

The Keith Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting on Monday 05th April 2021

Members in Attendance: Neil Kidd (Chair), Steve Hickin (Secretary), Susan Hutcheon, Sandy Dickson, Amy Inglis.

Others in Attendance: Cllr D. Gatt, Cllr T Coull, Roger McMichael (Moray West Wind Farm)

Welcome and Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Marguerite Cruickshank and Callum Stuart

Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of March 2021 were approved as printed, proposed by Sandy Dickson and seconded by Susan Hutcheon.

Presentation by Roger McMichael regarding Moray West Wind Farm;

The presentation started with a brief update on the Moray East project which is progressing well but a little behind schedule due to Covid restrictions and an equipment failure. 30 of the 100 Turbines have been installed as have the offshore substations.

Moray West; the planning phase is continuing with construction scheduled to start in 2023, first power generated in 2024 and full power generation in 2025. There will be an online consultation between 17th and 24th May 2021 at <https://moraywestexhibition.com/> and the project website is available at www.moraywest.com. There will be a Substation compound built adjacent to the A96 at Whitehillock with a construction compound attached, after building work is complete the construction compound will be dismantled and the land restored with screening trees.

Question from Cllr Coull; Blackhillock has a substantial amount of lighting, I presume Whitehillock will be the same?

Roger McMichael answered; during construction there will be quite a lot of lighting certainly during winter hours. I will need to check how much lighting will be needed once the site is operational but, if you are seeing a lot of light at Blackhillock then it's conceivable that Whitehillock will be similar. SSE control Blackhillock and what happens inside their fence is a bit different.

Neil Thanked Roger for his presentation and Roger left the meeting at 19.36hrs.

Matters arising from the previous meetings minutes:

Fly Tipping; Cllr Gatt advised that fines had been issued for the Fly Tipping at Dunnyduff and Balloch Woods.

Dog Fouling in Keith: Cllr Coull advised that the Dog Warden had put up posters reminding Dog owners to clean up after their pets.

Fibre Broadband; Susan reported that she could not find any phone numbers or email address to contact Open Reach. Susan has found an online chat page where she has left a message but has not yet received a reply.

Steve advised that he has spoken to an Open Reach engineer who said that it may be better to contact BT as they are the network owners. Steve also advised he had looked on the BT

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website and the current set up in Keith is 'Fibre to Cabinet' which are the Green cabinets in the street, the final connection to the houses is still copper wire. Currently BT have no plans to upgrade Moray to 'Fibre to Premises' where the Fibre Broadband comes into the house.

Swift Boxes; There has been no response through social media.

A96 Pot Holes; The A96 in Keith has been resurfaced between the Royal Hotel and Union Bridge, BEAR have plans to resurface from the Bridge through Fife Keith.

Auld Brig; Neil has a contact name at Diageo which he will pass to Steve for contact.

Correspondence:

An email was received from the CCLO regarding the Community Resilience Grant – Noted

Three micro grant Applications have been received so far - Noted

Treasurer's Report:

Neil advised that Marguerite is still having difficulties with her laptop.

KCC - £7956.49

Scots Toun - £2630.39

Christmas Lights - £3795.38

Reports:

- **Cllr Gatt** reported that there had been a full Council Meeting and committee meetings as well as the usual Ward work. - Noted
- **Roads** – Steve reported that Ralph Newlands was the new BEAR Maintenance Engineer for the A96 in and around Keith. BEAR were planning to resurface the A96 through Keith and the footpaths would also be resurfaced. The application for a Pedestrian Crossing on the A96 in Keith was still in hand but had been delayed by Covid restrictions. – Noted
- **JCC** The Lennox CC representative gave a presentation about the Youth Parliament and how to encourage young people to get involved with community councils. Police: there is a new Inspector to cover Keith & Buckie called Graham Morton. The CCLO wants to set up a working group to promote the Community Council elections in August.

Planning; Susan reported that there is a planning application for a house to be built at Seafield Walk.

AOCB

Micro grants: Three applications have been received to date, enquiries have been received from KCR and Keith Golf Club.

The closing date for applications is Friday 28th May 2021.

Edintour Funding Panel AGM; Neil, Sandy and Steve attended as KCC's delegates, all have agreed to continue.

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Speeding meeting; Steve reported that this initial meeting had heard the problems encountered by the various community councils, a further meeting will be organised.

Community Council Resilience Plan; Neil reported that an initial meeting for the Local resilience Plan scheme had been held on 17th March. James Patterson from Burghead Community Council gave a short presentation. The Keith resilience Group will be a sub group of Keith Community Council.

Auld Brig and River Isla wall; Neil reported that he had confirmed that Auld Brig was within the Diageo Distillery's Deeds and a letter would be written to the Site manager. Steve to action.

TESCO Blue Token Funding; Amy reported that TESCO had awarded Keith Community Council £1000 of funding in lieu of the suspended Blue Token scheme.

Banking Hub; Steve advised that he had come across a UK wide trial scheme for banking hubs in towns and communities where the major High Street Banks withdrawn there services. Action – Steve will monitor this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.38hrs.

Date, Time & Venue of the next Meeting: Monday 07th June 2021 at 1900hrs via zoom