

# KEITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of Monday 2nd November 2020

**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, Alistair Whitfield (Northern Scot) Robert Warren (consultant), Rhona Patterson (KSRP). **Apologies:** Cllr Laura Powell.

### 2. Adoption of minutes of the previous meeting 5 October 2020:

Minutes were approved as printed proposed by Callum Stuart, seconded by Sandy Dickson.

### 3. Matters arising

- a. **Micro grants** – all cheques have been issued to recipients.
- b. **Cottage Woods encampment** – White goods have now been dumped at the site. TC said that the caravan is due to be picked up after which the bollards will be replaced.
- c. **Dunnyduff Woods** – a cooker dumped in Dunnyduff Woods car park led to a reminder that the recycling centre is open and taking appointments for depositing unwanted goods.
- d. **Defibrillators:** Regular checks being carried out and noted that improved lighting required for the defibrillator located at the back of band stand. **CS** to look at options.
- e. **St Rufus Park pavilion slabs** – MC to lift slabs in front of the pavilion and replace with grass, following request made on behalf of by Keith Community Council by DG.
- f. **Damaged wall at Auld Brig** – Efforts to continue the point of contact to raise issue of wall beside Auld Brig. Photographic evidence of the damage after heavy rainfall captured by SH. **NK**

4. **Guest speaker 1** - Planning consultant Robert Warren discussed plans for a new battery energy storage scheme east of Keith Sub Station, to be submitted in the first quarter of 2021. BIA Power, previously Coronation Power, proposes 27 battery storage units to provide grid services to provide stability at times of increased demand, to support renewable energy, or back up in the case of a fault. A website will be set up to provide information and interactive consultation sessions will take place. Notices will be published in the media to indicate the website going live and Keith Community Council will be informed when this happens. Members brought up questions around construction work traffic routes, road and pedestrian safety, visual impact, light and noise pollution. Responses given, and further matters based on the application will be responded to as part of the public consultation process when the design has been finalised.

**Guest speaker 2:** Rhona Patterson, chair of Keith and Strathisla Regeneration Partnership, presented on plans to apply for funding for Scotland Loves Local, a Scottish Government scheme to assist town centres cope with impact of Covid 19 on businesses and asked for member ideas. Initial ideas around a clean and weed free Mid Street with gutter clearing, washing windows of empty shops and cleaning the pavements was discussed, as was lighting up the bandstand columns, having another pop-up shop or more cycle racks. Social media to be used to seek any ideas from the public and dedicated meeting to be

held on Monday 9 November at 7pm by Zoom involving KCC. KSR and any traders. **EG** to send invite to KCC and RP

## 5. Correspondence noted and the following actions:

**Remembrance Sunday** – Guidance on this year's remembrance procedures circulated, advising of no formal services at war memorials. **NK** to lay the wreath at the Keith war memorial.

**Speakers:** Roger McMichael and Jamie Grant, Moray West Offshore Development, to be invited as guest speakers at December meeting. **EG**

## 6. Treasurer's Report:

- KCC Current Account Balance: £5314.91
- Christmas lights: £3130.66XXXX
- Scots Toun: £2603.59XXXX

## 7.Reports

- Roads and Rights of way – Christmas lights cable problem at Beauty Box will be attended to. **CS**
- Signs, Street Furniture and Marketing - Mrs Marguerite Cruickshank – No issues
- Environment– Blocked drains on A96 at Union Bridge causing water pooling to be reported to Bear Scotland **SD**
- General enquiries - A Highland antique specialist has offered £1500 for tables, chairs, a painting and candlestick from the old town council chambers, which are now in storage at the Longmore Community Hall basement. Concern that the items will deteriorate while being stored in an area prone to damp. Efforts to be made to see if anyone locally wishes to purchase the items by sharing details and images on social media. However the carver chair with the town crest will be kept locally and offered to the library where other items from the period of the town council are displayed. Keith Heritage Group to be offered the portraits of the town provosts. **CS to supply photos of items for disposal for social media; EG to contact KHG.**

## 8. Planning - No issues.

## 9. Joint Community Council of Moray – meetings to revert to quarterly cycle.

## 7. AOCB:

- a. **Donation** – Keith Tesco has offered a quantity of facemasks and hand sanitiser to Keith and Strathisla Community Councils. **NK** to approach Scouts, **TC** to approach Guides to see if they require supplies in the first instance, with KGS, care homes and community larder others for consideration.
- b. **Christmas lights** – While there will be no formal switch on or extravaganza this year, the town's lights switch on is Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> November
- c.

## 8. Date and time of the next Meeting: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. By Zoom