



Keith Community Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 4th March at Keith Community Centre

1. Members in attendance: Neil Kidd (Chair), Susan Hutcheon, Sandy Dickson, Marguerite Cruickshank and Catherine Sinclair

Also in attendance: Councillor Gatt, Councillor Coull, Sgt Michael Irwine, 2 members of the public

Welcome and Apologies: Neil welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Steve Hickin, Fiona Addison, Sandra Clark, Dave Carson and Councillor Shepherd

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting:

The minutes were approved as accurate by Susan Hutcheon and seconded by Marguerite Cruickshank.

3. Police Matters:

Sergeant Irwine introduced himself covered his previous work, which has mainly been in Moray, based in Elgin, Buckie and Forres. He is now based at Keith Police station. The Keith team is 2 down at present but this should change soon.

The Community Safety Report included:

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, VIOLENCE AND DISORDER

On 15 February, a 16 year old male was dealt with for Public Indecency and resisting arrest on Drum Road, Keith. On 18 February, vandalism occurred where a window was smashed and damaged at Green Court, Keith. Enquiries are ongoing. On 20 February, following two reports of disturbances at Mid Street and Reidhaven Square, Keith, two males, aged 34 and 25, were arrested. Between 22 & 23 February vandalism occurred where a Ford Fiesta motor car had a wing mirror pulled off. Enquiries are ongoing.

ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Between 1 & 12 February five metal farm gates were stolen from North Crannoch, Crossroads. Enquiries are ongoing. On 12 February, a laptop computer and handbag and contents were stolen from the 'Wah Ling' Chinese Take Away on Mid Street. Enquiries are ongoing. On 15 February an attempted Fraud occurred where an unknown person purporting to be from the HM Revenue and Customs telephoned an address in Drummuir, Keith, and persuaded the complainer to attend at the bank to transfer funds for overdue taxes. The bank realised the transaction was suspicious and did not complete same. Enquiries are ongoing.

ROAD SAFETY

On 1 February, a 17 year old male was reported for careless driving on the A95 at Mulben having been followed and stopped by the Police. On 16 February, a 24 year old male was charged with speeding on the A96 at Keith. On 17 February, a 19 year old male was charged with speeding on the A96 at Keith.

Discussions were held on:

Anti-social behaviour – this was highlighted as an ongoing issue and some of the events of previous months were covered. Although St Rufus Park has been quieter at night over winter weeks, there is concern that the anti-social behaviour there will increase as the weather improves. The public meeting was discussed. As yet there has been no follow up meeting and plan of action.

Anti-social driving – this has reduced in the last few weeks but is a recurring problem

Bridge Street – cars parked on one side of the street causing near misses at the junction as traffic

must pull into the middle of the street. Police cannot act if cars are parked legally so it would be a matter for Moray Council. Moray Council has surveyed the street for speeding in response to resident concerns and found good general adherence to the speed limit. No accidents have been reported.

4. Speaker

No speakers were available. BEAR Scotland emailed a report about works on the bridge and is happy to arrange a site visit if desired.

ACTION: Catherine to invite Keith Health Centre project manager to an upcoming meeting

5. Treasurer's Report:

KCC - £1041.70 – the balance of the annual grant has been paid

Christmas Lights - £5708.01

Scots Toun - £3,066.59

Community Council admin grants will not be paid this year, as per Moray Council Budget. There is a statutory obligation for Moray Council to fund Community Councils so this will be a temporary measure.

6. Matters arising from the last minutes

Keith Institute – is in conveyancing which can take some time

Grass Cutting – Keith bandstand is one area where a strip of grass will be cut. The initial reply to enquiries about the bandstand is that Keith in Flower cannot pay Moray Council to mow the whole area as not enough members of staff are available. Anyone other than Moray Council wishing to cut the grass would have to have their own public liability insurance.

ACTION: Cllr Coull will share the list of areas which will and will not be cut

Joint Community Council – there is an additional meeting about the Growth Deal on 14th March. Steve is attending a subgroup meeting to look at Moray wide responses to service cuts such as toilets closure etc. It is disappointing this meeting has clashed with Keith Community Council meeting.

7. Correspondence

Woodland at Douglasbrae – a letter was received outlining plans for new broadleaf woodland at Douglasbrae. Any response is to be submitted within 21 days.

Licensing Matters Event – on 23rd March at UHI Moray College, Elgin with Moray Drug and Alcohol Partnership, Police Scotland & NHS Grampian.

There are a number of consultations open. Information Keith Community Council has been asked to share has been shared.

8. Edintore Community Benefit Fund Decision Making Panel

Neil, Sandy, Steve and Fiona will attend the AGM on 18th March.

9. Community Councillors' Update:

Planning & Licensing – applications have been submitted for the Keith & District Men's Shed premises, for Weston House to be turned into serviced apartments, to convert an outbuilding into an annexe to a house on Mid Street, and for an extension to a house on Regent Street.

Roads and rights of way – the potholes were patched a few days after our meeting so did not need to be raised with BEAR.

BEAR were not able to attend this meeting but emailed details of the works and offered to arrange a site visit. Adverse weather and the discovery of unexpected utilities have caused delays but it is hoped work will be completed by 6th April to allow Keith & Dufftown Railway to run their timetable.

The enquiry about having a pedestrian crossing on the A96 between the junction with A95 Banff Road and the junction with the A96 and Drum Road was initially sent to BEAR who have passed it to Transport Scotland as pedestrian facilities are a matter for them. A holding response has been received from Transport Scotland. They aim to reply within 20 working days and if they are unable to do so they will send an update. It may be useful to gather letters of support from Keith Primary Parent Council, Keith Grammar School and Moray Council if needed.

The A95 Banff Road is the responsibility of Moray Council, not BEAR. (The A95 to Craigellachie is the responsibility of BEAR.)

Signs, Street Furniture and Marketing – no update

Environment and General Issues – no report

Councillor Coull – More than 440 Fit Life memberships were taken up which means Active Schools was also reprieved. There will be a meeting with Ken Brown to look at sustainability for the future of the pool as Fit Life memberships are not enough. One option is to form a 'Friends of Keith Pool' to look at fundraising and sponsorship.

Councillor Gatt – the group has started looking at next year's budget for which a £12.1 million gap is forecast. Both local councillors are catching up with correspondence.

10. External Group Updates:

Keith & Strathisla Regeneration Partnership

The website is taking shape and being worked on.

Sculptures – KSRP met with the funding manager of the Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation. They prefer to provide match funding. KSRP plans to apply to the Beatrice Partnership Fund.

Christmas Lights Committee – due to meet and will be re-ropeing the Mid Street lights and some other lights as the LEDs are more than 5 years old and not as bright as they should be. A few other lights also need replaced.

Scots Toun – At the start of the Scots Toun fund, each of the 7 Keith area schools received £250. Keith Grammar School has asked if more funds were available. Remaining funds are already earmarked, but Marguerite suggested awarding each school could earn a final £25 as a reward for responding about which Scots sculpture they prefer. There were no objections to this proposal.

2019 is the United Nations Year of Indigenous Native Languages – it may be that funding is available but KSRP will wait to register until the website is complete.

Marguerite circulated a mock-up of white Scots window clings. There were no objections to these being ordered.

11. AOCB:

Longmore Hall – the hall and bowling green are held in Trust so would need to be transferred through this mechanism rather than via Community Asset Transfer. Hall committee members would then become the new Trustees.

Town Centre Regeneration Fund - £1.2 million of Scottish Government funding is coming to Moray to help regenerate town centres. This will be discussed by full Council.

Landfill Waste – By 2021 it will be illegal to put residual waste to landfill. An incinerator is being

built in Torry which will take Moray's waste. This will save some money compared with landfill and Moray will receive a percentage of the money made from use of the heat produced by the incinerator. There was a discussion on sustainability and having ambitions for Moray and Keith such as making Keith carbon neutral and using biomass to heat public buildings e.g. the school and pool.

St Rufus Park – unlike other core parks in Moray, St Rufus Park is adjacent to houses. This means reduced litter picking may have an impact on residents – litter in the park can include food, broken glass and drug paraphernalia. Discussion was held on the possibility of blocking some accesses to the park. Gates did not work previously as they were broken.

ACTION: Cllr Coull to bring up effects of reduced litter picking in this unique core park

Union Street – no progress on any signage at Harry Gow's

Toilets and Comfort Scheme – Reidhaven Square toilets will remain open for one year. The Comfort Scheme will start April 1st and all Moray Council premises in Keith will be taking part as well as businesses including Square Roots and Boogie Woogie.

Moray Speyside Tourism as also looking into toilets and funding for tourist facilities

Litter Pick – could take place in March or April depending on availability of helpers.

ACTIONS: Neil to contact Scouts and Keith Grammar, Sandy to speak to Men's Shed, Catherine to look for contacts for Brownies and Guides

Keith in Flower – it was agreed Keith Community Council would sponsor a planter as previously

12. Date of next meeting: Monday 8th April at 7pm, Keith Community Centre NB Change of date