

Strathisla Community Council
Draft Minutes - 6:00pm - Wednesday 1st October 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), Theresa Coull (ThC), Tracy Colyer (TrC)

Others: George Gartly (GG), Lesley Gartly (LG), Kelly Ireland (KI)

1. **Welcome** – JT welcomed all to the meeting especially KI, potential representative for Rothiemay and everyone introduced themselves
2. **Apologies** – Rachael McCutcheon
3. **Minutes of last meeting** – Weds 3rd September - **Minutes Approved** - Proposed KPI, seconded GM
4. **Matters arising not on Agenda:**
 - Kings Portrait – Strathisla CC Sign:** awaiting response from Moray Council (MC) – TrC will chase up
 - Blackhillock Junction** – MC have put work out to tender – with other road markings
 - Rothiemay Benches** – KPI to see if Rothiemay Women's Guild and Rothiemay Tug o War Team still exist.
 - Poppy Wreaths** – were distributed. TrC to print & laminate SCC centres. TrC attending Grange, Rothiemay & Keith, ThC - Newmill, DG Cullen - Deskford & Portknockie, Cherie Baxter (ex RAF) – Mulben. JM reported wreaths are now cheaper as bought direct from Poppy Scotland.
5. **Community Council Elections** – Timetable: Notice of election is due out on Friday 3rd Oct. Nominations lodged from – Monday 6th Oct, Nominations close – 4pm Tues 21st Oct, Declaration (if uncontested) Weds 22nd Oct.
 - Election Paperwork** – TM reminded nominees they will need their electors number and someone to witness their nomination.
6. **Kincairn Bridge Closure (A95)** – TrC, GM, JT & TM, had all attended on site along with Network Rail. The new bridge was in situ and the works running a couple of days ahead of schedule. AmcoGiffen are confident they will be finished on time. GG commented that the verges on the Newmill Rd were collapsing. TrC had already reported this to MC. Any road reports should be sent to MC roads - road.maint@moray.gov.uk. MC have asked for reparation & compensation.
7. **Update on Resilience Project & Generators** – There remains a lot of outstanding information. Rhona Patterson has still not submitted most of the information required. CCLO has been informed that the information provided to date is wholly inadequate. Especially, as it is not known what information has been supplied or requirements made to the hall groups regarding the ongoing maintenance and operation of the generators. JM has been looking after the Drummuir generator. Bad weather – Storm Amy – has been forecast for this weekend and it may well be that the generators will be required. TrC reported that a new MC reliance contact. Item to remain on Agenda.
 - Rothiemay Generator** - KPI awaiting response from Neil at the Lossat, Meeting possibly later this month.
8. **Zenobo Blackhillock Community Fund** – JT & TM were the sole attendees at the training meeting on Tuesday 23rd September with Foundation Scotland. As Debbie from Foundation Scotland was having an operation on the 24th, there will be a delay in any paperwork from the meeting being issued. It will be circulated upon receipt.
9. **Treasurers Report** – Only movement in account since last report, payment to Information Commissioners Office for GDPR of £52. JM had to pay for the wreaths on his card. Meeting agreed he issue a cheque to himself to reimburse. Accounts will be prepared as soon as statement received. Meeting requested JM to look into online banking.
10. **Planning / Weekly wards** – GG commented that there were now quite a number of containers on site at the old garage, 80 Main Street, Newmill. DG will check into this.
11. **Section 37 Application** – Beaully to Peterhead OHL project – GG reported there seemed to be a lot of tree felling and clearing on the Balloch with no safety notices displayed regarding the work. TrC commented this is a Forest and Land Scotland commercial woodland and there is no restriction on any tree felling. Statute allows for test drilling, as per Planning Policies and National Plan 4. GG commented that the proposed pylons would be twice the height of the Tower on St Rufus Kirk and will provide letter templates for circulation to CC members.

12. **Reports, Events Attended** – JT & TM as 9 above. JT had attended the SSEN online meeting ‘Halfway to 2030’, which was SSEN talking through various aspects. For attendees, there was no interaction or opportunity to speak or ask questions.
13. **Councillor Reports** – TrC unwell for past month but had kept up to date online. ThC has attended usual committees and full council. The Kronach twining was being taken forward by Kay Gauld, there are a few groups going. DG lots of recruitment still ongoing, few people retiring. Laura Powell had sadly died at just 67 and he had attended her funeral last Friday.
14. **Updates**
- a. **Boharm / Mulben** – KPI – potential Mulben representative Brian, unfortunately could not attend this evening
- b. **Botriphnie / Drummur** – JM – there had been an incident of fly tipping. 99% sure who did it. Chris Haywood at Newmill for any antisocial behaviour reports.
- c. **Grange** – JT / GM – ongoing Kincairn Bridge closure. Keith Greener Grid had funded new cooker and fridge for King Memorial Hall.
- d. **Newmill** – GG / LG – still a lot of heavy vehicle traffic on Low Rd, verges very damaged and pot holes appearing. There are derelict houses in Newmill is there anything that can be done? DG commented that it was really down to the owners. If a property was thought to be inhabited and there were concerns about a resident the Police can be called upon to make a Welfare visit. The poor condition of the ‘estate’ roads throughout Newmill was still unresolved. DG commented that the roads could not be adopted unless they were improved and maintained for at least a year to a standard acceptable by Moray Council. It works required to achieve this would be the responsibility those with frontages or land adjoining the roads. Chivas volunteers are coming to clear up the area around the ‘Stroopie’. Keith Mens Shed making benches.
- e. **Rothiemay / Knock** – KPI / KI – KPI commented the road outside her house had been surface dressed but left a lot of loose chippings causing a hazard. Still the road to the Lossat to do. KI reported that SEPA had been to visit with regard to some very large bonfires at an empty property in Mayen Rd, there had been no more fires.
- f. **Rural Keith** – TM – ditches had been cleared on u/c road from Blackhillock down towards the Leys.
15. **Correspondence: Crossroads School Defibrillator** – full correspondence had been included as the Defibrillator had to be removed from the School at quite short notice. TM has handed defib to Lorna Medcalf of Keiran’s Legacy. Keiran’s legacy have been given the details of Alex Simmers, Loanside, Grange, who has kindly agreed to have the Defib on his house wall. Once installed TrC will update Grange website. **AmcoGiffen** have again enquired if there are any volunteering opportunities, while they are on site. Possibly a litter pick along Low Road and its Banks.
16. **JCC** – Due to Community Council Elections – Amended date for next JCC meeting to Thursday 11th December, 7pm – Town Hall / Community Centre
17. **AOCB** – None

JT thanked everyone for attending

Meeting closed at 7:20pm

**Date of next meeting ~ Wednesday 5th November 2025
which will be the Inaugural Meeting for the new SCC**

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