



North Kincardine Rural Community Council

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Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday February 21st 2011 at 7.30pm in Maryculter Community Hall

Present:

Bob McKinney (Chairman)
Robert Keeler
Robin Winmill (Vice Chairman)
Robin Baxter
Ann Townsley
Susan Astell
Toby Lenehan (Secretary)
Avril Tulloch
Hazel Witte (Treasurer)
Cllr Carl Nelson
Six members of the public

Representing:

Cookney / Netherley
Cookney / Netherley
Cookney / Netherley
Banchory-Devenick
Banchory-Devenick
Maryculter
Maryculter
Maryculter
Maryculter
Aberdeenshire Council

1 Apologies:

Mike Birch, Philip Smart, Cllr Ian Mollison

2 Police Report

There had been another theft of lead from Blairs College. The police had increased patrols in the area and requested vigilance from the public for unusual transit type vans, possibly heavily loaded, seen in the area at night. The police had been active on the Netherley Road performing speed checks leading to 25 to 30 'educations'. RK asked what the split was between speeding cars and lorries. No figures were available. Correspondence from Allan Glennie, a resident on the Netherley Road, was read out noting a number of serious accidents and calling for action to reduce speeds on the Netherley Road. The police position was that the recent accidents were largely weather-related. The police also noted that their powers in the matter were limited as they could only act on incidents of excess speed. It was noted that many of the accidents were due to a lack of driver skill and inappropriate (rather than illegal excess) speed. They noted that accident statistics across the Grampian region were bad in general considering the size of the population but issuing more speeding tickets had not reduced them. Kees Witte, a MOP, noted the erosion of white lines on numerous sections of road. The police noted that they will point out road safety issues to the Council as they see them during the course of their duties. BM undertook to write to Malcolm Christie, Roads Manager at the Council, highlighting the problem.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 17th January 2011

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by HW and seconded by RW and the minutes were duly approved. It was noted that the Banchory-Devenick noticeboard minutes were out of date and this would be rectified.

4 Rural Schools and South Deeside Under Fives

The Lairhillock School Christmas Fair had made a profit of £1850.

5 Website

RW asked whether all NKRCC correspondence was being placed on the website. TL noted that MB had recently done this for the letters written over the previous months. He noted that much of NKRCC's correspondence was now by email or online forms and these were more difficult to add to the website. It was also noted that the volume of correspondence could make the website unwieldy. The debate was deferred to a later meeting when the webmaster was present.

6 Roads

The next meeting in the series to the best way of improving traffic flow at the Bridge of Dee was on March 3rd. RW and BM agreed to attend on behalf of NKRCC.

The AWPR judicial review would take place in the coming week and was expected to last between four and six days.

RW noted that the Council were making a reasonable effort to fill potholes. He asked BM to contact the Roads Department again to reiterate earlier requests to remove obsolete temporary warning signs from verges. A MOP also asked that a request be made to the Council to remove business advertising signs from verges.

7 Planning

7.1 Recent Planning Applications

<i>W/C 28 January 2011</i> APP/2011/0139	Alhamra, Blairs, Aberdeen, AB12 5YQ	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse
<i>W/C 4 February 2011</i> APP/2011/0194	Turnamiddle Cottage, Portlethen, Aberdeen AB12 4RX	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse
<i>W/C 11 February 2011</i> APP/2010/3742	Borrowfield, East Steading, Netherley, Stonehaven, AB39 3RB	Change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage and erection of boundary fence and gates
APP/2011/0145	Land at Upper Craigwell, Netherley, Stonehaven, AB39 3QP	Demolition of steading, outbuilding and bothy and erection of dwellinghouse
APP/2011/0370	Land adjacent to Banchory-Devenick Parish Church, Banchory-Devenick	Change of use of disused land to burial ground (extension to existing cemetery), alterations to existing access and formation of car park
APP/2011/0294	Blairgowrie Holiday Parks	Formation of 3 no. 10m x 4m concrete static caravan pitches

7.2 Other Planning Matters

RW asked CN about the status of the 70 house development on the site of the chicken sheds at Hare Moss. CN replied that he would enquire at his Council meeting the following day.

RW was drafting a letter to adjacent Community Council's regarding ACSEF's consultation on changes to the planning system. This would be circulated to members for comments shortly.

BM asked CN for an update on the status of the planning application for the new access road into Badentoy Industrial Estate. CN replied that the road had popular support. It was impractical to put up signs forbidding HGVs from using the minor roads that would be linked to the major road network by this proposed new road as heavy vehicles needed access for, e.g. oil deliveries and agricultural purposes. AT responded that heavy vehicles were not the main potential problem. The issue was the new road would enable and encourage car drivers to use the back roads as a peak time rat-run. The Council had still not responded to NKRCC's request for a meeting between Council Planners, the developer and residents on the matter. CN would check on the current status of the application and report back.

8 Finance & 300 Club

At 21 February 2011 NKRCC had a cash balance of £1703.

A request for financial assistance had been received from the Maryculter Youth Café. The Youth Café was requesting financial assistance with transport costs for seventeen people for a weekend trip to the Compass Christian Centre. A new projector was also needed for the weekly Youth Alpha social learning programme that ran at the Youth Café. Those present heard from organisers and youths who attended the Café. The Café was providing a weekly focal point and meeting place for 30-40 local youths from P7 to S4 school age. It was noted ours was a dispersed community with few other organised activities for children of this age and that the youths who attended were a credit to the community. The Youth Café was open to all youths of P7 to S4 age. It was agreed that the Youth Café was the sort of community project that NKRCC was happy to support and that it had received financial assistance of £400 in each of the last two years. It was agreed to make a donation of £600. Kees Witte, a MOP, also noted the possibility of using the Aberdeenshire Council community buses. Cllr Nelson suggested that the Youth Café may also be able to benefit from the Council's Top-Up Budget. TL also noted the Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group's Small Grants Scheme and the David and June Gordon Memorial Trust may be applicable

The January and February 300 Club draws were held. The winners were:

January	February
	£25 # 169
£15 #223	£15 #129
£10 #192	£10 #318
£5 #166	£5 #17

9 Correspondence & Licence Applications

The Crown Estate's Winter/Spring hardcopy bulletin was made available to those present. The following electronic correspondence was reviewed:

The next Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum meeting was on 24th February. RK agreed to attend on behalf of NKRCC.

Aberdeenshire Council had replied to NKRCC submission to the current consultation on proposed increases in Shire car parking charges. While the Council accepted that the percentage increase was greater for short term parkers, they felt that long term parking would still be discouraged by the greater absolute increase in cost for long stays.

BT payphones had emailed to inquire whether NKRCC would like to adopt the telephone box at Banchory-Devenick crossroads. The procedure had been changed since the last time this was offered and BT were now willing to retain responsibility for removing power to the box. This meant the cost to adopt the telephone box was now negligible. Members discussed some possible uses for the box. More information on the details of the scheme were requested and would be forwarded to members in due course.

The campaign group Yes! To Fairer Votes had emailed offering to attend a NKRCC meeting and give a presentation. Yes! To Fairer Votes is a lobby group supporting the Yes vote in the forthcoming referendum on a move from a first-past-the-post to an alternative vote system for Westminster elections. After some debate, it was felt that as NKRCC was a non political organisation this would be inappropriate. However, the Yes! To Fairer Votes group's correspondence would be made available to the general public. Yes! To Fairer Votes Aberdeen could be contacted at fairervotesaberdeen@gmail.com , www.fairervotesaberdeen.org.uk.

Aberdeenshire Council had sent issues 4 and 5 of its set of Budget Briefing Papers describing the Council's 2011-2012 funding situation and where cost savings would be made. As a result of cost saving measures across a number of departments and projects, the budget shortfall had now been closed and a small budget surplus for the period was now predicted. The correspondence which detailed where the savings were to be made would be forwarded to members and the public.

9.1 Licence Applications

None received.

10 AOCB

HW reported that the Council's Torquil McLeod had visited Maryculter Organic Farm to inspect the worker caravans as previously agreed. He had noted that one caravan was barely habitable and the other was, in fact, a horsebox. He had stipulated that the caravan must be removed within two months and would check the site again at this time.

HW noted that the deadline for submissions to the next issue of South Deeside View was 15th March.

RB had received comments from a number of Banchory-Devenick residents about bright lighting used at night outside farm buildings. The lighting was used periodically while preparing classic vehicles for shows and was creating some nuisance. The situation would be monitored.

RW noted that Holyrood election constituency boundaries in the NKRCC area had recently changed. A MOP had suggested to RW that NKRCC could organise a hustings to provide a platform for the new candidates in the NKRCC area to hold a public debate. Some members were in favour but the consensus was that as NKRCC was non-political they should not get involved in this.

RK reported that unauthorised gypsy/traveller encampments had been the main debating issue at the recent Community Council Forum.

Cllr Nelson noted that the Area Committee was holding a special meeting with the Area Management Team to discuss how the Council would handle all the cuts that had needed to be made to balance the 2011-2012 budget.

Kees Witte, a MOP, reported on a meeting held at Strachan Hall to discuss the onerous conditions of the new Public Entertainment Licences. KW had attended the meeting with representatives from Maryculter and Cookney Halls and the Scouts. The excessive number of conditions and impracticality of imposing some of them was creating consternation amongst groups holding public meetings across the Aberdeenshire area. The meeting had been well attended. KW would forward correspondence from the meeting. It was noted that Maryculter Hall's entertainment licence had not yet been renewed and Cookney Hall's was currently unapproved.

George Masson, a MOP, asked whether there had been any progress on his suggestion for the introduction of a 40mph speed limit on the South Deeside Road. There had still not been any contact with Cllr Melling who had been investigating the matter and, as he was not present, the discussion was again deferred to a later date.

BM noted that the next NKRCC ordinary meeting would be on Monday 21st March at 7.30pm. There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.40pm.

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