

Keith Community Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 5th October 2015 at Keith Community Centre.

Members in attendance: Jane Martin (Chair), Susan Hutcheon, Marguerite Cruickshank, Neil Kidd, Dave Carson, Sandy Dickson, Catherine Sinclair (Assoc. member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Gary Coull, Fiona (Tesco Community Champion), Shelly Nicol, Inspector Alan Armit (Police Scotland)

1. Apologies: Councillor Stewart Cree

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting: Approved as accurate by Sandy Dickson and seconded by Dave Carson.

3. Police update:

As per report to be circulated to Community Council. There has been a spike in vandalism and community feedback that police are not being seen to follow up. Inspector Armit said police are following leads and have good images from one of the Mid Street cameras. The other is unserviceable. Discussion was held on the use of CCTV. Cameras must be manned or record for later viewing so even if another camera funded by a community group was placed, it may not be resourced. Whenever an incident is reported, a crime reference is generated and Inspector Armit encourage people to provide information on anti-social behaviour or driving. This can be done anonymously if necessary via 101 or Crimestoppers. Previously reported incidents may be re-opened in the light of new intelligence.

A report of theft from a trailer has not been followed up on.

Reporting of number plates in the case of Operation Fair Warning (action on anti-social driving in Keith & Buckie) would be helpful. Concerns were raised over speeding.

Operation Regard - If police speak to young people out late at night, a letter from the Chief Inspector is sent to their home. The letter states there is no suggestion of criminality but police spoke to their child at this time and place so parents can check this against where they thought their child was.

Discussion was held on the larger area the local community warden now has to cover, and how it is impacting on the good work she did. Inspector Armit explained the role of Community Involvement officers, who intervene when a child comes to the attention of police, and work with parents. Requests have also been made for Police to speak at primary schools and Keith Grammar School.

Regarding concerns about local staffing levels, Inspector Armit said there are no fewer officer than previously. Demands on officers have increased and are not likely to reduce, however colleagues from other areas can be called on for support. Processing arrests takes place in Elgin now, and in general processing takes longer than previously. This can take officers off the streets for longer.

ACTIONS: Inspector Armit to establish the cause of the hold-up in CCTV camera repair
Inspector Armit to arrange for Community Involvement Officer to attend Keith Community Council meeting and School Liaison Officers to speak at schools
Inspector Armit to follow up on speeding concerns and request local officers attend with a speed gun if necessary
Inspector Armit to investigate report of theft from a trailer

ACTION: Jane to email Inspector Armit to ask the cost of a CCTV camera

4. St Rufus Park Group:

The group wish to carry out improvements to St Rufus Park and make it more accessible. They will form an independent constituted group, but they have requested support meeting the cost of posters and hall hire for a public meeting. Posters will say 'with support from Keith Community Council'. There were no objections to this request.

ACTION: Cllr Coull to ask Grant Speed for an update on drainage works carried out to date

ACTION: Jane Martin to advise Gail Smith that Community Council will support initial costs

5. Treasurer's Report:

CC Account Balance is £1909 - the grant from the Moray Council has been received.

Keith Christmas Lights account balance is £6343 + approx. £500 from tins

Scots Toun Account Balance is £4250.

Keith in Flower balance is £451

The change of bank accounts has been completed and was straightforward.

6. Matters arising from the last minutes:

The oil seen at tennis court drains is likely to be caused by a film from the clay courts, rather than oil. The public do not need to be concerned about contaminated ground. The water coming from the drains may relate to the waterlogging in St Rufus Park.

Cuthil Park – Cllr Coull emailed Grant Speed. The Moray Council will grass the skate park area meantime. Jane suggested Kerbs approach Blackhillock about tarring the area.

New steps at hospital (Steppies) – Sandy Dickson found only surface damage, from skateboards or dragging things over the surface of the steps. The lights should be delivered this week. A light was to be fixed to 64 Nelson Terrace to light the steps

ACTION: Cllr Coull to email if lights arrive

7. Correspondence:

Rabbits at garden of remembrance in cemetery. Discussion was held on the best way to tackle the rabbit warren in the heather bank. This is a sensitive issue. Moray Council Lands and Parks department were reported to be awaiting a reply to an email sent to Keith Community Council but no such email can be found.

ACTION: Community Cllrs to look at memorial garden this week and report back to Jane Martin

ACTION: Cllr Coull to ask Cllr Cree for latest update on the garden

Town Centre Communities Capital Funding

Scottish Government have £1.7 million of funding for capital investments to make real and lasting difference to communities. This could be a possible source of funding for St Rufus Park group.

ACTION: Community Councillors to consider other possible projects

Vandalism of flower baskets and tubs – Banffshire Herald article

There is a perception that the Community Council was responsible for the comments made. Jane Martin received a number of phone calls and community feedback expressing support for the Blackhillock workers in the strongest terms. The site manager was angry and initially withdrew community support previously offered. Jane referred to the Community Council press protocol. Dave Carson said he had a responsibility to pass on information given in good faith. Jane Martin has apologised the Blackhillock site manager and assured him she would address the matter. Community support has been reinstated, including an offer to help with Christmas lights. Jane read a letter she had drafted for the Banffshire Herald and there were no objections to it being submitted.

Community Council key documents update: - received

8. Community Councillors' Update:

- **Planning & Licensing.** No updates.
- **Signs, street furniture and marketing.** As per previous minute, the banner has been replaced due to wear and tear. Discussion was held on position the banner on the other side of the fence for shelter, or to getting a perforated banner.

ACTION: Marguerite Cruickshank to investigate and check price of perforated banner

- **Roads and rights of way.** Steppies as above. Brief discussion on ducts works on A96, and BT work at Brig of Haughs causing traffic issues.
- **Keith in flower.** In spite of recent vandalism, more businesses have expressed interest in participating. The Royal Hotel wants 3 baskets, the Banffshire Herald 1 basket and Knit & Purl a box. Barry Fettes will replace the brackets, bedding the bolts in resin. Barry Fettes is willing to clear all gutters in Mid Street of plants free of charge, so long as business owners sign a disclaimer against accidental damage. It could be challenging to contact all business owners. Ross McCleary, Keith CARS may have contact details for some. It was also suggested businesses might like to make a modest donation for the work. All the work Barry Fettes carries out on Mid Street is very much appreciated. The next Keith in Flower meeting is next week.
- **Environment and Cleansing.** As above

9. External Group Updates:

- Christmas Lights

Donation tins were collected. Some businesses are better at promoting the tins than others, but any donation is welcome. Sandy is working on a plan for lights at the square. Other work is ongoing.

8. AOCB:

Regent Court/Golf course. Wasps nesting in the bank have badly stung 2 older people, resulting in 1 being hospitalised. There is some doubt over who owns the land but if it is not owned by the Moray Council, Neil Kidd will arrange removal of the nest.

ACTION: Cllr Coull to find out if Moray Council own the land

Dunnyduff Woods – steps at access gate have been worn away

ACTION: Catherine to draft a letter to Forestry Commission

Date of next meeting: Monday 5th October at 19:00 in the Community Centre.