

# KEITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of Monday 5th October 2020, 7-8.30pm

**Attendance:** Neil Kidd (chair), Esther Green (interim secretary), Steve Hickin, Marguerite Cruickshank (treasurer), Susan Hutcheon, Amy Inglis, Callum Stuart, Sandy Dickson. **Present:** Cllrs Theresa Coull, Laura Powell and Donald Gatt; Alistair Whitfield, Northern Scot.

### 2. Adoption of minutes of the previous meeting 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020:

Minutes were approved as printed proposed by Steve Hickin, seconded by Marguerite Cruickshank.

### 3. Matters arising

- a. **Micro grants** – a separate meeting took place on 28 September to enable the community council to discuss and to award a total of £2500 to 11 causes. Details will be shared with the SSE Beatrice Wind Farm fund providers and an enquiry made as to when the 2020 funds will be available for allocation. The following 2019 awards were granted:
  - I. **Keith Bowling Club** – leaf blower - £250
  - II. **Jessiman School of Dance** – new uniforms – £250
  - III. **Copper Dogs** – training equipment - £250
  - IV. **Keith Christmas Lights** – purchase of Christmas trees - £250
  - V. **Keith and District Men's Sheds** – funding towards fencing - £250
  - VI. **Active Schools Moray** – Transition Extreme trip -£250
  - VII. **KGS Parent Council** – new PE trampoline equipment - £250
  - VIII. **KCR** – replacement monitors - £250
  - IX. **Keith Community Council** – Zoom costs - £143.88
  - X. **Keith Community Larder** – Christmas treats for larder users - £106.12
  - XI. **Fife-Keith Children's Picnic Fund** – Coffee Flasks and sporting equipment for children's games at the picnic - £250
- b. **A96 traffic issues** – no fresh concerns have been raised by members of the public about late-night noise and anti-social driving. Inspector Mike McKenzie supplied the following written response: *"Anti-social driving has been a longstanding issue which Police Scotland have responded to. During August 2020 an initiative targeting such driving was run in Buckie, during this operation, officers involved spent time in Keith and dealt with offences. It is intended moving forward to run similar operation in Keith supported by Roads Policing colleagues. I would encourage resident to continue to report such driving and note if possible registrations of the vehicles involved to assist officers."*
- c. Complaint from resident of 84 Den Crescent, about property being egged and banging on windows. Written response from Inspector Mike McKenzie: *"I can confirm that Colette McAra has experienced issues with youths and officers have attended to these."*

*The last reported incident was in January 2020. Sergeant Irwine has spoken to the complainer this month and asked that if the issues start again she contacts Police Scotland."*

- d. **Cottage Woods encampment** – The caravan is still in situ and there remains activity at the site. Police are aware. **Cllr Theresa Coull to update relevant Moray Council officers.**
  - e. **Keith Town Flag** – Keith FC contacted but do not have the town flag. Callum Stuart reminded members that the community council purchased a new flag earlier in the year for use on the restored flagpole.
  - f. **Defibrillators:** Callum Stuart outlined that Keith was now well provided with defibrillators with 13 devices in position. It was agreed to apply for funding towards the provision of paediatric pads in some from the Beatrice Microgrants 2020. The defibrillators are checked once a month by Amy Inglis and Callum Stuart. Amy, Callum, Sandy Dickson and Kevin McAdam were thanked for their ongoing efforts. The devices are sited externally in the following locations:
    - I. Keith Show Office
    - II. NFU Office
    - III. Keith Motorist DIY
    - IV. Royal British Legion
    - V. Keith Community Centre
    - VI. Longmore Community Hall
    - VII. Keith Bowling Club
    - VIII. Keith Bandstand
    - IX. Isla Bank Mills
    - X. Regent Square
    - XI. Fife Keith Scout Hall
    - XII. Keith Builders Merchants
    - XIII. Keith Golf Club
4. **Guest speaker:** Robert Warren was due to attend the meeting to give a presentation on Coronation Power plans for a new battery energy storage scheme east of Keith Sub Station. He sent his apologies by text during the meeting, explaining he had not been able to access his email account in order to retrieve the Zoom details. Members discussed the plans and had questions around access routes for the proposed development, whether there would be developer contributions towards the maintenance of the nearby Green Roadies paths network and what safety measures would be put in place during construction works to protect the safety of other traffic, pedestrians and cyclists. Mr Warren to be invited to November meeting, or if unable to attend, asked to respond in writing.
5. **Correspondence and consultations:**
- a. **Polling place reviews:** members discussed proposed amendments to polling places. Keith Community Council has no issue regarding changes proposed for Keith Longmore Hall, as it is the community council's understanding that this will support the streamlining of administrative processes.

- b. **Moray Draft Climate Change** – Keith Community Council discussed the draft climate change strategy and action plan. The community council endorses actions that will help reduce the impact of climate change and acknowledges the environment should be of critical importance to all plans and actions of the council. The community council will suggest that a shorter easy-read version be produced to support the 36-page draft climate change strategy and ask to be kept updated on emerging developments.
- c. **Keith Woods consultation:** this relates to the Cairds, Balloch, Sillyearn and Dunyduff Woods and Keith Community Council is to request that any plans take into consideration the following:
  - complementary to the visual appearance
  - maintain natural habitats for flora and fauna
  - are planted with suitable species to suit weather patterns, soil type, water courses etc
  - dialogue is maintained with the public and users and recreational use protected

#### 6. Treasurer's Report:

- KCC Current Account Balance: £5721.03
- Christmas lights: £3130.66
- Scots Toun: £2603.59

The 2019 accounts will be ready for review by the accountant for submission to the CCLO by the end of October.

#### 7. Reports

- a. **Elected members** – councillors reported that council business was increasing resulting in busy diaries and lots of paperwork to review.
  - Planning and Licensing - Susan Hutcheon: No issues
  - Roads and Rights of way – Sandy Dickson and Steve Hickin – No issues
  - Signs, Street Furniture and Marketing - Mrs Marguerite Cruickshank – No issues
  - Environment & General Enquiries – see AOCB.
- b. **Christmas Lights** – No updates
- Scots Toun** – No update

#### 8. Planning

Cllr Gatt reminded the community council that it is a consultee for planning and licensing applications and to be sure to make appropriate representation on matters coming before the relevant committees of Moray Council. He noted that the community council had made no comment on late hours opening applications for town centre takeaways.

#### 9. Joint Community Council of Moray

Steve Hickin will continue to represent the community council on the JCC and will take part in the next monthly meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Steve further agreed to be Keith's representative on the JCC working group to discuss the Community Council Scheme Review. Members welcomed the move, saying it would provide consistency with the links Steve has established

through his JCC membership. Members were encouraged to study the shared Scheme documents and to put ideas and suggestions around matters including boundaries, member numbers and admin grants, to Steve for him to bring to the wider forum. Phase one runs to 19 November with the proposed scheme draft available for consultation from 30 November to 1 February.

#### **10. AOCB:**

- a. **Meeting by Zoom** – The CCLO had informed members Dave Carson and Sandra Clarke of the ability to connect to Zoom meetings by mobile phone and had supplied the relevant links to them. Insp McKenzie sent an email to the community council stating that Police Scotland will be unable to attend Zoom meetings as they do not use this platform. Insp McKenzie said he had forwarded the Community Police Report to the CCLO. The report was not available in time for the meeting, but it was agreed to circulate to all once it arrived in the inbox.
- b. **Glass clear up** – Neil and Brenda Kidd were thanked for stepping in and clearing up broken glass from the area in front of the St Rufus Park pavilion at the weekend. The community council agreed to ask if grass can be laid in the area in front of the pavilion. **Cllr DG to action.** It was noted that a Facebook page had been set up for park clean ups in Keith and these efforts were applauded. The community council plans to organise its own litter pick in spring.
- c. **Keith in Flower** – An update on this year's work to be requested from Dave Carson at the next meeting, but the chairman acknowledged the sterling efforts of the team of volunteers in planting and watering local displays and ensuring the town had plenty of flower power.
- d. **Spring bulbs** – Moray Council has a quantity of spring bulbs available for planting in Keith and a request is to be made that these are planted on the banks of the Cottage Woods, by the A96.
- e. **Damaged wall** – Concern was raised about the condition of a retaining wall beside the Auld Brig, as its damage could undermine the foundations of the historic bridge. **Steve Hickin to investigate and to share pictures with the view to the matter being brought to the attention of Diageo who are understood to be landowner.**
- f. **Hill of Towie** – applications for coronavirus resilience grants from the Hill of Towie Community Fund must be submitted by October 20. **EG to share on Facebook**

#### **11. Date and Time of the next Meeting: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm. By Zoom**