

# **The Keith Community Council**

## **Minutes from the Meeting on Monday 01<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

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**Time & Venue: 19.00hrs in Keith Community Fire Station**

**Those in Attendance:**

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

**Ward Councillors:** Cllr D. Gatt & T. Colyer.

**Others Present:** Kevin Mitchell (Watch Commander Keith Community Fire Station), G. McKillop (Strathisla CC), K. Greaves BEM (Chief Executive Moray Council).

1. **The Meeting opened at 19:00hrs, Chair N. Kidd welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the Karen Greaves Chief Executive of Moray Council was in attendance.**

2. **Apologies were received from:** Community Cllrs S. Chapman & D. Rough, Cllr T. Coull

3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the July 2025 meeting**

The Minutes of the July 2025 meeting were adopted as Drafted  
Proposed C. Stuart Seconded M. Cruickshank  
(Keith CC does not meet in August)

**Moray Council Chief Executive**

In a variation to the meeting Agenda the Chair welcomed Moray Chief Executive Karen Greaves and invited her to address the meeting.

The Chief Executive introduced herself and said that she had been working her way around the Moray Community Councils to introduce herself so people could put a face to the name and so she could see the community councils in action. There was a brief discussion about the forthcoming community council elections and the community councillors present said how disappointed they were at the delays to the publication of the new community council scheme and the accompanying election.

The Chair thanked the Chief executive for her attendance and hoped she would come to Keith again in the future.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the July 2025 meeting**

**Seafield Avenue Railway Bridge**

The temporary traffic lights on Union Bridge have been lifted and Seafield Avenue should no longer be used as a 'Rat Run' by large vehicles seeking to avoid the delays on the A96 through Keith. Owners of the railway bridge at the bottom of Seafield Avenue, The Keith & Dufftown Railway Association, (K&DRA), had previously indicated that once Seafield Avenue was no longer being used as a 'Rat Run' they would look to carry out repairs to the bridge. It is Keith Community Councils point of view that repairs to the bridge should be carried ASAP now that the temporary traffic lights have been removed.

The Secretary will write to the K&DRA Chairman and ask when we can expect them to start repairs to the bridge parapet.

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As Moray Council is responsible for the carriageway over the bridge in question the Chief Executive offered to write to the KDRA Chairman in support of Keith Community Council's enquiry about repairs to the bridge.

### **5. Introduction of the Zenobe Blackhillock BESS Community Benefit Fund**

The Secretary advised the meeting that on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 he and Keith Community Councillor S. Chapman, along with members of Strathisla Community Council and Ward Councillor T. Colyer, had attended a meeting at the Longmore Community Hall regarding this matter.

The meeting was hosted by Debbie Herron of Foundation Scotland and the purpose of the meeting was to introduce a Community Benefit Fund for Keith Community Council and Strathisla Community Council. Foundation Scotland gave a presentation that outlined the proposed Community Benefit Fund and asked the community Councillors present to choose one of four options for the funds operation. After due consideration of the options put forward the two community councils agreed on the Micro Grants option for the fund structure which would be taken back to their respective community councils for ratification.

The Secretary had previously circulated the Benefit Fund presentation and meeting notes to community councillors.

The secretary then gave a presentation of the option that had been agreed at the meeting of 19/08/2025 and after a discussion on the matter the Community Council passed the following resolution:

Proposed N. Kidd, seconded by C. Stuart

*"That Keith community Council hereby confirms and adopts the proposal that the Zenobe Blackhillock BESS Community Benefit Fund Microgrants Programme is the preferred option for this Community Council".*

Votes for = 4 Votes against = 0 Passed unanimously

The Secretary will advise Foundation Scotland of this Community Council's decision.

### **6. Police Matters**

The following items were considered: The August Buckie & Keith Community Policing report and an email from Police Sergeant Scott Mackay.

The Chair presented the August Buckie & Keith Community Policing report to the meeting.

The report is not intended to produce detailed statistics but rather an overview of policing activities aligned to the following priorities; Antisocial behaviour, Violence & Disorder, Road safety & Road Crime, Protection vulnerable people, Acquisitive crime, Serious & organised crime.

The following reports are for Keith during June and July;

There were 8 reports of assaults in Keith of which half have been detected by officers.

There was a break-in to a large shed at a rural property outside Keith which was the only break-in in the Keith area over the two months.

There were three reports of Shoplifting in Keith.

The report also gives information about police initiatives on Road Safety & Crime, Protecting vulnerable people from crime, serious & organised crime.

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Sergeant Mackay was based at Keith police station has sent the Community Council an email advising that he is transferring to CID duties in Elgin and that his replacement in Keith is Police Sergeant Lucy Cuthbert.

The Secretary has replied to Sgt Mackay thanking him for his support and assistance and will contact Sgt Cuthbert to invite her to a future Community Council meeting.

### **7. Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were considered:

**AMEY Union Bridge Update – 01<sup>st</sup> September 2025** – advising that the temporary traffic lights had been removed on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 and that work to complete the repairs on the bridge no longer required temporary traffic lights and could continue without them. The email also stated that there were restrictions in place for abnormal loads but did not state what the restrictions were or how they would be managed.

The email was noted and the Secretary will email AMEY and ask for clarification on the abnormal loads restrictions.

#### ***Event at the Grampian Hotel with Seamus Logan MP 09/10/2025***

Seamus Logan MP is hosting an event to discuss boosting Keith and the surrounding area as a tourist destination. Keith Community Council Chair and Secretary have been invited to this event but, unfortunately the Chair is unable to attend. – Noted

#### ***Moray Council - Open Space Area Den Crescent***

Housing Projects Officer Grant Thomson has visited the above mentioned area and seen that it has “fallen into a state of disrepair”. He has contacted us for information about the Den Crescent Group so he can “reach out” to the residents for ideas to improve the area.

The Secretary will email Mr Thomson and advise him that the Den Crescent Group is now defunct.

#### ***Email from Jacek Lewandowski at Aberdeen Laundry Services***

The email enquired about how the Keith steam Laundry could become more involved in the Keith Community.

Vice Chair C. Stuart will contact Mr Lewandoski to discuss this matter.

#### ***Email received from AMCOGriffen***

This email is more relevant to Strathisla Community Council and was passed to their member in attendance at tonight’s meeting.

### **8. Reports**

#### **Treasurers Report – Bank Balances**

Keith Community Council	£1220.42
Christmas Lights	£8247.60
Scots Toun	£2560.59
Defibrillators	£1194.91

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Keith in Flower £28857.20 – This includes a ring fenced grant from the Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund for renovating the Keith Band stand.

Following this report the Chair thanked Marguerite Cruickshank for her service to Keith Community Council and her role as treasurer as she has tendered her resignation and will not be standing for re-election.

### **Community Reports**

#### **Watch Commander Keith Community Fire Station**

Watch Commander Mitchell presented his report for July & August 2025;

Throughout this period there were a total of 29 Fire calls, 17 in July and 12 in August, those calls breakdown as follows;

*7 False alarms,*

*3 False Alarms with Good Intent,*

*2 Road traffic Collisions,*

*1 Special Services,*

*5 Wild Fires and*

*10 House fires.*

*There was one Hoax Call.*

#### **End of Watch Commander's Report**

**Keith in Flower** – Plants in the planters and hanging baskets were damaged during the recent storms.

KiF Chair C. Stuart will be meeting with the contractor for the Band Stand renovation work on Thursday this week.

C. Stuart advised that there is a need for a litter bin in St. Rufus Gardens, (The Band Stand), and could one of the two bins located on the opposite side of the road in front of the Kirk be relocated to the Band Stand.

Cllr Gatt said he would see if this could be arranged.

Noted

**Christmas Lights** – As a further sign of good faith AMEY will again be installing the Christmas lights along the A96 through Keith. AMEY will also repair all the fittings damaged during their installation of the Christmas lights last year at no cost the people of Keith.

AMEY have also advised that the various street lights along the A96 in Keith that are defective for the last four years will be repaired.

The Bunting on Mid Street has been taken down after it was damaged in the recent storms.  
Noted

**KCC Defibrillators** – All Defibrillators are available for use. Noted

### **Ward Councillors**

**Cllr Gatt** – Has left the Planning Cttee and is now a member of the Corporate Cttee has attended the Education Cttee, a Management recruitment event and there is a Licensing Cttee meeting this Wednesday coming.

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Noted

### **External Group Updates**

#### **InKeith & Strathisla**

Funding has been secured for the renovation of the building at the Tennis Courts in St. Rufus Park; the renovation work is to be completed by spring 2026.

#### **Scots Toun**

As Marguerite Cruickshank is not standing for re-election a new delegate will have to be selected when the new Community Council is formed after the forthcoming election.

### **9. AOCB:**

#### **Union Bridge Landslip**

The Temporary Traffic Lights have been removed and the A96 across the bridge is open with a restriction on abnormal loads over the bridge, (see entry under correspondence above).

#### **Seafield Avenue Railway Bridge**

See entry under *Matters Arising from the Minutes of the July 2025 Meeting*.

#### **St. Rufus Gardens & The Band Stand**

C. Stuart, Chair of the Keith in Flower sub group, asked the Chief Executive if there were any enforcement powers that Moray Council could use to encourage the owner of a house overlooking St. Rufus Gardens, which has long running subsidence problems, to carryout remedial work?

The garden wall of this property collapsed into St. Rufus gardens over a decade ago and the fear is that the house may also do so. Since the wall collapse access to that side of the gardens has been restricted and the long term presence of protective temporary fencing leaves the gardens looking scruffy and unwelcoming, which limits their use by the community. It is known that, over the years, Moray Council has been in correspondence with the owner of the house in question but no progress appears to have been made.

The Chief Executive said she would speak with the relevant departments at Moray Council to see what could be done.

**There being no other relevant business the meeting closed at 20.57hrs and the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.**

**Date, Time & Venue of the next meeting:**

**Monday 06<sup>th</sup> October 2025; in the Meeting Room of Keith Community Fire Station @ 19.00hrs.**