

# The Keith Community Council

Minutes from the Meeting of Monday 06<sup>th</sup> March 2023 @ 19.00hrs

Venue: Keith Community Fire Station

**Members in Attendance:** Neil Kidd (Chair), Steve Hickin (Secretary), Dave Carson, Dawn Borland, Callum Stuart, Davie Rough..

**Others in Attendance:** Cllr T. Coull, Cllr D. Gatt, Kevin Mitchell, (Watch Commander Keith Fire Station).

**Chair Neil Kidd opened the meeting at 19.06hrs and welcomed the attendees.**

**Apologies were received from:** Cllr. T. Colyer, Marguerite Cruickshank (Treasurer), Amy Inglis and Toby Lewin.

## **Proposal and adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting;**

The Minutes of the 06<sup>th</sup> February 2023 meeting were approved and adopted as Amended: Correction to account balance for Christmas Lights in the Treasurers report and Cllr Coull's report was two events, not one combined one.

Adoption proposed by; D. Borland, Seconded by; C. Stuart.

## **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting;**

*Benches removed from Fife Park;* The Chair advised that 2 workmen had attended the remaining bench in Fife Park with the initial intent to remove it but, after examination the Bench was found to be in good condition, it was rubbed down and repainted and now looks good. It was noted that another two of these metal benches are sited in the gardens in front of St. Rufus & Botriphnie Church in Keith and steps should be taken to preserve them.

The Chair also advise that with the construction of an new housing estate on the Banff Road it may be sensible for the 30mph speed limit to be resited further back along the road.

*The Glebe Land Adjacent Auld Brig;* D. Rough advised he had received an email from Wiekus van Straaten of St. Rufus Church thanking us for our offer of help with the Glebe.

*Auld Brig;* the bridge needs the pointing attending to and the concrete steps on the Glebe land side need repairing or replacing. There was a discussion into how to identify who is the owner of the Auld Brig and would it be worthwhile to arrange a joint meeting between interested parties, (KCC, the Church, Diageo, Moray Council and Keith Heritage Group). There was also a discussion on how to better promote the Auld Brig with lighting being a favoured suggestion. Action:- Secretary to look into ownership of Auld Brig.

**Police Matters;** There was no representative from Police Scotland at the meeting.

Dave Carson left the meeting at 19.50hrs.

**Fire Service;** Watch Commander Kevin Mitchell advised the meeting that Keith Fire Crews had, since the February meeting, attended Five False alarms caused by automatic alarm defects, a Lorry fire in Grange, a house fire in Grange and a fire caused by food left cooking on the cooker. They had participated in an event in Elgin using the VR Goggles to show teenagers the dangers associated with Joyriding. They have carried out three home safety visits in Keith, two were successful but the resident at the third visit refused them entry to the premises.

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## **Correspondence;**

Correspondence received by email is generally forwarded to KCC members by email between meetings.

The following correspondence was covered:

*The Secretary* advised that he had received a phone call from Mr P Shields, Road Safety manager for AMEY that a Traffic Lights controller Pedestrian crossing is to be installed on the A96 Church Road just east of the junction with Banff Road. This is in response to KCC's original request for a crossing in February 2019. The installation of this crossing will mean changes to the area covered by the schools temporary 20mph speed limit area.

*The Chair* had an email from Mrs Jane Wilson regarding the Christmas Lights support for the Christmas Tree at the North Church and advising about volunteering opportunity's with the NHS.

**Treasurer's Report;** The Treasurer was not in attendance – figures below are from the February meeting.

*Keith Community Council* - £3210.80

*Christmas Lights* – £7101.91

*Scots Toun* - £2570.59

## **Reports;**

*Cllr Coull* – Reported that the Moray Council Budget for 2023 – 2024 had been passed by the council.

*Cllr Gatt* – Advised that the Moray Council Budget for 2023 – 2024 would be posted on the council's website shortly, an additional £300,000 had been set aside for the patching of pot holes on the councils roads. The Council Tax rise had been set at 5%.

Davie Rough asked about the money Moray council had spent on two electric buses.

*Cllr Gatt* advised that the two buses were currently undergoing trials and were intended for expansion of the 'Dial a Ride' Bus scheme. They would be used to provide a circular route linking Keith, Buckie and Cullen. They will also be used to enhance the 'Dial a Ride' service and an App will be introduced as part of the service. Funding has come from the Moray Growth Deal money.

## **Sub Groups;**

*Christmas Lights;* Callum Stuart advised that funding was needed for replacing the corroded light brackets on Mid Street. He also advised that he was looking into introducing some new lights for Mid Street with the idea of promoting some of the things the town has to offer.

## **AOCB;**

*Isla Cooperage Planning Application* – After a brief discussion it was agreed that KCC had no objections to this application and it would be noted.

*Strathisla Community Council* – the Chair and Secretary advised the meeting that it appeared likely our neighbouring community council would be disbanded due to lack of members, KCC will await the outcome.

*Callum Stuart* – advised that the Treasurer was interested in setting up internet banking on the KCC account to facilitate easier access to balances and bank statements, this was noted for future discussion.

*The Chair* advised that the Edintour Windfarm Operator could make funds available for 'Warm Space' projects.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.10hrs

**Date, Time & Venue of the next meeting:**

**Monday 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 @ 19.00hrs in the Meeting Room of Keith Community Fire Station**