

The Keith Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting on Monday 02nd February 2026

Time & Venue: 19.00hrs in Keith Community Fire Station

Those in Attendance:

Community Councillors: Neil Kidd NK (Chair), Steve Hickin SH (Secretary), Callum Stuart CS (Vice Chair), Amy Inglis AI (Treasurer), Sam Hunt SaH, Linda Gorn LG, Bruce Cruickshank BC.

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

Others Present: Kevin Mitchell Watch Commander SFRS, Viki McCormick (Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager Zenobe), D. Rough.

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Meeting opened at 19:00hrs and Chair N. Kidd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Before continuing with the meeting the Chair gave condolences on behalf of Keith Community Council to Cllr Coull for her recent family loss.

Apologies were received from: Stuart Chapman, Cllr T. Colyer

2. Proposal and Adoption of the Minutes of the December 2025 Meeting

Proposed:- L. Gorn, Seconded:- C. Stuart. That the Minutes of the December 2025 meeting be adopted as drafted,

All Agreed.

3. Viki McCormick (Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager Zenobe)

Ms McCormick introduced herself and gave a short briefing on the changes that will be made to the Zenobe Battery Energy Storage System site on Netherton Farm. Contractors will be on site from March in preparation for work to start in April, the new part of the site should be active in August 2026.

4. Police Matters

The report covered the previous two months including Christmas/New Year 2025/2026, the Chair read out the parts relevant to Keith which were three reports of vandalism in the period covered which is a drop of five since the last period two months ago, and two drivers in Keith were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for speeding offences. The rest of the report concerns various initiatives geared towards the policing priorities of Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence & Disorder, Road Safety and Road Crime, Protecting Vulnerable People, Acquisitive Crime, Serious and Organised Crime.

At school end time parents vehicles are speeding on School Road in Keith, this has been reported to the police via 101, report No.PS20260202.

Action - The Secretary to write to the police and the Head Teacher of Keith Primary School regarding the speeding on School Road.

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

Tourism in Keith - SCOTO have not responded to LG's letter.

Action = LG to write again to SCOTO on this matter.

Seafield Avenue Railway Bridge – Moray Council are unable to install steel barriers at this bridge because of the lack of a footpath and the narrowness of the road at the bridge. They are currently applying for the funding to install specialist kerb stones at the bridge, the kerb stones in question are designed to deflect the wheels of vehicles away from the bridge and thus prevent impact with the bridge structure. Keith & Dufftown Rlyw Association, (KDRA), are reluctant to carryout permanent repairs to the bridge until mitigating factors are in place, the temporary barriers will remain in place and the KDRA will monitor their condition until such time as permanent repairs can be made.

KDRA has supplied Moray Council with details of the weight limits on all their bridges, which includes Seafield Avenue, so Moray Council can install the relevant weight restriction signage.

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Action – All Noted

Keith Community Council Constitution

The Constitution adopted and signed at the December 2025 meeting was sent to Moray Council for counter signature but has not yet been returned.

Action - The Secretary emailed the CCLO on 01/02/2026 regarding this matter and is awaiting reply.

Union Bridge

The email from AMEY Engagement Manager Billy Gordon concerning the report of soil movement on the embankment was noted.

Action – Noted

Adoption of the Zenobe Blackhillock BESS Community Benefit Fund Memorandum of Understanding

The Secretary confirmed that, as instructed in the December 2025 meeting, he had signed the online copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for and on behalf of Keith Community Council.

Action - Noted

6. Correspondence

Generally correspondence is forwarded to members for their attention, the following items were considered at the meeting:

*North East Scotland Convention of Community Councils, **Action – Secretary to Contact***

*Poial Library Sub Group – KCC to participate in JCC Sub Group – **Action – Secretary***

#Microgrants Programme, #Debbie Herron Attending KCC meeting, #BBC News-Battery Storage Scheme at Blackhillock, #New Powers for Scotland's Community Councils, #Moray Council Capital Plan, #Statkraft Keith Greener Grid Community Fund, #Just Transition Communities Project (JTCP) Regional Assembly.

Action – All Noted

7. Treasurer's Report (AI)

Keith Community Council

Balance - £571.32

-£50 Secretary's Honorarium

Keith Christmas Lights - £11,212.29

- All monies from Christmas Lights Switch On, Santa Run and the tins from the shops has been banked.

Keith Defib Account- £1,544.41

The sponsorship letters went out in December.

Keith Scots Toun - £2,560.59

No movement

Keith In Flower - £953.19

Payment made for the renewal of the bandstand.

Action = All Noted

8. Reports

(SaH) – The road exit from Keith Ambulance station was not cleared by Moray Council during the recent severe adverse weather, Moray Council has been notified of this.

Action – Noted

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(BC) – Grit Box on Taylor Road was not topped up during the recent adverse weather. **Action – Noted**

The Chair - KCC thanks all those people in our community who participated in clearing paths and roads during the recent severe adverse weather.

K. Mitchell Watch Commander Keith Community Fire station – report for December 2025 & January 2026

Throughout December 2025 Keith Fire Crews attended nine fire calls, the breakdown is as follows:

1 Special Services = Gain entry in Keith, 2 Fires = Dwelling fire in Huntly & a Farm fire in Grange, 3 false Alarms = 1 Break Glass at Keith Primary, 2 Smoke Alarms in Mulben, 2 Standby's in Huntly, 1 RTC at Glentuacher's Distillery. There were a total of 194 calls during 2025.

January 2026 Keith Fire Crews attended nine fire calls, the breakdown is as follows:

Five false alarms in Keith, 1 False Alarm Malicious in Keith, 1 fire at a Care Home in Huntly, 1 Special Service = A water rescue on the river Spey.

End of Report

Ward Cllrs

Cllr Coull – Ward work and Committee attendance.

Cllr Gatt – Capital Plan Meetings, Local Development Plan, Police & Fire Cttee and Ward work.

Sub Groups

Christmas Lights – (CS/BC) - Keith Builders Merchants donated the fuel for the vehicles erecting and taking down the Christmas Lights.

Keith in Flower – (AI) - Is currently looking for a new grower to supply the hanging baskets.

Defibrillators – (AI) - The Defib sited at the Grampian Hotel had been removed but not used and has now been returned. It was checked, inspected and fit for use.

Possible battery pin defect, all KCC Defibs have been inspected and none are affected by the defect. All KCC Defibs are in service.

JCC – The next meeting is on Thursday 12th February in Elgin, the Secretary and S. Chapman will attend on behalf of KCC.

Action = Noted

9. **AOCB**

K. Mitchell Associate Membership

K. Mitchell has completed the relevant paperwork and was adopted by unanimous decision of the KCC members present as an Associate Member of Keith Community Council. He will serve as an Associate Member for the duration of this current Community Council.

Action – Secretary to forward paperwork to the CCLO.

Keith Sports & Community Centre User Group – Invitation to Nominate a Representative

After a discussion on the merits of this group Sam Hunt volunteered to be KCC's representative.

Action – Secretary to advise the User Group that SaH is the KCC representative.

There being no other relevant business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.55hrs.

Date, Time & Venue of the next meeting:

Monday 02nd March 2026 @19.00hrs in Keith Community Fire Station

Note: KCC does not hold meetings in January or August

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