

Strathisla Community Council
Approved Minutes - 6:00pm - Wednesday 3rd December 2025
Keith Community & Sports Centre, Banff Road, Keith

Attendees:

Strathisla Community Councillors: John Taylor (JT), James Mark (JM), Geraldine McKillop (GM), Tina Murphy (TM), George Gartly (GG), Lesley Gartly (LG), Rachael McCutcheon (RM)

Moray Councillors: Donald Gatt (DG), Theresa Coull (ThC). On zoom - Tracy Colyer (TrC)

Others: None

1. **Welcome & Apologies** – JT welcomed all to the meeting, TrC on Zoom. Apology from James Mark
2. **Minutes of last meeting** – Weds 5th November - **Minutes Approved** - Proposed GM, seconded JT
3. **Matters arising not on Agenda:**
Defibrillators – letter to be sent to halls to fund raise for maintenance – TM to draft up.
Rothiemay Benches – KPI to report.
4. **Kincairn Bridge Closure (A95)** – opening ahead of schedule, Fri 5th December @ 5pm. Newmill roads damaged by the closure of the A95 will be repaired at expense of Network Rail & Amco Giffen in agreement with MC. **GG** - residents on the Low Rd have received letters from MC of road closures between December & April for drainage work to be done
Resilience Project – TM - Rhona Patterson has still not submitted the information required. CCLO aware the information provided to date is inadequate. Item to remain on Agenda. GG – information is needed on how to start Newmill generator
Rothiemay Generator – GM - Mayen Estate at Rothiemay may provide and house new generator, with it being taken to the Lossat when required in an emergency. KPI to update at next meeting
Zenobo Blackhillock Community Fund – TM - Memorandum of Understanding, circulated and approved. TM has signed electronically and await posters, application forms, money
5. **Treasurers Report** – TM on behalf of JM - No movement in bank account, balance £11,229.76 of which £8,712.20 is resilience fund, unrestricted funds are £2,517.56. Repayment for wreaths to JM is the only outstanding payment
6. **Planning / Weekly wards** – TM - ECU have consented to the battery park at Gibston Farm. No comments on weekly wards. **Section 37 Application** – Beaully to Peterhead OHL project - TM - as agreed, SCC objection had been lodged with ECU using the AI letter
7. **Moray Flow Park** JT - meetings held had been well attended. The project seems to change rapidly, Scottish Enterprise are funding survey at £1.8m. Findhorn part of project still ongoing
8. **Moray Council Biodiversity Strategy** – TM - online survey for feedback on the Draft Biodiversity Strategy and Climate Strategy Update – both close on 04-01-2026
9. **Reports, Events Attended** – JT - Police Scotland bi monthly report circulated, it did this time include some information on local crimes. Police had attended Keith CC meeting and were available to attend when there is something specific and by invitation. TM - attended the Coldholme BESS public consultation for small battery park on the Denwell Road. Qair, the developer, have offered to attend SCC with a presentation and Q&A. TM to accept offer
10. **Councillor Reports** – ThC had attended usual meetings and constituency matters. There had been a full council meeting today. ThC explained the proposal she put forward on libraries, which she was disappointed was not passed. Uplift in grant for Community Councils 7.75%, £537.98, £7.83 per head of population. Keith library is losing 6 hours per week, all libraries going through a transformation period. Next stage will be to look at co-locating. DG – had been in Glasgow for local government award ceremony, MC had been nominated in 3 of the 5 award categories and had been won 2. Has attended various committees, including learning estates and inaugural CC meetings and full council today. Reminded meeting that all non confidential papers are available to view on line. He was glad that the CCs had an uplift. RM asked if any more Council services were likely to be eroded. DG commented that once the budget is presented there is only 2 weeks at best to make decisions and it is mainly the non statutory services that get affected. A big problem is whether the money is spent well and ensuring that financial regulations are followed. The library report is available online. The upshot was that 7 libraries had been saved instead of shutting. Keith Library is bookable in the evenings but would need volunteers to facilitate this. TrC – MC had looked at Aberlour, Buckie, Elgin & Forres. Lossie gained 8 hours, Elgin lost 8 hours and the rural libraries have remained open. She had attended usual committees, negotiations ongoing for reparation of Newmill roads. Grange still had drinking water supplied in bottles. DG & TrC due to meet

with Graham Allan to discuss parking in Mid Street, he was unwell and has been postponed until the New Year. A new Police Inspector, Mark Bayliss, is based at Buckie and also covers Keith

11. Strathisla Updates:

- a. **Boharm / Mulben** – vacant – no report
 - b. **Botriphnie / Drummuir – JM** – via TM – the 12 houses at Towiemore had ongoing problems with poor pressure on their water supply and JM had been to check the current position was. The residents pay into a fund towards maintenance of the supply, which is managed / owned by LH Stainless. LHS have replaced the water cistern. There had been £10,000 in the fund, which has been spent on contractors and the problem is not resolved. ThC commented that the MC Senior Environmental Health Officer had put water out to the 12 houses. Although some water was coming through the pipes it was very little. Further investigation required into pipes and what the official position is over the supply and LHS obligation in this respect. May be possible to apply for funding for an upgrade to the supply
 - c. **Grange – JT / GM** – relieved Kincairn Bridge about to reopen. SSEN have just started project to coat the OHL lines which were upgraded to 400Kv a couple of years ago, to reduce the noise they make. TrC commented that she still had a substantial amount of water, suggestion that this be given to the Pantry at the Loft, or the Big Blue Bus or the residents at Towiemore. Also bottles of water at Floors Farm
 - d. **Newmill – GG / LG - DG** commented that Planning Officers were looking into the container situation at the Garage. GG commented that the roads were now in a terrible state, some ditches had been cleared but the debris had been left at the side of the road, vehicles then drove through the debris, pushing some back into the ditches and some across the road, with the result that the ditches are now sitting full of water. He enquired if the roads have been surveyed to see what reparation was required. TrC confirmed that photos were taken before the diversion was put in place and there is a meeting with Amco Giffen this week. GG also commented that the little bridge, although completed at one side, still had sand bags on the other side. RM reported that her access along the road and to the peat moor, in the Upper Glen of Newmill has been compromised by forestry work in Aultmore Forest, by replanting and with drains being diverted onto the roadway. The roadways form part of Aultmore Forest and her Deeds specify that she has access over them to the peat moor. This problem has been ongoing for about 2 years. Advised as this was a Forest and Land their Scotland site a formal complaint should be made to their Complaints Department
 - e. **Rothiemay / Knock** – KPI – no report
 - f. **Rural Keith** – TM – ditches had been cleared on u/c road from Blackhillock down towards the Leys, debris now all over road and at bottom of hill. A really good job had been done of the white line painting at the Blackhillock Substation junction with the u/c road past the quarry
- 15. Correspondence:** JT commented not so much correspondence this month. List had been circulated
- 16. JCC** – Next JCC meeting to Thursday 11th December, 7pm – Town Hall @ Community Centre – Agenda has been circulated. JT, KPI and GM may go
- 17. AOCB** – GG commented on what good lights Newmill has this year, not sure who does them but they are very effective

JT thanked everyone for attending, wished all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Reminded everyone no meeting in January 2026

Meeting closed at 7:15pm

Date of next meeting ~ Wednesday 4th February 2026

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