

Strathisla Community Council
DRAFT Minutes - 6:00pm - Wednesday 1st April 2026
Keith Community & Sports Centre, Banff Road, Keith

Attendees:

Strathisla Community Councillors: John Taylor (JT), Geraldine McKillop (GM), Tina Murphy (TM), James Mark (JM), George Gartly (GG)

Moray Councillors: Donald Gatt (DG)

Others: Tim Renshaw (TR), CCLO – Debra Duke,

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - JT opened the meeting and welcomed Tim Renshaw who will represent the Boharm / Craigellachie area. TM to forward Co-Option forms. **Apologies:** Lesley Gartly, Tracy Colyer, Rachel McCutcheon
2. **Minutes of last meeting** – Weds 4th March - Minutes Approved - Proposed GM, seconded JM
3. **Matters arising not on Agenda:**
 - Zenobe – TM - Foundation Scotland are in funds and will issue paperwork once they have finalised their year end
 - Defibrillators – letter to be sent to halls to fund raise for maintenance – TM to draft up in conjunction with funding available from Zenobe
 - Rothiemay Benches – KPI reported via TM - Rothiemay benches are all in good condition and do not require any attention.
 - Newmill Low Road – GG - drains had been dug out onto the roadside
 - Kincairn Bridge – work still continues on the drainage around the bridge
 - Rothiemay Resilience – Rothiemay Generator – KPI reported via TM – new hall committee in place at Rothiemay. Lossat only has 2 committee members. Household behind the hall may still take the generator, also possible that the Forbes Arms may house it. JM commented that Liz Coutts, representing Rothiemay Hall at a recent meeting of The Moray Federation of Community Halls & Associations had asked about how the generators work in other villages. TM to speak to Liz. SSEN confirmed they do not require the underspend repaid as the project is closed
 - Newmill Bus Shelter – GG to indicate on map supplied by DG possible site for a bus shelter. Funding will need to be looked into. Would probably be permitted development by MC Transportation Dept
4. **Resilience Project** – TM - Rhona Patterson has still not submitted the information required. CCLO aware the information provided to date is inadequate. CCLO asked to chase this up. Item to remain on Agenda
5. **Treasurers Report** – JM reported bank balance £11,463.67 of which resilience fund is £8,712.20. JM reimbursed for Wreaths
6. **Planning / Weekly wards** – Retrospective application at 74 Main Street, Newmill awaits decision as does the application between Braecroft and Gillymule
7. **Reports, Events Attended** – JT & GM had attended the MC Online Planning Training on 23-03. CCLO typing up notes which will be available. Police Scotland – have clarified attendance at CC meetings and confirmed more detailed local information to be included in their reports. GM available for Local Development Plan update discussion on either 15th or 16th April
8. **Councillor Reports** – DG commented that Council is currently in purdah and committees suspended. Constituency work remains ongoing.
9. **Strathisla Updates:**
 - a. **Boharm / Mulben** – TR – nothing currently
 - b. **Botriphnie / Drummuir** – JM – nothing currently
 - c. **Grange** – JT / GM – some potholes filled with chuckies – hopefully a temporary measure
 - d. **Newmill** – GG / LG – had been a fire at Playing field and someone was dismantling cars on it. Has been reported to MC Antisocial Behaviour officer
 - e. **Rothiemay / Knock** – KPI – no report
 - f. **Rural Keith** – TM – several new potholes developing, litter lying from overturned recycling bins
10. **Correspondence: InKeith & Strathisla** – Emails received from various parties regarding 'assumed' membership of InKeith & Strathisla and expressing concern over its running. TM has 3 times emailed confirming that Strathisla Community Council is not a member or affiliated in any way to

InKeith & Strathisla. That Strathisla Community Council is not a member of InKeith & Strathisla or associated with it or its operation in any way is specifically minuted.

Vattenfall – who are seeking permission for turbines at Aultmore, are being investigated by Police Scotland regarding the felling of trees and damaging Wild Cat conservation at Clashindarroch.

Moray Flow Park - No planning application has been submitted, Nairn section not proceeding.

11. **JCC** – CCLO commented that Police Scotland had not attended for some time due to various operation reasons but hoped that they will resume attending.
12. **Correction and addendum to minute item 8 of 3 February 2026 minutes** - discussed and agreed:

At the meeting held on 3 February 2026 the CC discussed planning application 25/01648/PPP. The minute was agreed at the meeting on 3 March 2026.

However, this minute needs to be amended to correctly record the discussion and outcome of the meeting. Community councillor James Mark was unable to attend the meeting on 3 February, however, those present considered the points raised in relation to this application. The following points had been raised:

- Would the property satisfactorily fit the surrounding landscape given this is an isolated rural area. (DP4)
- The location of the proposed site in open land and potential for settlement creep and ribbon development. (DP1, NPF4 Policy 17)
- The cumulative effect of development in the immediate area, acknowledging that the proposer has already built one property recently. (DP1, NPF4 Policy 17)
- The proposed dwelling sits very close to a neighbouring plot boundary (DP1, DP4)
- A reliance on future landscaping and boundaries. (DP1, NPF4 Policy 17)
- There is no existing mains power provision to the site, how will power be supplied and what impact will that decision have. (DP1, DP4, NPF4 Policy 17)
- The potential for light pollution. (DP1, DP4, NPF4 Policy 17)
- Can drainage be safely and sustainably managed under winter conditions (DP1)
- Water in 2025 in this area was scarce; current groundwater resources are already under significant pressure. (NPF4 Policy 17)
- The traffic impacts on a single-track rural road of a new dwelling for construction and long-term access. (DP1, DP4)
- The access appears to sit in a dip without clear lines of sight, representing a traffic hazard. (DP1)

Those present at the meeting were split; 3 objecting to the application and 3 abstaining. However, taking the views of all those who had discussed this planning application with community councillors it was therefore agreed that Strathisla CC should submit an objection to the planning application as there were 3 objections. **RESOLVED:** The points of objection above were agreed: **OBJECTION SUBMITTED**

13. **AOCB** - none

JT thanked everyone for attending and wished all a Happy Easter

Meeting closed at 6:45pm

Date of next meeting ~ Wednesday 6th May 2026

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