

The Keith Community Council

Minutes from the Meeting on Monday 02nd June 2025

@ 19.00hrs

Venue: Keith Community Fire Station

Those in Attendance:

Community Councillors: Neil Kidd (Chair), Steve Hickin (Secretary), Marguerite Cruickshank (Treasurer), Callum Stuart (Vice Chair), Stuart Chapman, Davie Rough.

Ward Councillors: Cllr D. Gatt.

Others Present: Paul Winton (Crew Commander Keith Community Fire Station), Linda Gorn, Debra Duke CCLO Moray Council.

1. The Meeting opened at 19:00hrs with N. Kidd in the Chair

2. Apologies were received from: Cllr T. Colyer & Cllr T. Coull.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the May 2025 meeting

The Minutes of the May 2025 meeting were adopted as Drafted
Proposed D. Rough – Seconded S. Chapman

(The Chair altered the order of business and took Agenda item 6 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the May 2025 Meeting before Item 4 Police Matters and Item 5 Moray CCLO).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the May 2025 meeting (Previously Item 6)

Seafield Avenue Railway Bridge

S. Chapman declared a conflict of interest in this matter and did not take part in this discussion.

At the May meeting the Secretary had been instructed to write to the Chair of the Keith & Dufftown Railway Association, (KDRA), with regard to the current condition of the bridge at the junction of Seafield Avenue and Station Road and had done so on the 08th May 2025.

Up to the convening of tonight's June meeting no reply had been received but on arrival at the meeting venue in Keith Community Fire Station the Chair was passed an envelope addressed to Keith Community Council which had been hand delivered to the Fire Station. The envelope contained the Chairman of the Keith & Dufftown Railway Association's reply to our letter of the 08th May 2025, and included a copy of the latest inspection report on the bridge dated 28/02/2025, (A copy of the reply letter is attached to these minutes).

The meeting discussed the contents of the KDRA Chairman's response and concluded that it had not addressed the points raised in our letter of 08/05/2025. Some of the comments in the letter appeared to suggest that Moray Council was responsible for making repairs to the bridge in question.

The Secretary was instructed to write again to the Chairman of the KDRA for further clarification.

Mid Street Bunting

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The Bunting has been installed and has brightened up Mid Street.

VE DAY 80 and 30 Years of Kilt Making in Keith Celebrations

L. Gorn thanked the Community Council for its help and support towards these celebrations which were a great success.

5. Police Matters

The Buckie & Keith Bimonthly Community Policing Team June report was available and the Chair read out the items relevant to Keith.

The report was noted.

There was also an email report from Police Sergeant G. Allan who is based at Keith Police Station. Sergeant Allan's report concerned the ongoing parking issues on Mid Street and the recent police actions to deal with it, drivers of cars parked on double yellow lines were spoken to and parking tickets were issued where appropriate.

(Note: per Police Scotland; Under the new structure for Community Council reports these reports are now only issued on a Bimonthly basis, and due to increasing operational demands Police Scotland officers are no longer routinely scheduled to attend Community Council meetings).

6. Moray Community Council Liaison Officer (Previously Item 5)

The Chair welcomed the CCLO, Debra Duke, to the meeting.

The CCLO thanked the Chair for the invitation to the meeting and gave a short briefing on the forthcoming Community Council elections due in October this year. The CCLO also advised that the second stage consultation on the Moray Council scheme for Community Councils was now open via the Moray Council website.

The Review of the Moray Scheme for Community Councils 2025 2nd Consultation was discussed with the CCLO and suggestions were put forward for additions to the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors were put forward to the CCLO for her to include in the consultation.

There was a discussion with the CCLO concerning the Extraordinary Emergency meeting of Keith Community Councillors that was held on 19th March 2025 to address the issue of serious allegations against a KCC member, which had been recorded in a Confidential Minute and is on file.

The CCLO was satisfied that the Community Councillors had acted in a fair and proportionate manner with their response to the matter.

7. Correspondence:

Correspondence received by email is forwarded to KCC members for their attention.

The Secretary introduced the following items for consideration at tonight's meeting;

Review of the Moray Scheme for Community Councils 2025 2nd Consultation – Discussed with the CCLO,

SSEN Transmission Coachford Substation Scheme – Noted, the substation at Coachford is no longer going to be built,

Union Bridge Update – Discussed in AOCB,

Exploring a Potential Partnership with LEAP- KCC already has a relationship with REAP,

Cullen Connect Newsletter - Noted

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8. Reports:

Treasurer's Report

Keith Community Council - £1873.42

Christmas Lights - £8074.45

Scots Toun - £2560.59

Keith Defibrillators – £1194.91

Keith in Flower – £2246.88

Community Reports

Watch Commander Keith Community Fire Station

Crew Commander Winton gave the report for May:

Hoax calls to a specific address continue to be a problem,

Five Wild fires,

Three RTC's two of which were in Keith and the other involved a Lorry at Glass on the Huntly Road.

Three House fires in Keith.

Ward Councillors

Cllr Gatt – Attended normal committee meetings, attended the VE Day and 30 years of Kilt making anniversary in Keith, Local Housing Strategy Briefing, Planning Committee.

Community Reports

Local Matters: There had been a complaint about a lack of communication and consultation about the Bunting and Flags on Mid Street from KCC with the traders on Mid Street.

Defibrillators – A set of Paediatric pads have been installed in the Defibrillator at the Scout Hut, all KCC Defibrillators are in service.

Planning: here are no items of interest to Keith in the current Weekly Wards list but D.Rough raised the matter of the Battery Storage site planned for the Banff Road which does not appear on the Wards list, S. Chapman will look into the matter.

Facebook & Media – Unsolicited posts and spam continue to be removed from the KCC Facebook page.

Christmas Lights – C. Stuart is in talks with Koelher on behalf of the Christmas Light committee to see if they can assist with the HERS issue that currently prevents the committee installing the Christmas Lights along the A96 through Keith.

The Christmas Lights Committee has received an email from Richard Lockhead MSP asking for an update on the issue of installing the Christmas lights along the A96 through Keith.

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Keith in Flower: The tubs around the town have been planted and the Hanging Baskets are planted and hung up with watering ongoing.

The KiF committee has been granted funding for the refurbishing of the Band Stand from the Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund and Moray Council is happy for them to proceed.

9. AOCB:

Union Bridge Landslip

The recent email from AMEY and the timeline of emails concerning the work at Union Bridge were discussed and the Secretary was instructed to invite Billy Gordon AMEY Engagement manager to the July meeting of the Community Council.

There being no other relevant business the meeting closed at 21.05hrs

Date, Time & Venue of the next meeting:

Monday 07th July 2025 @ 19.00hrs in the Meeting Room of Keith Community Fire Station.

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DRAFT

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Keith & Dufftown Railway Association

Dufftown Station, Dufftown, Banffshire, Scotland, AB55 4BA

Telephone: - 07383 354254
01340 821181 (Sat & Sun)

Email: - keithdufftownrailway@outlook.com

28th May 2025.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 8th May 2025.

Yes, the Seafield Road bridge (to KDRA bridge 187) is on land owned by the Keith and Dufftown Railway.

I think you will find judging from your photos of the 8th May that the barriers have been hit and dragged along by yet another vehicle. When Moray roads placed the barriers, they were tie wrapped to the bridge parapet fence. See Photo 2.

Local roads authorities must ensure that bridges are safe for road users, including weight restrictions, inspections, and repairs. If a bridge is deemed weak or unsuitable for heavy traffic, restrictions must be applied by the local authority to prevent damage or collapse.

Local authorities may apply for grants to repair and upgrade from Transport Scotland. Seafield Avenue bridge is weight restricted to 40 tons. Many of the HGV diverted across may well exceed this.

The bridge and barriers have been hit again and damaged further. At least the fourth time. I attach the latest bridge report.

Mike Langford.
Chairman.
KDRA.
07814 289 714

Keith & Dufftown Railway Association is a registered Scottish Charity - SC 046348
Keith & Dufftown Railway Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Office: - Dufftown Station, Dufftown, Banffshire AB55 4BA, Scotland
Registered in Scotland 157099

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2. STRUCTURE DETAILS AND INSPECTION REPORTS

2.1 187 Seafield Road

Grid Reference	NJ 428 513
Form	Steel beams, concrete jack arches
Span(s); skew	6.07m clear, skew 45°
Road Width	6.30m
Beams	9 no 12"x8" (305x203mm) – 914 crs
Over	Road
Under	(Rail) disused track bed
Date of inspection	28 th February 2025

2.1.1 Foundations

There is no sign of distress to the foundations.

2.1.2 Abutments

The masonry abutments are generally in good condition and are well pointed. There is some cracking at acute corners.

2.1.3 Wing Walls

The curved masonry wing walls are in good condition. There is some cracking and separation from the abutment on the NW corner. There is some damage below a missing pilaster on the SW corner.

2.1.4 Main Beams

The main steel beams are in fair condition, with surface corrosion over much of the exposed bottom flanges and the faces of the outer edge beams.

2.1.5 Jack Arches

The concrete jack arches are in good condition, with some leaching at joints.

2.1.6 Pointing

The pointing of masonry is generally in good condition.

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2.1.7 Bearings

The bearings of the beams are built in to the abutments, and appear in good condition.

2.1.8 Handrails and Pilasters

There is some corrosion to the steel handrail posts. The timber fencing panels are in good condition.

There are masonry pilasters at each corner of the structure. The pilaster on the SW conner has fallen onto the underlying track bed due to vehicle impact. The other three pilasters are in good condition.

2.1.9 Track Bed

The ballast on the track bed is in good condition. There are concrete sleepers laid on the track bed with no rails.

2.1.10 Road

The road surfacing over the bridge is in good condition.

2.1.11 Embankments

The embankments are stable, with some vegetation growth.

2.1.12 Photos



General view looking south



General view on beams and jack arches

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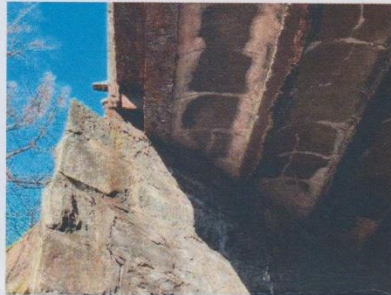
Wallace
Stone



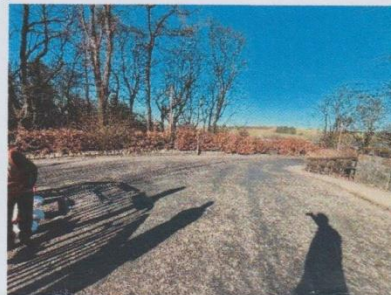
Missing pilaster on SW corner



Damage to wingwall under missing pilaster



Steel beam bearing at SW corner



View on road junction looking west

2.1.13 Recommendations

The damaged pilaster should be re-built to match the other three pilasters. Secondary concrete parapets should be placed along the inside of the south pilasters and timber fence to offer additional protection against vehicle impact.

Any cracks and voids in abutments and wingwalls should be raked out to remove any loose mortar and vegetation and suitably repointed.

The steel beams should be cleaned to remove surface corrosion and painted.