

The Keith Community Council

Minutes from the Meeting on Monday 06th November 2023

@ 19.00hrs

Venue: Keith Community Fire Station

Members in Attendance: Neil Kidd (Chair), Steve Hickin (Secretary), Marguerite Cruickshank (Treasurer), Callum Stuart (Vice Chair), Dawn Borland, Davie Rough, Stuart Chapman, Phil Eckford, Amy Inglis, Les Innes (Entered the meeting at 19.12hrs).

Ex-Officio Members: Cllr T. Coull, Cllr D. Gatt, Cllr T. Colyer.

Others in Attendance:

Dr John Harrington - Deputy Lieutenant of Banffshire, Kevin Mitchell – Watch Commander Keith Fire Station, Bryony Beck - Development Officer KSRP, Linda Gorn - United Keith, Debra Duke - Moray Council CCLO, Sgt K. Macconachie – Police Scotland.

Chair Neil Kidd welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting at 19:04hrs

Apologies: There were no apologies received

Proposal and Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the October meeting were adopted as drafted, Proposed D. Borland, Seconded Stuart Chapman.

Police Matters: Sgt Macconachie gave a report for the Keith Town area.

The following matters for Police attention were raised:

Dave Rough advised that his neighbour had gone to Keith Police station to report damage to his car but there had been no one there.

Sgt Macconachie explained the structure of Police Scotland and suggested that the matter be reported to 101 so there is a record of the incident.

Neil Kidd advised that he had recently had an instance where he had contacted 101 and found it to be a good experience.

Linda Gorn raised the ongoing issues with parking on Mid Street.

Stuart Chapman raised the issue of youths entering the grounds of St. Thomas Primary School and committing anti social behaviour.

Sgt Macconachie advised that these matters should be reported to 101 so there is a record of the incidents.

Fire Station Watch Commander Kevin Mitchell suggested that speaking to youngsters about the dangers of anti social behaviour and its impact on the community could be included in their community programme.

With no further matter for the attention of the Police Sgt Macconachie left the meeting at 19.23hrs.

Deputy Lieutenant of Banffshire

The Chair welcomed Dr John Harrington, Deputy Lieutenant of Banffshire, to the meeting.

The Deputy Lieutenant gave a short presentation on the background to production of a new flag for Banffshire which had been the result of a competition amongst primary school children. At the end of the presentation Dr Harrington presented the new Banffshire flag to Keith Community Council.

The Keith Community Council

There then followed a discussion on when and where the new flag could be presented to the people of Keith.

It was decided that a flag raising ceremony would be held on the 02nd December at 13.45hrs in Reidhaven Square just before the start of the Christmas Event with the Pipe Band.

After the discussion the Deputy Lieutenant thanked the meeting for allowing him to present the flag and left the meeting at 19.37hrs.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting;

Cllr Colyer advised that her meeting with the local Police Scotland area Commander had been cancelled.

Dunnyduff Road Markings

Cllr Coull advised that she had raised the matter with the Roads department and markings will be put down.

Iron Works on the A96

Phil Eckford advised that he had spoken to Ralph Newlands the Amey Roads project manager regarding the state of the various manhole covers on the A96 in and around Keith.

Regent Square Public Toilets

Davie Rough advised that he hadn't had the opportunity to make a further check on the condition of the toilets. Cllr Coull will raise the matter with Moray Council.

KSRP Development Officer Beck advised that there was a fund available to cover the costs of a Community Asset Transfer if KCC wished to pursue that solution.

Auld Brig

Davie Rough advised he had no further update from Diageo regarding the Auld Brig at this time. He also advised that he had received an email from the Minister at St Rufus Kirk that there was a proposal to transfer the Glebe land to REAP so it could become a community garden.

Proposal to create a Sub Group to Look After the Welfare of Auld Brig

It recently came to light that the responsibility for the upkeep of Auld Brig is with the Diageo owned Strathisla Distillery and Davie Rough has been liaising with the site manager Mr Antunes with regard to maintenance of the Bridge structure. As a result of Davie Rough's work on this matter KCC are forming a Sub Group for Auld Brig. After discussion it was decided that the sub group would consist of three members, Davie Rough, who will chair the group, Callum Stuart and Stuart Chapman. Terms of reference will be set accordingly.

Confirmation of 2024 Meeting Dates

A list of proposed meeting dates for 2024 had previously been circulated to KCC Councillors to consider, after a brief discussion to confirm that the April meeting will be held on Easter Monday and the May meeting will be held on May Day Bank Holiday the proposed dates were accepted. The Secretary will circulate the dates to the relevant parties accordingly.

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Watch Commander Kevin Mitchell

Watch Commander Mitchell gave his report, throughout October Keith Fire crews were busier than usual with 16 fire callouts, there were six false alarms, 2 in Keith and 4 in Huntly. There were two recruitment evenings held at the fire station one was a general public day and the other was a female only day. Watch Commander Mitchell attended two public educational events, one in collaboration with the Police, Paramedics and Social Services where Teenagers were spoken to about the risks of car accidents and VR Goggles were used as a teaching aid to illustrate this. The second event was at Keith Grammar School where and gave a talk to pupils from S4 to S6 years which covered driving and being in cars with older friends. This talk covered about 180 pupils.

The Keith Community Council

Correspondence:

Correspondence is normally forwarded by email to KCC members for their attention.

The following items of correspondence were discussed:

Email from SSEN Community Liaison Manager Ryan Davidson regarding the consultation on upgrades to the Transmission network and email from Linda Gorn regarding Ryan Davidson attending the next KCC meeting - (Secretary to contact Mr Davidson and arrange for him to attend the December meeting).

Email from the 'Zero Hour organisation requesting KCC's support for the Climate & Ecology Bill currently passing through Parliament - there was a discussion on this matter and KCC members did not feel they wished to support this Bill.

Smell in St Rufus Park – the matter has been referred to Scottish water for their attention.

Balloch Road White Lining – Cllr Coull has raised this matter with Moray Council.

Patient Stakeholder Group Grampian General Practice – Linda Gorn advised that she is on the waiting list to become a member.

Moray Council Budget Proposals 2023/2024 – KCC members have responded to the online survey.

Community Council Admin Grant Questions – CCLO Debra Duke gave a brief explanation of the Admin Grant and that the JCC was considering forming a Sub Group to gather responses from Moray's Community Councils.

Treasurer's Report:

Keith Community Council - £4048.80

Christmas Lights - £3578.25

Scots Toun - £2570:59

Keith Defibrillators - £297.27 – Linda Gorn advised that the Rotary Club of Keith had donated £1050 for the maintenance and upkeep of the Defibrillators.

Keith in Flower - £4734.94

Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Gatt – has received a briefing on the Local Development Plan, a Briefing on the Moray Council Budget Proposals, he was in Cullen on the previous Saturday where there were strong feelings about the way Community Councils in Moray are funded.

Cllr Coull – has attended a ceremony for the raising of the new Banffshire flag, has attended the Citizen's Advice Bureau AGM.

Cllr Colyer – has been assisting with the distribution of leaflets for the Grange resilience event and will be attending the licensing committee next week.

Matters for Councillor's Attention

Davie Rough raised the following matter;

What has happened to the project for building a covered store for the winter road salt?

Cllr Coull advised that the scheme is still going ahead.

Community Council Liaison Officer (CCLO)

CCLO Debra Duke introduced herself to the meeting and gave an overview of her role to support the Moray Community Councils.

Sub Groups:

KSRP – Development Officer Bryony Beck advised that since the last meeting she is working on a community action plan, she is continuing with the organisation of the Christmas event, has had a meeting with representatives from Vattenfall Windfarm company regarding the proposed Community

The Keith Community Council

Benefit Fund and there is a new funding available to businesses in Keith for new signage and that the fund also could be used for the refurbishing of the Keith Finger signs.

Christmas Lights – Callum Stuart reported that the new forklift machine for lifting the lights into position has now been purchased with the aid of a grant from the Edintour Windfarm Community Benefit fund

Keith in Flower

Dawn Borland reported that the planters and towers around the town have now been cleared of plants ready for the winter.

Keith Defibrillators – Amy Inglis advised that all the KCC Defibrillators are operational and available for use.

AOCB:

Remembrance Day Parade – KCC Chair Neil Kidd will lay the Community Council Wreath at the ceremony.

The matter of cars speeding along the road along the front of the Green Sheds and the Keith Show Office on Seafield Park was raised with a suggestion that a speed hump could be installed to deter over speeding.

The Secretary advised that Keith & District Men's Shed would soon be occupying premises next door to the Green Sheds and this would mean an increase in pedestrian traffic in the area.

Cllr Coull said she would raise the matter with Moray Council Roads department.

There being no further relevant business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.17hrs.

Date, Time & Venue of the next meeting:

Monday 04th December 2023 @ 19.00hrs in the Meeting Room of Keith Community Fire Station