

DRAFT Minute of inaugural Meeting Strathisla Community Council

Date: Wednesday, 05 November 2025

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Keith Community Centre

Chair: Debra Duke Community Council Liaison officer (CCLO)

Attendees: James Mark, Tina Murphy, Geraldine McKillop, Karen Pryce, John Taylor, George Gartly, Lesley Gartly

Apologies: Rachel McCutcheon

1. Welcome, and Introductions

Debra Duke CCLO welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated members on being elected as Community Councillors to serve their communities.

2. Apologies for Absence

Rachel McCutcheon

3. Declaration of Interests

None

4. Induction Presentation

The CCLO gave a training/induction presentation to all members. This incorporated, Community Councils in Moray, Scheme and Constitutional documents, Community Councillors Handbook, Core Community Council Business, Members and Office Bearers duties, highlighting key areas that Community Councils and its members should be aware of.

All Members have been emailed a copy of the Scheme of Establishment, Model Constitution and the Code of Conduct. Members were advised the Community Council handbook is available online at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_105319.html, if members require printed copies, costs can be paid from the Community Council administration grant.

Members queried boundary changes that had been proposed as part of the review of the Scheme of Establishment. The CCLO said that no changes had been taken forward but the report to the Corporate Committee in August 2025 stated the following:

6.1 The first round of the consultation returned a large number of suggested boundary changes for the Community Councils. These have been given careful consideration and the specific local points are acknowledged. However, it is also important to consider the impact of boundary changes on the effective administration of community council and local government

elections. Some of the changes identified would result in the Community Council boundaries being different to the Council Ward boundaries which can cause confusion and adds complexity to election administration.

6.2 Officers have undertaken to carry out further work later in the year to determine whether the changes would be viable. Due to the timescales for the consultations, the proposed boundary changes will be considered outside of the Scheme of Establishment Review and any changes will be consulted on at a later date.

6.3 The current boundaries will remain in place for the forthcoming Elections.

Members said that they would be keen to look in more detail at boundaries when the review took place.

5. Co-option of Members

At the meeting of Strathisla CC in October three members had completed co-option forms. However, as nominations opened on 6 October these had not been accepted at the time. For various reasons they had been unable to complete the nomination forms. It was therefore proposed and seconded that the co-options that had been deferred on 1 October 2025 be accepted. Forms were handed to the CCLO and membership details would be updated.

RESOLVED:

The following persons were co-opted to Strathisla CC:

- Geroge Gartly
- Lesley Ann Gartly
- Rachel McCutcheon

6. Election of Office Bearers

It was proposed that the office holders from the previous CC should be nominated as they had all done such a great job. There were no other nominations or objections to this proposal.

Role	Proposer	Second
Chairperson John Taylor	Karen Pryce	Tina Murphy
Vice Chairperson George Gartly	Karen Pryce	Geraldine McKillop
Secretary Tina Murphy	Karen Pryce	James Mark
Treasurer James Mark	Karen Pryce	John Taylor

Planning Contact	Information was sent to the generic email address	
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7. Adoption of Constitution

Members were advised that the Community Council constitution should be signed and mailed to the Deputy Returning Officer as soon as possible at Deputy Returning Officer, Moray Council Headquarters, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX.

The CCLO advised members to bring their copy of Constitutional documents to meetings for reference, particularly the Standing Orders.

A copy was signed and returned to the CCLO.

8. Agreement of Meeting Schedule

Currently Strathisla CC met on the first Wednesday of the month. It was proposed that this be discussed between all members and Moray Councillors to confirm the best day for meeting.

9. Banking Arrangements

No changes required as signatories were still community councillors.

10. Confirmation of Annual Grant

The CCLO informed members that the annual grant for Strathisla is £717.72 for the period April 2025/2026.

The grant is calculated at £500 plus 0.0725 pence per head of population, the population for the area is 3003.

The annual grant paid is distributed in two parts, April and October; the second grant payment for the period 20225/26 will be paid on receipt of examined annual accounts. These should be submitted as soon as possible.

11. Communication and Engagement

With a large rural community council area, it was noted that different methods worked in different areas.

12. Business from previous meetings

The CCLO closed the inaugural meeting and handed the meeting over to the new chair to start Community Council business.

JT thanked DD for her presentation.

13. Matters arising from previous minutes:

- a. **Rothiemay Benches** – KPI is still investigating if the original bench sponsor groups are still in existence.
- b. **Kincairn Bridge Closure** – replacement works are running ahead of schedule.
- c. **Resilience Project** – JM reported that during the Storm Amy power outage, the generator at Drummuir did not work properly and kept cutting out, even though it was not overloaded. Muirton had supplied a replacement on the Sunday. Currently, the Drummuir generator is again away at Muirton as it is still not working properly. It is still under warranty.

GG reported that the Newmill contact did not have any instructions on how to refuel their generator but once they had worked it out it did run. He also reported that the Newmill Hall Biomass plant was now disconnected and the hall was back to running on gas. Not known what heating the school now had.

KPI reported that a conversation was being held with Valery Cheyne of Mayen Estate, who would like to be involved in the resilience plan for Rothiemay. It may well be that Mayen Estate could be able to house the generator and deliver it when it is required. They are about 2 miles from Rothiemay.

DD confirmed that no further information had been received from Rhona Paterson. TM has assembled a file with all relevant minutes & the original application. TM will provide this to bring LG & GG up to speed.

- d. **Zenobe Blackhillock Fund** – draft documents had been circulated. TM had highlighted one or two anomalies and will check with Foundation Scotland if it allowed for funding to be agreed at SCC meetings held in addition to their scheduled meetings.

14. Correspondence:

- a. **Section 37 Application – Beaully to Peterhead 400 kv OHL** – TM to write to ECU Scotland to comment on poor timing of consultation; responses are required before all of the Moray Community Councils will have been established, as this process will not be completed until 27th November. The majority of Community Council's would not be able to respond until January. Response otherwise is that the project should be paused and reviewed. RM is drafting a letter.
- b. **Defibrillator Maintenance** – Keirans Legacy have asked for Strathisla Community Council to fund raise for the ongoing maintenance of the 6 defibrillators donated by Keith Cancer Trust and distributed by

SCC. TM has assembled all minutes where the defibs are mentioned and there is nothing minuted as to the basis on which these were handed over to Keiran's legacy. KPI said that her understanding was the Keirans legacy were responsible for ongoing maintenance costs. Meeting agreed that it was important the defibs remained available and that the Village halls be asked to fund raise for their defibrillator replacement pads and an application be made to the SCC Zenobe Blackhillock Fund.

- c. **Moray FLOW Park** – discussion on plans to use two nine-kilometre stretches of the Moray Firth within three kilometres of Findhorn, Burghead and Nairn, as a storage facility for wind turbine bases. Foundations for floating offshore wind turbines to be temporarily anchored off the Moray coast during construction or bad weather. The Inverness one would not be used in the summer as this is deemed a tourist area. Tim Eagle MSP is hosting a meeting at Forres Town Hall on Tuesday 11th November at 18:00.
- d. **'In Keith & Strathisla Ltd'** formerly KSRP have applied to Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) for membership and emailed to say people with organisations / businesses that are in Keith and Strathisla are automatically deemed to be members of InKeith & Strathisla and If there is any reason why we do not wish to be a member of InKeith & Strathisla we are to reply to their e-mail with the reason and request to be removed. Meeting agreed to respond to 'In Keith' and DTAS that SCC are not to be deemed members. TM to write to InKeith and DTAS.

15. Events attended:

- a. **Tourism in Keith** – TM had attended a meeting hosted by Seamus Logan to discuss tourism opportunities in Keith and Strathisla. Notes from the meeting have already been circulated.

16. AOCB:

- a. **Drummuir Hall** – JM - having a quiz on 15th November at 7:30 – bring your own bottle
- b. **Keith & District Sports Trust** – TM – having a quiz this Friday 7th November 7 for 7:30 @ Golf Club
- c. **Hill of Towie Fund** – KPI and JM confirmed to continue as SCC representatives
- d. **Keith Greener Grid** – GM to check if she is SCC representative
- e. **Newmill Roads** – Moray Council have already contacted Network Rail for reparation in respect of the damage being caused on the Newmill Roads.

17. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 3 December 2025 at 6pm in Keith Community Centre

Meeting closed 7:35pm

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