

The Keith Community Council

Minutes from the Meeting on Monday 07th July 2025

@ 19.00hrs

Venue: Keith Community Fire Station

Those in Attendance:

Community Councillors: Steve Hickin (Secretary), Callum Stuart (Vice Chair), Marguerite Cruickshank (Treasurer), Stuart Chapman.

Ward Councillors: Cllr D. Gatt & T. Coull.

Others Present: Kevin Mitchell (Watch Commander Keith Community Fire Station), Linda Gorn.

1. The Meeting opened at 19:00hrs with C. Stuart in the Chair

2. Apologies were received from: Community Cllr N. Kidd, Cllr T. Colyer.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the May 2025 meeting

The Minutes of the June 2025 meeting were adopted as Drafted
Proposed M. Cruickshank – Seconded S. Chapman

4. Police Matters

It was noted that the next Buckie & Keith Police Community Council Report was not scheduled for publication until August.

Cllr Colyer has sent an email advising that she had a telephone meeting with PS Graeme Allan to discuss various issues and a meeting between PS Allan and the ward councillors will be arranged. Cllr Colyer also advised she had received complaints regarding traders using Innes Lane car park to store vehicles which means local business holders and the public cannot park there. The matter has been referred to Trading Standards.

The above matters were noted.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the May 2025 meeting

Seafield Avenue Railway Bridge

S. Chapman declared a conflict of interest in this matter and did not take part in this discussion.

The Keith & Dufftown Railway Association, (K&DRA), have advised that they will not be carrying out repairs to the road level bridge parapet until after the repair works at Union Bridge are completed and the temporary traffic lights removed. Their reason for this is while the temporary traffic lights are in place Seafield Avenue is being used as a 'rat run' for traffic avoiding the temporary lights. Some of this traffic includes articulated lorries which are unsuitable for negotiating the sharp left turn over the railway bridge which is at the bottom of Seafield Avenue; it is likely that these unsuitable vehicles are damaging the bridge.

The meeting noted this information and will await an update from K&DRA.

It was also noted that the bridge in question has a Forty Ton weight restriction but no restrictions signs are in place.

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Cllr Coull will raise the matter of restriction signs for the bridge with the Highways department at Moray Council.

6. Correspondence

General correspondence is forwarded to community councillors by email.

An email was received from the Moray Committee Services and Election Support Officer advising of a second round of consultation on the moving of polling places in Ward 2 and Ward 7, neither of which impact our ward. The correspondence was noted.

7. Reports

Treasurers Report – Bank Balances

Keith Community Council	£1720.42
Christmas Lights	£8247.60
Scots Toun	£2560.59
Defibrillators	£1194.91
Keith in Flower	£31827.88 – This includes a ring fenced grant from the Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund for renovating the Keith Band stand.

Community Reports

Watch Commander Keith Community Fire Station

Watch Commander Mitchell presented his report;

Throughout May and June there were a total of 37 fire calls, 19 in May and 18 in June, these are broken down as follows:

10 False Alarms - 2 Sheltered Housing in Elgin, 1 Sheltered Housing in Buckie, 1 Sheltered Housing in Huntly, 2 Care Homes in Huntly, 3 Care Homes in Keith, 1 Domestic Property in Keith.

3 False Alarms with Good Intent - 1 Smell of Smoke in Newmill, 1 Smell of Smoke in Mosstowie, 1 Smell of smoke in Elgin.

4 Road Traffic Collisions - 1 vehicle left the road at Grange Hall, 2 Vehicle RTC on A96 at Huntly Tesco, (1 female had to be cut free), HGV left the road on the Dufftown to Huntly Road, (Driver ok but some animals were fatally injured), 3 Vehicles on A98 at the Cullen side of Buckie, (No serious injuries).

4 Special Services - Assist Paramedics in Huntly for female in distress, Assist Paramedics in Keith for Male in distress, Assist Paramedics in Keith for male in distress, we had a standby in Elgin due to the high amount of fire appliances being used elsewhere.

Attended 5 Wildfires – Alford, Culbin Woods, Mayen Wood, Rothiemay, Nairn, Tombain Farm, and Dava.

6 Fires - House Fire in MacDuff, Old Barn Fire in Buckie, House Fire in Huntly, House Fire in Mulben, Fire in open at Rothiemay controlled left unattended, Fire in open at Rothiemay Controlled by fire crews.

5 Hoax Calls - 5 Hoax calls at an address in Keith.

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Other matters;

The Fire Stations annual golf day raised £5000 which again is a fantastic figure. We are delighted with this, and we will be donating to the Fire fighters Charity and local charities, £1000 was donated to the recent Keith Primary School competition.

Watch Commander Kevin Mitchell has received his 20 year long service and good Conduct award medal.

The following message was sent to the community;

All of here at Keith Fire Station would like to thank the community for all the recent food parcels we received after the last few wildfires, from strangers dropping parcels at the door to going to our home addresses with food and drink we really were looked after.

End of Report

Keith in Flower – following the receipt of the Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund grant a contractor has been appointed to carry out the renovation of the Band Stand. The KiF committee has been in touch with Moray Council who is happy for the work to go ahead. Noted

Planning – Several commercial properties in Keith are under applications for conversion to residential use. Noted

Christmas Lights – Cleaning and repair work continues. Noted

KCC Defibrillators – All Defibrillators are available for use. Noted

Ward Councillors

Cllr Coull & Cllr Gatt - Moray council is in summer recess at the moment, both councillors are carrying out local ward activities. Noted

External Group Updates

InKeith & Strathisla

The Scottish Languages Act has been passed by the Scottish Parliament. After decades of campaigning, the Scottish Languages Act was passed on 17 June, meaning that the Scots language is now a legally-recognised official language of Scotland, protected by law. This is a massive step forward and will result in many benefits including increased education for children / adults and hopefully increased community funding". Noted

8. AOCB:

Union Bridge Landslip

On 23rd June 2025 AMEY Engagement Manager Billy Gordon had called a meeting of Stakeholders at the Keith Community & Leisure Centre. In attendance were; Billy Gordon, Amy Eason AMEY Bridges Manager, Renata Wilson from Transport Scotland, Steve Hickin from KCC, Ward Cllr Coull, Ward Cllr Gatt, Linda Gorn (Keith Rotary), Douglas Ross MSP.

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Billy Gordon advised the meeting that there was another delay to the works caused by the discovery of a previously unknown sewage chamber at the site and, as a result of this discovery, the previously published date of completion, 25/07/2025, was now pushed back to “the end of July”, but (he could not or would not give a specific date for completion). The stakeholder attendees all voiced their dissatisfaction and annoyance at this outcome.

There being no other relevant business the meeting closed at 21.05hrs

Date, Time & Venue of the next meeting:

Monday 01st September 2025 @ 19.00hrs in the Meeting Room of Keith Community Fire Station.

Please Note; Keith Community Council does not hold a meeting in August

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