# The Keith Community Council
## Minutes of the Meeting on Monday 07th September 2026
### Time & Venue: 19.00hrs in Keith Community Fire Station

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**Those in Attendance:**
**Community Councillors:** Neil Kidd NK (Chair), Steve Hickin SH (Secretary), Callum Stuart CS (Vice Chair), Stuart Chapman SC, Sam Hunt SaH, Davie Rough DR, Bruce Cruickshank BC.

**Associate Member:** K. Mitchell Watch Commander SFRS

**Ward Councillors:** Cllr D. Gatt, Cllr T. Coull, T. Colyer by internet link

**Others in Attendance:** Three members of the public, Police Scotland Constables D. Copley and B. Corbett

1. **Welcome & Apologies**
**The Meeting opened at 19:00hrs and Chair N. Kidd welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

**Apologies were received from:** A. Inglis, L. Gorn
**Action = Apologies accepted and noted.**

2. **Proposal and Adoption of the Minutes of the July 2026 Meeting**
It was proposed by: S. Chapman - seconded by: B. Cruikshank that the minutes of the July 2026 meeting be adopted as drafted. **Action = Adopted as Drafted.**

Following the adoption of the minutes of the June 2026 meeting the Chair advised the meeting that the order of business would be amended to accommodate the police attendance at the meeting and to also address the concerns of the members of the public in attendance. The next item on the agenda will be 'Police Matters' and that will be followed by the Members of the Public.

3. **Police Matters**
Following the August hiatus this meeting saw a busy Agenda and the Bi-monthly Police report was deferred to the October meeting.
**Action = Noted and Item to be included on the October Agenda.**

4. **Gordon Bell and Gregor Simpson from SSEN - Presentation on the Proposed Strathbogie Hub**

Gregor Simpson gave a powerpoint presentation on the proposed connection hub at Strathbogie which is to provide a new and secure link between Shetland and the mainland electricity network. All cables associated with this project will be run underground and therefore will not require the installation of pylons. Two sites, Cruchie and Rivestone, have been selected from a shortlist for further assessment as the possible site for the Hub. It is hoped that local contractors, trades and suppliers will benefit from the construction process and local businesses will see increased trade during the construction period. There is also a possibility that there could be apprenticeships resulting from the construction and operations at the site.

Gregor and Gordon were questioned about the Apprenticeships and asked about the possibility of some being 'ring fenced' for local applicants. They said they would feed the information back to the project leaders.

They were also questioned about the cables being run underground and not on pylons, the current being transmitted through the cables will be Direct Current, (DC), which transmits better over longer distances than Alternating Current, (AC), and those type of cables are heavier and not suitable for pylons so underground installation is better.
The Chair thanked Gordon and Gregor for their presentation and they left the meeting at 19.53rs.
**Action = Presentation Noted.**

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the July 2026 Meeting**

*Dunnyduff Road Raw Sewage* – Since the July meeting there have been no further incidents reported and the matter appears to be resolved.
**Action = Noted**

*Grass Cutting in Keith* – Grass cutting of open spaces in Keith appears to have resumed.
**Action = Noted.**
*Finger Signs in Keith* – DR will continue to locate and record the condition of these signs with a view to them being refurbished.
**Action = DR**

**6. Correspondence**

Correspondence received by email is circulated to the members for their attention prior to the meeting.
Correspondence considered at the meeting:
*Moravian Orienteering Club* – Have emailed to advise the community council that they intend to hold an orienteering event in Keith, they are currently arranging the relevant permissions with Moray council. If approved the event will take place on Sunday 25th October 2026 between 10am and 2pm. They also asked what was the best method to advertise the event in Keith.
**Action = Secretary to email Moravian Orienteering Club with advice for local advertising.**

*100 Mid Street – Former Blythswood Charity Shop* – KCC were copied in to an email for information regarding works at the currently empty premises, with reference to a possible change of use and the relevant permissions required.
**Action – Noted**

*Bankers Lane – Weston House Access* – KCC have been copied into emails between the operators of Weston House and Moray Council relating to the condition of the Bankers Lane road surface adjacent to Weston House.
**Action = Noted**

**7. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented a report of the Bank Balances.

*Bank Account Balances:*

KCC - £3481.08
Paid In - £444.61 - Population Grant from Moray Council
Paid out - £100 (2x£50) Secretary Honorarium

Zenobe Micro Grant Fund
Received = £6250
Total paid out to date = £3750
Remaining = £2.500

Keith Christmas Lights - £9131.90
Paid in = £62.30 from Donations & £200 Funeral Donation

Keith Defibrillators - £1,531.61
No Movement

Keith Scots Toun - £2,560.59
No Movement

Keith In Flower - £2980.11
Donations received - £2585.82 & £200 Funeral Donation
Paid out
£1000 for painting Bandstand, £16.70 Bank Charges, £251.68 to Jayne for plants, £105 to Newmill Nursery.

**Action = Treasurer's Report Noted**

**8. Community Reports**

- *Keith Community Fire Station Report – Watch Commander Kevin Mitchell*

**Throughout July & August there were a total of 58 Fire Calls, 30 in July and 28 in August.**
31 Fires:
21 Wildfire's at Cairngorms, 1 Wildfire at Hopeman, 1 Gorse at Garmouth, 1 Refuse fire in Newmill, 1 Hedge on fire in Dufftown, 1 Car fire in Mulben, 1 Small Kitchen fire in Keith, 1 Fire in Windfarm offices in the Clash Forest, Huntly. 1 House fire in Elgin, 1 Combine Harvester fire in Dufftown and 1 Tractor fire in Garmouth.

**Cairngorms National Park Wild Fire**
Keith Fire Fighters attended the Cairngorms National Park 21 times with all of these call outs lasting approximately 12 to 13 hours each, with the longest being about 15 hours. This was a massive commitment from Keith Fire Fighters with our appliance being one of the most used at this incident.

Watch Commander Mitchell paid tribute to the crew for their hard work and professionalism at this incident. They were also recognised by Senior Officers with Keith being one of 3 that had a special mention.
Watch Commander Mitchell also paid tribute to the families and employers of the retained Fire Fighters for their support throughout this protracted incident.

2 RTC's: 2 Vehicles Newmill Junction, Banff Road. 2 Vehicles Aberlour Vets.

2 Care Home fires: 1 Smoke Alarm activated in Huntly, 1 Smoke Alarm activated in Buckie.

9 Smoke Alarms False Alarms: 3 in Keith, 2 in Huntly, 1 in Aberlour, 1 in Dufftown, 1 in Fochabers, 1 in Forres.

1 Fire Alarm with Good Intent at Tamnavulin - This was smoke from the Cairngorms.

6 Special Services: 2 Water Rescue's in Fochabers, 1 Water Rescue in Insch, 1 Ring Cut from female casualty in Elgin, 1 Bariatric Casualty in Elgin, 1 Gain Entry in Huntly.

The Chair thanked Kevin for his report and the meeting commended Watch Commander Mitchell and all the Fire Fighter's of Keith for their service during this most trying of times.
**Action = Report Noted.**

**Planning** SC presented a report on recent Applications to made to Moray Council and the Scottish Government. (Report attached to the minutes
**Action = Noted**

- *Ward Councillors*

Cllr T. Coull
Normal round of committee meetings and a Local Development Plan Workshop.

Question to Cllr Coull from DR – Is the salt storage shed now going to be built at the Keith Lorry Park?
Cllr Coull stated that the salt storage shed is not going to be built at the Keith Lorry Park.

Cllr D. Gatt

Normal Round of committee meetings and a Cyber Security Briefing.

Cllr T. Colyer
Licensing and other committee meetings.
**Action = All Councillor's Reports Noted**

- *KCC Sub Groups*

KCC Christmas Lights:
Preparations are underway for this year's display.
**Action = Noted**

Keith in Flower
The watering of the planters and baskets is continuing and preparations for the end of the season are in hand.
**Action = Noted**

KCC Defibrillators
All in Service
**Action = Noted**

**9. AOCB**

DR advised that he had been told of an elderly woman who fell over on an uneven section pavement in Mid Street breaking her leg two places. No location was identified.
**Action = Noted**

Al had sent in a report that there was a raised kerb outside the SPAR Shop in Fife Keith causing a trip hazard.
**Action = Noted and Secretary to report to AMEY for attention.**

*Keith Resilience Plan*
The Secretary raised the matter of the Keith Resilience Plan.
The Secretary advised the meeting that, while attending the JCC meeting in August they had become aware that other community councils were reporting on their community resilience plans while Keith Community Council had no information on the Keith Resilience Plan. While Keith Community Council may not be responsible for the Resilience Plan, the Secretary believes the Community Council should at least be aware of the content of the Resilience Plan and who was responsible for managing it and running it when it was implemented. This would allow the Community Council to be in a much better position to participate in supporting the Plan when implemented and able to keep the JCC and other Community Councils in Moray aware of Keith's preparedness.

Cllr Coull, who appeared very irritated by this subject, responded to the Secretary in a vehement and dismissive manner, stating that the plan was just a 'Telephone Tree' activated by Moray Council, that it was nothing to do with the Community Council and that the JCC was over-reaching itself by being involved.

The Secretary replied by pointing out that the Resilience Plan is more than just a 'Telephone Tree', other community councils have these plans in place which are updated on a regular basis.

Cllr Coull, still appearing irritated, stated that the InKeith community group were responsible for managing the Keith Resilience Plan and that there were local supplies and equipment to support the Plan, including an emergency generator, all of which is held in storage at the Longmore Community Hall.
**Action = Noted for further attention**

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**There being no other relevant business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.40hrs.**
**Date, Time & Venue of the next meeting: Monday 07th September 2026 @19.00hrs in Keith Community Fire Station.** ***(Note: KCC does not hold a meeting in August)***

**Keith Community Council Zenobe Blackhillock Microgrants CBF Funding Meeting**

Three applications to the Zenobe Blackhillock Microgrants Community Benefit Fund were considered.

12/26 Cash for Kids North Scotland_____ Declined
13/26 Keith Tots Baby & Toddler group _____Awarded
14/26 Keith Christmas Lights _____Awarded