

Strathisla Community Council
Draft Minutes - 6:00pm - Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Keith Community & Sports Centre, Banff Road, Keith

Attendees:

Strathisla Community Councillors: John Taylor (JT), James Mark (JM), Geraldine McKillop (GM), Tina Murphy (TM), Karen Price Iddon (KPI),

Moray Councillors: Donald Gatt (DG)

Others: George Gartly (GG), Lesley Gartly (LG), Rachael McCutcheon (RM)

1. **Welcome** – JT welcomed all to the meeting especially GG, LG & RM and all introduced themselves
2. **Apologies** – Tracy Colyer (TrC), Theresa Coull (ThC)
3. **Minutes of last meeting** – Weds 2nd July - **Minutes Approved** - Proposed GM, seconded JM
4. **Matters arising not on Agenda:**
Kings Portrait – Strathisla CC Sign: awaiting response from MC
5. **Community Council Elections** – Notice of election – Friday 3rd Oct, Nominations lodged from – Monday 6th Oct, Nominations close – 4pm Tues 21st Oct, Declaration (if uncontested) Weds 22nd Oct.
Election Paperwork – TM to ask CCLO when this will be issued
6. **Kincairn Bridge Closure (A95)** – TrC, GM, & TM, attended teams meeting with Tim Eagle and Network Rail Project Team to discuss alternatives to the lengthy closure of the Bridge and subsequent Teams meeting with Tim Eagle and Moray Council Roads Dept. TrC & GM also met main contractors AmcoGiffen (AG) on site. Project running to time, no possibility of reducing timetable for works to be completed. Temporary bridge not viable due to topography. Stella Chan, Community Liaison Officer for AG, has enquired if there are any volunteering opportunities, while AG are on site and offering to go into local schools to give support on STEM subjects and offer career support. All to think if there are any projects where the offer of volunteers could be taken up. Stella has offered a teams meeting for SCC.
7. **Update on Resilience Project & Generators** – Rhona Patterson (RP) submitted a bare minimum of information to CCLO, falling very far short of that required. None of the questions regarding ‘other funding’ had been addressed. The quotes supplied did not match the invoices raised, dates did not tally with the dates when RP had informed SCC quotes were being updated. CCLO has been informed that the information provided to date is wholly inadequate. Item to remain on Agenda.
Rothiemay Generator - KPI still in talks with Neil from the Lossat to act as an outreach centre with volunteers going to those in need of assistance. The resilience fund stands at £8,712.20 and further funding is required to complete the project of possibly up to £20,000. KPI believes meeting being held in October and will follow up. Full specification and quotes for installation required.
8. **Zenobo Blackhillock Community Fund** – JT, JM, GM, TM and TrC had attended meeting with Foundation Scotland along with members of Keith Community Council. An index linked 5 year fund is being established, £25,000 in the first year. Each CC will have £12,500 in first year. Various Options discussed. Preferred option for both Community Councils was a Microgrants Programme. Action required to progress is to formally confirm the preferred option – Meeting confirmed they would like to proceed with her Microgrants Programme. TM to confirm to Foundation Scotland & provide draft Minute of this meeting.
9. **Treasurers Report** – no movement in account since last report. Invoice received for Information Commissioners Office for GDPR - £52
10. **Planning / Weekly wards** – GG expressed concern that a lot of SSN developments seem to go past un-noticed locally, without any provision of a mapping system to see where the projects link up and commented on the size of proposed pylons re Aultmore Wind Farm. DG confirmed this is not a current application and as a Section 36 Application will go direct to the Scottish Government Energy Consent Unit.

11. Reports, Events Attended – as 6 above

11a. Councillor Report – DG reported a lot of reorganisations with the management review, the first since 2018, with the top tier done and the remainder to be carried out. The financial situation is not good with projected savings for 2026/27 estimated at £2,500,000 with this dependant on a Council Tax rise of 10%. Full Council meeting at the end of September is when the library operating model will be determined. DG is now Chair of the Corporate Committee (the remit can be found on the council website at [CMIS > Council and Governance > Committees](#) and has come off Planning and Regulatory Services Committee.

12. Updates

- a. **Boharm / Mulben** – KPI – may have potential Mulben representative Brian, who will come to next meeting
- b. **Botriphnie / Drummuir** – JM - nothing to report
- c. **Grange** – JT / GM – see 6 above
- d. **Newmill** – GG / LG / RM - lot of heavy vehicle traffic on Low Rd but traffic monitor is on High Rd. Diversion signs are very confusing.
- e. **Rothiemay / Knock** – KPI – major potholes, will require notice of when these are worked on. May have potential representative for Rothiemay.
- f. **Rural Keith** – TM – still no road markings at junction of U/C road with Blackhillock Sub Station/ Blackhillock Croft; road dipping at sides as this Rd goes downhill towards the Leys

13. Correspondence: Rothiemay benches - in poor condition – donated by Rothiemay Women’s Guild and the Rothiemay Tug of War Team - KPI will check. **Election Video** – JT & KPI had attended at King Memorial Hall for filming. **CCLO – Buckie Car Show** – was very well attended & JM had visited the CC Election stand.

14. JCC – No SCC attendance at last meeting, draft minutes have been circulated, next meeting is Thursday 13th November, 7pm – Town Hall / Community Centre

15. AOCB

Poppy Wreaths – reminder to JM to order

Edintore Windfarm Fund – TM appointed as SCC representative at meeting on Weds 02-04-25. Meeting Tuesday 30th September, 7pm, Keith Golf Club. JM will ask REAP to forward current applications.

Non Domestic Rates –RM asked DG how the amount returned to MC from the Scottish Government is worked out, DG said it was a complicated formula, negotiated by COSLA. Funding for MC was roughly 80% Scottish Gove Grant, 15 / 16% Council Tax and 4 / 5% Other Charges.

JT thanked everyone for attending

Meeting closed at 6:45pm

Date of next meeting ~ Wednesday 1st October 2025

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