

The Keith Community Council

Minutes from the Meeting on Monday 03rd March 2025

@ 19.00hrs

Venue: Keith Community Fire Station

Those in Attendance:

Community Councillors: Neil Kidd (Chair), Steve Hickin (Secretary), Callum Stuart (Vice Chair), Dawn Borland, Stuart Chapman, Amy Inglis, Les Innes.

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

Others: Kevin Mitchell – Watch Commander Keith Fire Station, Sgt S. Mackay (Police Scotland), Linda Gorn, Amy Easson and Billy Gordon from Road Contractor AMEY

1. **The Meeting opened at 19:05hrs with N. Kidd in the Chair**
2. **Apologies were received from:** Cllr T. Colyer, KCC M. Cruickshank.
3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the February 2025 meeting**
The Minutes of the February 2025 meeting were adopted as Drafted - Proposed by D. Borland, seconded by A. Inglis.
4. **Police Matters:** Sgt Mackay gave a brief report of incidents dealt with by the police in Keith; two acts of vandalism, two occasions of threatening behaviour, five assaults, four thefts and three road traffic incidents. The Police will be conducting parking operations, in Keith tomorrow (Tuesday), and in Elgin and Buckie the rest of the week.
Sgt Mackay left the meeting at 19.18hrs.

Additional Item – Presentation regarding Union Bridge Works by representatives A. Easson and B. Gordon from Roads Contractor AMEY

The Chair welcomed the AMEY representatives to the meeting and gave them the floor to make their presentation.

Amy Easson Senior Bridge Manager introduced herself and her colleague, Engagement Manager Billy Gordon. She then gave a short presentation on how the repair work to the landslip will be done, including forthcoming road closures on the A96 at Union Bridge to allow preparatory work to take place. There will be a road closure on Sunday 02nd March 2025 between 08.00hrs and 18.00hrs to allow the large tree adjacent to the landslip to be removed. There will be a second road closure at Union Bridge on Sunday 09th March 2025 between 20.00hrs and 23.00hrs; this will take the form of 'rolling closures' while sections of protective barrier are installed around the site.

Following the presentation there was a discussion concerning the diversions that would be put in place during any road closures. Previous closures related to these works had been chaotic and poorly sign posted resulting in unclear directions to motorists looking for the diversion routes. Billy Gordon said he would look into the matter.

Seafield Avenue is being used as a 'rat run' by some traffic including large lorries to avoid the temporary traffic lights. The bridge at the bottom of Seafield Avenue where it crosses the Keith & Dufftown Railway, (KDR), has been damaged by a large vehicle and is need of attention. The KDR are awaiting the result of a survey on the bridge to see if it indicates a closure of the bridge to effect repairs.

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Following the conclusion of the discussion the AMEY representatives left the meeting at 19.50hrs.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the December 2024 meeting

Car parking issues on Mid Street & the Lanes Car Parks;

Moray Council are monitoring the car parks and warning notices have been issued to vehicles that are in contravention of the parking regulations. The abandoned car parked at the bottom of Mid Street has been removed.

6. Correspondence;

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

7. Reports:

Treasurer

Keith Community Council - £3490.90

Christmas Lights - £8891.98

Scots Toun - 2560.59

Keith Defibrillators – £1361.21

Keith in Flower - £1456.88

Community Reports

Watch Commander Keith Community Fire Station

Watch Commander Mitchell gave his report for February;

There were 15 Fire Calls with 4 False Alarms

2 Controlled Burnings in Keith,

1 unlocated fire in Carnie,

2 RTC's;

A single vehicle RTC on the A96 at Huntly

A 2 vehicle RTC (HGV –v- car)

Fires;

A small kitchen fire in Keith,

A dwelling fire in Kennethmont,

A van fire at Tarnash

Special Services

Assisting Paramedics to convey a male patient in distress to the Ambulance,

Rescue a dog trapped by a metal gate,

Assist Paramedics to gain entry to premises to assist a female in distress.

Ward Councillors

Cllr Coull – Attended an SSEN webinar and meeting, met with Richard Lochhead MSP, Full council meeting, Special Budget meeting, visited Rothiemay PTA, invited to Keith Primary school.

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Cllr Gatt – Attended Planning Committee, Attended the licensing committee, attended full council and Budget meetings, carried out the normal cycle meetings and constituency work.

Cllr Colyer – although Cllr Colyer had been unable to attend tonight's meeting she had asked Cllr Gatt to pass on the information that she had been part of the panel for Head teacher interviews.

Questions/Issues for Ward Councillors attention;

D. Rough asked what actions are being taken about pot holes, lack of road markings and dog fouling around Keith?

Cllr Gatt advised that all the issues under Moray Councils jurisdiction were listed for action.

D. Borland asked if there is a Dog Warden in Keith to deal with issues of loose dogs and dog fouling?

Cllr Coull advised that these matters can be reported on line for the Community Warden's attention.

C. Stuart asked what was happening about the bulge in the side wall of the Commercial Hotel.

Cllr Coull said she will follow this up.

Defibrillators – All Keith Community Council Defibrillators are in service.

Facebook & Media – Unsolicited posts and spam continue to be removed from the KCC Facebook page.

Sub Groups

KSRP – Funding has been granted for a replacement Development Officer.

8. *AOCB:*

The Chair asked Cllr Coull what decision had been made regarding the closure of Keith, (and other Libraries)?

Cllr Coull; Keith Library will remain open at its current location, in the meantime Moray Council is considering what the opening times should be for libraries across Moray, the council is also considering if the library can be relocated.

Bridge at the bottom of Seafield Avenue, S. Chapman advised that the KDR is awaiting the surveyor's report.

Windfarm Community Benefit Funds
Edintore Panel nominees; N. Kidd, C. Stuart, S. Hickin
Hill of Towie Panel nominee; S. Hickin

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Christmas Lights on the A96 – Moss Street, Church Road & Regent Street; there will be no Christmas lights displayed along the A96 in Keith because of the Transport Scotland rules requiring a HERS registered contractor to install them.

C. Stuart advised that a Christmas Lights committee member is consulting with a registered company to see if they could assist us.

L. Gorn advised that there was to be an event celebrating 30 years of Kilt making in Keith.

It was Proposed that Keith Community Council donate £500 towards the running of this event.

(Donation conditional on clarification that this donation is within KCC's remit).

There being no other relevant business the meeting closed at 21.15hrs

Date, Time & Venue of the next meeting:

Monday 07th April 2025 @ 19.00hrs in the Meeting Room of Keith Community Fire Station.