

STRATHISLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 7th October 2020, 7.30pm

Attendance: Priscilla Gordon Duff, Esther Green (secretary), James Mark, Rhona Patterson, Keith Comrie. **Present:** Cllrs Theresa Coull, Laura Powell and Donald Gatt; Roger McMichael and Jamie Grant (guest speakers, Moray West Wind Farm).

1. **Apologies** – Karen Pryce-Iddon, Tina Craib, Cllr Louise Laing.
2. **Welcome** – Priscilla Gordon Duff took the chair in the absence of Karen Pryce Iddon, who was unable to attend due to family bereavements. PGD to convey sympathies to KPI on behalf of the community council.
3. **Police matters** – no police present, but the police report had been circulated to members by email earlier in the day and this was noted.
4. **Guest speakers** – Roger McMichael, stakeholder manager, and Jamie Grant, development manager, gave a 20 minute update on plans and the general scheme for the Moray West Offshore Wind Farm, and answered members' questions. A copy of their slide show was shared with the secretary and the representatives said that they would continue dialogue with stakeholders, including SCC, as the planning timetable moves forward.
5. **Approval of minutes of previous meeting 9th September 2020** - With an amendment giving a subheading to Maggie Knockaterr defibrillator which had been listed under Rothiemay matters, minutes were approved, proposed by Priscilla Gordon Duff, seconded by Rhona Patterson.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes: Damaged bridge over River Isla at Drummuir** - Cllr Theresa Coull had investigated position and provided an update by email on ownership responsibility but members had not had sight of this. It stated: "The Keith Dufftown Railway Association took ownership of this railway line and all associated assets, including bridges in 2000. Any maintenance works, including damage repair are the responsibility of this organisation, not Moray Council. As the Council does not own this bridge it would not undertake any planned maintenance works to it." Members expressed the view that it was important that the bridge, at the bottom of a steep brae that gets icy in winter, be repaired. As no headway was being made, members asked that the council be asked about acting as the go between and appointing a contractor, or for Moray Council workers to carry out the repairs, with no prejudice, then claim back the costs from the insurance. **Cllr Coull to approach Moray Council officers with this proposal, submitting images of the damaged bridge in support**
7. **Treasurer's report** – James Mark reported the bank balance stood at £10,241.14.

8. **Strathisla updates – defibrillators** RP informed the meeting of plans for a ‘mobile’ defibrillator to be installed in an A to Z taxi, with the driver living in Grange but operating from an office in Keith. RP had been made aware that some of the Keiran’s Legacy boxes required replacement due to rusting, including the one in Newmill, which had been replaced.

Recruitment of community council members - Nick Carroll to be invited by email to join the community council as area rep for Grange. **EG to action** Minutes to be forwarded to area community associations to show how Strathisla represents them. **EG to action.** An appeal to be made on Facebook for new members to join. **EG to action**

9. **Newmill/Rural Keith - Rhona Patterson:** With the recent heavy rain, it had come to light that there had been little or no maintenance of the Newmill Flood Prevention Scheme which was a matter of concern. **Cllr Gatt to investigate. Cllr Coull to pursue bollards request for Newmill Square.** Newmill should have Christmas lights with the repair of lights and funding of new ones.
10. **Boharm/Mulben – Keith Comrie:** There had been a digger moving earth from a bank on the road to the bond houses which had created mud over the road, which was subsequently washed away with heavy rain. No one apparently knew why the works were being carried out.
11. **Grange** – Councillor Powell stated that Diane Willmott had been appointed new joint head of Crossroads and Rothiemay Primaries.
12. **Rothiemay** – no representative
13. **Botriphnie/Drummuir** – no further matters
14. **Correspondence, including weekly ward planning application notifications** – noted, no actions
15. **JCC** - KPI had indicated by email that she would attend the meeting on 8 October and would be Strathisla’s representative on the community council scheme working group which meets later in the month.

AOCB – Secretary: It was intimated that Kelly Howard stood down from the position of secretary. Esther Green was proposed as secretary by Rhona Patterson, seconded by JM, to receive £50 per meeting and any associated out of pocket expenses.

Email - Community council members to receive gmail password to enable all the ability to access correspondence. Matters with a direct interest to the community council, eg weekly ward lists, will continue to be shared by secretary.

Pool - PGD expressed her delight at the reopening of Keith Swimming Pool and noted how busy it has been

Remembrance Sunday – wreaths have been ordered as usual from RBL and each community council member asked to make their own arrangements for picking them

up. Uncertainty around whether there would be wreath laying ceremonies. **Agreed to discuss Remembrance Sunday arrangements at the November meeting.**

Moray Growth Deal - PGD found it strange that there was no reference to forestry or farming in the Moray Growth deal, given that Moray is a rural local authority. She felt this was a missed opportunity as land-based industries are a big part of the area's economy.

Date and time of the next Meeting: Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm. By Zoom.