

# The Keith Community Council

**Minutes from the Meeting of Monday 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 @ 19.00hrs**

**Venue: Keith Community Fire Station**

**Members in Attendance:** Neil Kidd (Chair), Steve Hickin (Secretary), Dawn Borland, Callum Stuart, Davie Rough, Amy Inglis, Marguerite Cruickshank (Treasurer), Les Innes.

**Others in Attendance:** Cllr T. Coull, Cllr D. Gatt, Kevin Mitchell-(Watch Commander Keith Fire Station), Linda Gorn-(Rotary Club of Keith), PC Rachael Devenney & PC Mattica Castle-(Police Scotland).

**Chair Neil Kidd opened the meeting at 19.08hrs and welcomed the attendees.**

**Apologies were received from:** Cllr. T. Colyer.

## **Davie Carson and Sandy Dickson - Memoriam**

Sitting member Davie Carson and former member Sandy Dickson both sadly passed away recently and from the Chair Neil Kidd paid tribute to them both. Sandy had stood down from Keith Community Council at the 2021 election due to ill health and had passed away in mid March 2023. Davie was a sitting member of KCC and passed away a few days prior to this meeting. A minutes silence was held in tribute to their service to the community of Keith.

## **Police Matters;**

PC Devenney introduced herself and her colleague PC Castle to the meeting and went through the Buckie & Keith police report for March. PC Devenney advised the meeting that 'Divisional Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit' Inspector Mike McKenzie had been additionally appointed as Buckie & Keith Interim Community Policing Team Inspector until a permanent appointment is made.

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

Adoption proposed by; D. Rough, Seconded by; D. Borland.

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

*Metal Bench in Fife Park;* The Chair advised that a further public complaint about the state of the remaining bench in Fife Park had been received and passed onto Moray Council. Cllr Coull advised that she had spoken to the Parks Dept at Moray Council and the complaint has been closed, Moray council will advise KCC of any pending work on the metal benches.

The Secretary advised that he had enquired with Historic Environment Scotland if the Benches could be registered as listed structures and it is possible to apply for listing.

*Auld Brig;* The Secretary advised that he had received a reply from the Registers of Scotland advising there was no listing in their records for Auld Brig but there may be information in the Sasines Register. Davie Rough asked if it was possible for KCC to 'claim' responsibility for the bridge, Linda Gorn advised she would look into it.

## **Ralph Newlands – AMEY Project Manager Highways**

Mr Newlands introduced himself to the meeting and gave a report on the current state of AMEY workforce in our area. Upon taking over the contract from BEAR, AMEY had wanted to recruit 200 workers for the area but had currently only recruited 60 from the previous BEAR workforce so some work may be delayed.

The outstanding footpath works in Keith that had been started under BEAR's contract with Transport Scotland will now be completed by BEAR; the work will be carried out ASAP.

Cllr Coull asked what progress there was in resolving the issues with the TESCO Traffic Lights.

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Mr Newlands advised that the sensors needed completely replacing and the delay had been lack of funding but this was now included in the new Financial Year Budget.

There was a discussion about the siting of the new pedestrian crossing on the A96 adjacent to the junction with the A95 Banff Road, Mr Newlands advised the decision to site the crossing at this location was made by Transport Scotland and AMEY were only the contractor.

Cllr Gatt asked if the footpath on the A96 by the Grampian Hotel was including in the resurfacing project that BEAR would be finishing. Mr Newlands confirmed that this would be done.

There was a discussion about drainage issues on the A96 at Union Bridge on the Fife Keith side and along the Haughs Road section of the A96 adjacent to Fife Keith Wood. Mr Newlands advised that some new drainage would be installed but funding was tight.

Cllr Gatt raised the matter of the faded road markings on the A96 in Fife Keith that were put down after the resurfacing work last year., the faded markings on the yellow box junction with A95 Banff Road and the faded 'KEEP Clear' box at the junction of the A96 and Drum Road. Mr Newlands stated that they were all scheduled for renewal. The Yellow Box junction and the 'Keep Clear' box would be renewed as part of the pedestrian crossing installation.

Cllr Coull complimented Mr Newlands on the way pavements in Keith were kept clear during the periods of ice and snow.

Callum Stuart advised Mr Newlands that the inspection cover was missing from a lamp post in Reidhaven Square; it had been replaced with a rubber sheet which was secured by electrical tape. Mr Newlands said he would look into it.

There being no other matters for Mr Newlands attention the Chair thanked him for his attendance at the meeting.

**Fire Service;** Watch Commander Mitchell advised the meeting that during March Keith Fire Crews had attended 17 callouts which included; 2 False Alarms (with good intent), 7 False Alarms, Water entering an electrical socket, a chimney Fire, a female in distress, a man fallen into a garage inspection pit and two RTC's. There were three Home Safety Visits requested but the Fire-fighters were only able to gain access to one.

## **Correspondence;**

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

Callum Stuart had correspondence from Karen Seivewright at Moray Council with an update on the status of the CCTV in Keith, she has advised that there are some "Blocks to progress" with the project and she is awaiting the results of site surveys and will update us accordingly.

**Treasurer's Report;** The Treasurer gave the following report on account balances;

*Keith Community Council - £5240.20*

*Christmas Lights – £6844.44*

*Scots Toun - £2570.59*

The Treasurer asked the meeting to approve the donation of £30 to the Keith Grammar School Prize Giving. The donation was approved unanimously.

## **Reports;**

*Cllr Coull* – Advised that she had attended a Naloxone use training session and the Moray Patients Participation Group meeting.

*Cllr Gatt* – Advised that at the last planning meeting observations had been made about Keith Community Council's lack of comments on planning applications.

## **Sub Groups;**

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*Keith in Flower*; Callum Stuart advised that following the passing of Davie Carson who was a leading member of the group arrangements are in place for the Sensory garden project to continue.

## **AOCB;**

There was a discussion concerning the Blackhillock 2 Battery Storage development, KCC members felt the name of the project was very misleading the actual site was actually on the edge of Keith Town. There had been issues with people attending the rearranged consultation meeting because the leaflets announcing the meeting date had not been delivered to some parts of Keith until after the meeting had taken place. There is a proposed expansion of the project including the installation of a 40 metre high pylon at the site; Davie Rough advised the meeting that he had correspondence that implied the Scottish Government would make the final decision on the planning application, not Moray Council.

There was a discussion about rearranging the date of the May meeting; previously, in line with usual practice, the date of the May meeting had been moved to the second Monday of the Month to avoid the May Day Bank Holiday. With the introduction of a Coronation Bank Holiday on Monday the eighth of May it was decided that the May meeting would be held on the Monday May Day Bank Holiday at the usual time and venue.

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

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

**Monday 01<sup>st</sup> May 2023 @ 19.00hrs in the Meeting Room of Keith Community Fire Station**