

Strathisla Community Council
DRAFT Minutes - 6:00pm - Wednesday 5th August 2026
Keith Community & Sports Centre, Banff Road, Keith

Attendees:

Strathisla Community Councillors: John Taylor (JT), James Mark (JM), George Gartly (GG), Lesley Gartly (LG), Karen Pryce Iddon (KPI) Tina Murphy (TM)

Moray Councillors: Donald Gatt (DG), Theresa Coull (ThC)

Others: Mark Williams, Angus Grindley, Christine McFarquhar – Murphy Group

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - JT opened the meeting and welcomed all.
Apologies: Geraldine McKillop (GM), Tracy Colyer (TrC), Tim Henshaw (TH)
2. **Presentation – Murphy Group – SSEN ASTI (Accelerated Transmission Investment)**
Mark Williams spoke about the Murphy Group, the current project at Blackhillock and opportunities that may arise from this. Current project is anticipated to last 18 months. It is part of the 15 projects which comprise 'The Pathway to 2030'. Community Councillors asked questions. JT has asked that SCC are kept informed
3. **Minutes of last meeting** – Weds 3rd June - Minutes Approved - Proposed GG, seconded LG
4. **Matters arising not on Agenda:** Newmill Bus Shelter - Last quote (which is out of date) was £6k. Statkraft would consider application for solar display board. Christine McFarquhar indicated that Murphy Group may be able to assist with the Newmill Bus Stop project and will require further details to take this forward
5. **Resilience Project** - no change in status. No further information from Rhona Paterson. CCLO to be requested to escalate this to a higher level at Moray Council
6. **Treasurers Report** – JM reported bank balance £14,700.73 of which resilience fund is £8,712.20. £2,850 balance in Zenobe fund
7. **Zenobe Microgrant Fund**
Further information requested at last meeting discussed:
Newmill Primary Parent Council – yes – funds granted
Chilling Women Keith – yes – funds granted
Grange Community Association – yes – funds granted
All of current Zenobe Grant funding of granted 3/4/26 has been awarded
8. **Planning Applications – Weekly Wards** – comments made that planning process in Moray appears to be extremely slow. Some containers from Newmill Garage have been moved and are lying in a field outside Newmill

9. **Reports, Events Attended** – Police Scotland report received – mainly generic. RMc had attended the GRAM involve online session, which mainly addressed Aberdeenshire not Moray.
10. **Councillor Reports** – Council in recess – various committees held – Constituency work remains ongoing.
11. **Strathisla Updates:**
- a. **Boharm / Mulben** – TR –
 - b. **Botriphnie / Drummuir** – JM -various tree need cutting back around Drummuir, Edintore and wider area
 - c. **Grange** – JT / GM – Resuracing on bend at King Memorial Hall has been done, awaiting lining. Road end at Edingigth resurfaced and has also been relined.
 - d. **Newmill** – GG / LG / RMC – the clean up on the play park has not been done although the matter is reported by the Buckie warden as ‘completed’. On 8th July an industrial drone was hovering over properties in Newmill. Zenith Surveys were filming on behalf of Balfour Beattie for SSEN. Children were playing in a paddling pool while this filming was taking place. GG has enquired about PVG certification, Data Protection and Security.
 - e. **Rothiemy / Knock** – KPI – none
 - f. **Rural Keith** – TM – Potholes at Leys end of u/c road past Blackhillock had been filled. Keith CC have asked if SCC would be content to work with them on sourcing funding for repairs to Braeside Bridge. The Bridge is in SCC Rural Keith area but mainly used by KCC residents. Callum Stuart of KCC will lead – TM to confirm agreement
12. **Correspondence:** List circulated – SSEN OHL Beaully Blackhillock Peterhead – GG confirmed that he is happy to lead on this and will attend meetings. TM reiterated that she is not circulating the many Objective Consent emails received, as all those who registered for the service will be getting them and there is nothing in them that you can open without registering.
- Ploverwards & Edingigth - Compensatory tree planting schemes – TM to ask what they are ‘in compensation’ for.
13. **JCC** – JT, KPI & TM will attend on Thursday 13th August
14. **AOCB** –
- Keith Recycling Centre – the difficulty of staff shortages at short notice were understood but it created considerable difficulty with cars and trailers being manoeuvred in the single track access and could cause a major problem if there was a call out for the Fire Station while the road was blocked this way. Was there any way of signage further away from the yard that it was closed and the Service Status being updated quicker.
- Forestry Scotland – have been clear felling on the Balloch, which seems insensitive with regard to the occupied Osprey nest, which is a man made one erected by Forestry Scotland.

Date of next meeting ~ Wednesday 2nd September 2026