Boelo. Some trees did come down but most were cleared quickly. SSEN & both Governments put out a lot of information about individual preparedness; every household in the village should now have a copy of the ***Just in Case. . .*** pull-out leaflet contained in last month's Newsletter. Planning for the digital switch off are well underway, anyone with a landline-based care alarm should have alternative provision; shouldn't be an issue as long as the mobile network is working. Some concern at loss of resilience facilities (gritting, etc) when the Birley Bush depot is closed next year; a meeting has been held with Ann Overton, Garioch Area Manager, about the future of Birley Bush and a letter sent by KCC Chair re the potential consequences of the depot closure. The fundraising page for all KCC activities (Defibrillators, Community Larder, Festive Food Parcels; It's Your Neighbourhood; Christmas Lights) is now on the village website - posters are up around the village and there will be information in the November Newsletter about how people can contribute to the continued maintenance of these activities. *Community Larder:* Very grateful to both Bennachie Parish Kemnay and St Anne's for the food donations from their Harvest Thanksgiving services; applications for Festive Food Parcels are now available from the Larder.

b) PADs: Very grateful for recent donations, from individuals and from Kemnay Masonic Lodge - a cheque for £1000 will be presented to F Patrick and G Berkin at the Masonic Lodge in Inverurie on 25th November. The cabinets may need to be checked by an electrician as the units need to be kept at a steady temperature and some concern that one or two many not be. (**Action:** F Patrick to arrange an electrician to check the cabinets.)

c) Flooding: No recent meeting. Ann Overton was to write to the political groups again to ask them to reconsider their decision. No response as yet, full council doesn't meet until end of month. Correction to last month's minutes: Kembhill Flood Group is still active, just no longer has charity status. Their position re the flood barrier is largely the same as KCC.

7. MATTERS ARISING – From previous meeting

a) ***Maintenance of Green Spaces -*** There is a lot of trees around the village and some need attention. One or two came down during the recent storm - on the Green, by the War Memorial, behind the Jim Mitchell statue, at Bogbeth Park. Noted that there has been quite a lot of tree maintenance on the Green recently, but concerns remain re ongoing tree maintenance around the village. (**Action**: Secretary to write to Landscape Services.) Trees also came down at Dalmadilly Ponds and Kemnay House but neither is the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council.

b) ***Road, Parking and Transport Issues*** – KCC Secretary has contacted Aberdeenshire Council again about the potholes on Bridge Road and the sunken gulleys on Victoria Terrace, response received saying that request for repair has been passed on to Operations. Secretary also sent an email to Ian Mitchell, Landscape Services, acknowledging the excellent repair work being carried out on the wall at Bogbeth Park. The harling on the walls at Wood Gardens still has not been repaired, however, although it was noted that the debris has been cleared and is no longer obstructing the pavement.

c) ***Pollution at Birley Bush –*** No update.

d) ***Christmas Lights & Switch-on Event*** – Gillian Wilkie: The event on Sunday 13th December will comprise a Christmas Fayre with food trucks, then singing around the tree, led by the Spectrum Singers. Not currently planning to have a tree lights switch-on as part of the event. R Lamplugh added that all the motifs and lights on trees at the Green should be up and working by then; L Aitken will make sure all the timers are set. The Men's Shed is happy to offer help. It was suggested that now the lower branches of the tree are raised a bit, a 'skirt/box' could be put round the bottom of tree, where a power bank could eventually be placed, which could power the tree lights. Still some discussion about the food trucks and where they might be located. Aberdeenshire Council not permitting Aquithie Road car par to be used, so now looking at the rear upper car park at the Village Hall. Gillian is meeting with Hall Administrator, Janet Burbidge, next week to discuss options. Noted that numbers at the Hall will need to be monitored and queuing for Santa's Grotto managed. Tesco have donated selection boxes for the event. (**Action:** G Wilkie to meet with J Burbidge and to report back to KCC.)

e) ***War Memorial Refurbishment:*** Thanks to the Men's Shed for their efforts with this – the railings look great. (**Action:** Cllr Grant to raise the idea of a fund for materials, etc from Aberdeenshire Council.) It took 258 hours of work.

f) ***Community Noticeboard Page in Newsletter:*** The dedicated page for KCC/AC information is now established. An additional quarter page was required this month to advertise the new fundraising options, which will be billed to the Larder.

g) ***Comfort Partnership Scheme:*** KCC has contacted Aberdeenshire Council about the poor signage to Kemnay's partner, the Bennachie Lodge. Response received, saying that the request has been passed on to Operations. (**Action:** S Wainman is to pass on more details about the poor condition of the signs – one is even pointing the wrong way – to Aberdeenshire Council.)

NEW BUSINESS: None

8. TREASURER REPORT

Another monthly donation has been set up for the Larder, there are now 4 of these; PADs has received two individual donations; Christmas Lights fund also received £200 from the Bingo Club. Festive Food Parcel funding may have to be partly paid for from Larder funds this year, depending on additional funding raised.

9. PLANNING MATTERS & APPLICATIONS –

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

Alteration and Extension to Dwellinghouse Riverside Road, Kemnay Ref No APP/2026/1628.

10. REPORTS - Aberdeenshire Council and General

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

b) Garioch Area Community Council Forum (GACCF) – No major new issues.

c) Community Planning – Again, poorly attended. New police inspector was present; updates from NHS; CLD seem to be more active. Still no information on the work to be done in Kemnay for the Local Place Plan.

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

e) KA/KP/AP – *KA* – No current representative. *KP* – Bulletin has been circulated to all KCC members. (**Action:** Secretary to request Parent Council report.) *AP* – Parents Group AGM held; announcements and activities posted on Facebook page.

REPORTS – Local Groups

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

b) Greener Kemnay – Lots happening. AGM is on 10th November at KVH, when it is hoped to show the video of the Place of Origin event. Successful Apple Day was held at the community garden; there was a good turn out and ten different apple dishes were brought. Looking at a Community Asset Transfer for the Birley Bush garden and woodland from Aberdeenshire Council. An expression of interest is being put in, which has been looked over by AVA. Greener Kemnay will now need to draw up a business plan and amend its constitution. There needs to be a minimum of twenty members of the group and the application will need to include letters of support. G Stevens will give a short presentation at the next KCC meeting. All KCC members asked to write a letter of support, in addition to the official

KCC endorsement. This was agreed in principle. (**Action:** Secretary to add this to next agenda.) *Paths Group:* The Place of Origin event was very successful, around 80 people attended. *Energy Group:* Discussion ongoing on next steps.

c) Kemnay Village Hall – Undergoing similar process as Greener Kemnay for its Community Asset Transfer. Now working on the business plan and have found the recent success of Pitlochry Town Hall in its CAT bid a useful source of reference. It is important that the community is seen to get behind these initiatives. *Roof Repairs:* Not successful as yet in getting funding for the £5000 needed to cover the cost of repairs. *Community Trust:* Brief discussion on potential role of KVH.

d) Community Trust – Secretary shared the report received from R Mackay: Aiming to put in application in November. Dawn Brown, CDC, is going to guide the group through the OSCR application. Has been advised to move away from use of 'trust' in the name and has given a few options and asks KCC to think about these or other possible names for the charity. (**Action:** S Wainman to send round other names discussed by the group.) (**Action:** Secretary will collate suggestions and liaise with R Mackay.)

e) It's Your Neighbourhood – Daffodil bulbs have been delivered; tidying and clearing has begun at the end of Riverside Road. Aberdeenshire Council has removed all the branches which came down during the storm but a lot of smaller branches, twigs, beech nut husks, etc was left, making it difficult on the pavement. A petrol blower would be useful. Very grateful to the Men's Shed for the work they've done at the War Memorial.

f) Youth Club – M Brown raised £250 from her recent talk for the Youth Club. A Hallowe'en dress up event was held this week. The club is doing well, largely down to Gemma and Pauline who lead most of the activities. Still looking for more volunteers, particularly male volunteers.

g) Men's Shed – Now have premises and are in the process of doing them up; signage to go up; should be up and running by end of November. R Lamplugh keen to make planters for the village. Looking at applying for a Community Asset Transfer for Birley Bush depot. Plea that everyone vote for Men's Shed in this round of Participatory Budgeting. Details and QR code on posters and fliers around the village. Calculated that it cost £148 to do the railings, but some of the paint and material were donated.

11. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL/COUNCILLOR NEWS -

Cllr Grant: Just back from recess. Public sector reform proposals are being much discussed. The schedule of meetings has changed to a 4-week cycle. (**Action:** Will send info on voucher for broadband for anyone who can't connect through a normal commercial provider.) The walk-in GP clinic in Inverurie is opening on 10th November. Due to staffing issues, initially only one afternoon a week.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- RI Comms Team – wall at Bogbeth/Victoria Terrace Kemnay
- Rural Affairs Committee – Outdoor Access Inquiry – Call for Views
- Aberdeenshire Council Just Transition Proposals 1.10.26
- Trading Standards Scams Bulletin No. 143
- Free training series for rural and islands Community Councils, starting 14th October
- For Info – TP&I Fund
- Community Council Resources
- Correspondence re Wall at Bogbeth – Cllr Payne
- Funding of Public Services in Aberdeenshire – Progress Report
- Community Planning Efforts Secure £12.5 million for Aberdeenshire Households – News release
- Ri Comms – Improved Signage re Comfort Partner and Potholes on Bridge Road
- Scottish Superfast Broadband Voucher System (SBVS)
- Trading Scams Bulletin No. 144
- Festive Lights deadline
- Community Transport Week
- Digital Switchover Advice Note
- SEPA: Prepare and Be Aware Flood Resilience Campaign
- For Info – National emergencies Trust Resource
- Be Ready – National Resilience Campaign
- For Information: Temporary Road Closure – U113c Clovenstone
- Storm Boelo and Weather Warning Update
- Garioch Area Committee meeting Agenda Papers – 3rd November 2026
- Closure of Birley Bush Depot – A Overton
- Funding Opportunity ADP
- Local Government Reform Dialogue – Community Councillor Events 4th & 5th November
- Storm Boelo

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

- Letter from Minister for Public Finance re Programme for Government 2026-31 – invitation to community councils to participate
- Correspondence from researcher at Heriot's archive re WW1 cricketers from Kemnay – request to use photos & info on website. (*Unanimously agreed that he could use this. G Berkin has also been in touch with him.)*

- Crime Alert – September 2026
- New Inverurie Medical Group Patient Participation Group
- Flood Inform Community Engagement- Kemnay
- Neighbourly 1-2-3/Have Your Say
- Email from resident re potholes on Bridge Road
- Tesco Grant Application – Withdrawn Project
- Co-op Local Community Fund – News about your application
- Community Larder Project – Tesco grants
- Accounts Commission – Strong community engagement at West Dunbartonshire Council
- NHS Grampian Annual Review 2026
- Neighbourly Community Survey
- Understanding Neurodivergent Colleagues
- Council watch: How Effective is your Council?
- Patient and Carer Participation Opportunity – NHS Grampian Ministerial Annual Review
- Confirmation of Public Liability for a Christmas Event
- NHS Grampian Functional Conditions Lived Experience Network
- The Unknown Tommy
- Influencing more effectively at Kemnay Community Council
- Funding Opportunities from SCVO
- SSEN now at Yellow Alert
- SSEN Distribution Storm Boelo Update
- Kemnay's original School and James Mitchell Memorial
- Storm Boelo evening update – 26th October
- Kemnay Defibrillators - Bill Conn
- SSEN Distribution Storm Boele Update – 27th October
- RURACTIVE Flood Inform Community Representatives Meeting
- SSEN Storm Boelo Update 28th October
- Guiding Ethics that Informed Creative Ideas – Place of Origin
- Kemnay PS Bulletin
- SSEN Storm Boelo update: all customers reconnected
- Amey October Newsletter – North East trunk road network
- Place of Origin and Community Trust

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS TO SPEAK –
M Brown: Comment on fb re Men's Shed printing, advised to email KVH. *R Lamplugh:* G Berkin is doing a talk on the Unknown Soldier on 12th November, 7.30pm at KVH. All money raised to go towards PADs fund. *S Bunton:* Re Armistice Service at War Memorial – it may be possible to improve the sound, but probably for next years' service. The service is streamed. *G Stevens:* No update on the missing swing at Bogbeth Park. (**Action:** Secretary to contact Ian Mitchell directly.)

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 26th November 2026
7.30pm, at Kemnay Village Hall, with Teams link available