



Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council

16 May 2023

At Cullen Community and Residential Centre

Present

Colin Burch (Chair)
Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)
Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)
Ernest Kopp (Planning)

Councillor Theresa Coull
Councillor Donald Gatt
Debra Duke, CLO

Two members of the public

1. Welcome and apologies

Colin Burch opened the meeting at 19.00 and welcomed those attending.

Apologies

Councillor Tracy Colyer, Les Tarr

2. **Presentation by** Colin Wood, Senior Coastal Operations Officer, HM Coastguard.

3. Outside Agencies Reports

Police – The April Local Policing Priorities update was received via email.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 18 April 2023 and matters arising.

a) Approved by Ernest Kopp, seconded by Colin Burch.

b) Co-optioin of Les Tarr and Stewart and Lyra Wilson into CDCC membership. Members voted Phil Lovegrove to be formally recognised as an Associate Member who will be continuing with the role of Treasurer.

5. Chair's Report

Other than where subsumed into the text below:

- a) Colin provided feedback from Chairperson training event.
- b) And feedback from the recent Joint Community Councils (JCC) meeting
- c) Lack of community councillors, especially a lack of members from the Deskford area.
(Though the number has now increased to six plus one associate member)

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil Lovegrove reported: the Admin account has £262.45. Only expense was for Deskford Hall, and the fundraising account has £18076.94 with no expenses this month.

Ring fenced amounts same as last month:

- £4,000 for play park
- £1,500 for ebus shelter (still),
- £8,956.61 SSE resilience
- and £1185.34 CullenConnected newsletter

Which leaves us with £2,434.99

7. Secretary's Report

- Reminded Three King's Association (Cullen Community Centre) about request for minutes – see below.
- Posted survey on Facebook about preferred location for revamped Logie Play Park – see below.
- Forwarded Moray Council draft volunteering policy to various Cullen voluntary organisations.

8. Councillor's Reports

Donald Gatt Donald reported that decision on the planning permission for the dinosaur has been put back till June. Direction sign at the harbour – planning dept are investigating ownership and there might be money available to do it up. Merket Cross – following information forwarded by Stan Slater, Donald Gatt had looked at Cullen Burgh minutes from 1800s Jan – Jul 1872, where the Merket Cross is discussed and, it could be inferred, at the time belonged to the Burgh. This is requiring to be clarified by Moray Council Legal department who, we understand, are investigating.

9. Planning Officer's Report

Reference 23/00666/LBC

6 Playfairs Courtyard Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4XW: Listed building consent to alter existing garage to form utility room.

Reference 23/00658/CON

Store Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SJ: Conservation area consent to demolish

Reference 23/00650/APP

Store Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SJ: Demolish existing store and erection of dwellinghouse

None of which caused concern to the planning officer.

10. Resilience Planning

- a) Requirement to have a draft agreed and forwarded to MC Resilience Planning Officer. NB important to get something to them ASAP, irrespective of how developed it is!

Support Agreement & Review Need to bring together key persons and groups & review the MC agreement document. **Colin to contact Rhona McNicol (and other key persons locally)**

- b) Funds - no further spend since April
- c) Container to Deskford Still awaiting time to place and erect this at Deskford. Mens shed personnel have intimated that they are willing to assist with this.
- d) Generator testing Test run to be done w/c 15 May

11. Twinning with Janville-sur-Juine

- a) Next Zoom meeting due in June. Feedback from Cullen is basically non-existent. On that basis, pursuing a formal twinning between Janville and Cullen is not viable at this stage. This will be intimated to the Janville group.
- b) Meeting with Carene Hay at Cullen Primary School (with Colin Burch, Bruce Edelsten, and Tam and Jane Thomson). A positive meeting where Cullen Primary School intends maintaining contact and interaction with Janville as learning French a part of the curriculum for the school pupils. If this can be maintained through the years, then it is envisaged families, and the wider community, will subsequently become more involved. Agreed to continue to support them where possible. Tam and Jane Thomson, both fluent French speakers, intending continuing contact with Janville and will visit this autumn.
- c) Common Good application for reimbursement of funds has been submitted to MC and is awaiting a decision – but the Councillors haven't received copies from Moray Council – **Colin to chase.**

12. Community Lunches

- Current situation. Weekly lunches now stopped. Average attendance was around 40 people each week. Monthly lunches (last Wednesday of the month) now in place. Community Centre hall hire now paid until October. 49 people attended April's lunch.
- BAF - Warm Winter Bundle At time of writing, no further feedback to the wider area application. **To be pursued.**
- Notices advertising the lunches, perhaps in the Cullen Square notice board and tourist information – **Colin to progress.**

13. Current Business

- a. Logie Park Play Area
Proludic Ltd (who will be supplying and installing the equipment) are, due to the boggy ground, are suggesting alternative locations for the equipment at Logie Park. A FaceBook survey rapidly showed a unanimous desire for one location and this information has been forwarded to Sarah Campbell. A thank you to all who took the time to feed into that survey. Also, a member of the TKCA management group intimated that they (TKCA) would be willing to donate a bench for the site. CDCC is awaiting an update on the schedule for works to commence. Issue appears to be that there are very few authorised installers in the North of Scotland, and result is that we are dependent on their timescale. MC representative will actively pursue for this to be done in the near future.
- b. E-bus shelter

Contact with MC representative to explore viability of re-allocating the funds to some other Community project in the event of the E-bus shelter programme not being able to be followed through. Yvonne Joss has informed us a new member of Moray Council staff is due to start at the end of May and, once in post, will meet with the CDCC on-site in Cullen to discuss.

c. Moray Local Development Plan – 2027 review

It was agreed to arrange a separate CDCC meeting to discuss this. Also, to try and seek feedback from the Cullen and Deskford community. Debra Duke offered to forward relevant information.

d. CullenConnected

- Funding is in place to continue the newsletter until Spring 2025.
- Next edition will be due in the summer period. An E-mail request for articles will be sent out in the next week or so. Feedback from people is that the newsletter continues to be well received and is becoming an important portal for what's happening in Cullen.
- Wider CullenConnected programme - an application to the National Lotteries Community Fund has been submitted. However, due to lack of volunteer time, this has been put on hold until either volunteer's time is freed up, or other persons are able to take the programme forward. National Lottery are happy for the application to be re-submitted in due course.
- Agreed to include details of the 309 Cullen-Buckie-Keith bus times.
<http://moray.gov.uk/downloads/file148197.pdf>

e. Scottish Water and subsidence in Seafield Street
Now sorted. Can be removed from the agenda.

f. Moray council draft volunteering policy

MC have introduced a Volunteering Policy in recognition of the wide and varied volunteering that is undertaken by many individuals and organisations throughout Moray. This can be used as a template for voluntary groups throughout Moray. This has been forwarded to various organisation in CDCC area of interest. Can be removed from the agenda.

g. Links Car Park - Chuckies

Colin suggested he will progress this himself.

h. Three Kings Association (Cullen Community Centre) – request for copies of minutes

The 3KA secretary responded to the request with a link to the 3KA membership form which has been completed, returned, and acknowledged.

i. File sharing

Tests have suggested using the Apple iCloud is a cost-effective way of storing and sharing data. Access can be via a Windows PC, Apple device and, via a web browser only, an Android device. To be further investigated.

j. Mercat Cross

Stan Slater forwarded information which suggests, in 1870, it belonged to Cullen Burgh and, therefore, it appears that the Mercat Cross belongs to Moray Council. This is currently being investigated by Moray Council legal department.

14. AOCB

- a) Network bandwidth availability at Cullen Primary school.
The reported lack of bandwidth is inhibiting staff and pupil's ability to, for example, have successful Zoom sessions with Janville in France, staff frequently resorting to using personal mobile phone hot spots, or home broadband, instead. Once technical details are available, CDCC will contact Moray Council with its concerns and how this is impacting on the pupils with their schooling.
- b) Community Councils in Scotland.
2023 is the 50th year of Community Councils in Scotland. The JCC are looking at marking this in some way. This is an opportunity to highlight the work that CDCC does in representing the community and highlighting the role of Community Councils in local government. It was agreed to promote this via an issue of CullenConnected and, possibly, with a banner at local events.
- c) 20s Plenty.
Speyside Community Council are offering stick-on "20s plenty" signs. It was agreed to request twenty. **Colin to pursue.**

15. Date for the Calendar

Saturday 10 June - Scottish Confederation of Community Councils Conference (online)

16. Next meetings

20 June – Cullen Community and Residential Centre
15 August - Cullen Community and Residential Centre

Meeting closed at 20.55

Addendum

- a) A lighthouse for Cullen.
Clan's "Light the North" campaign, a partnership with Wild in Art, saw talented UK artists design 50 individual 2.5-metre-tall lighthouses which were then displayed around the north-east and northern isles from August 9 to October 17 2021. The lighthouses were auctioned at Thainstone Exchange at Inverurie, with both in-person and online bidders vying for the sculptures.

Eddie and Linda (Linda's Chip Shop) successfully bid for one of them and have offered it to Cullen. They are happy to have it located somewhere around the Mediki area, though the Mediki area belongs to the Seafield Estate. However, the grassed triangular area just through the viaduct on the west belongs to the Moray Council (Housing) and Eddie & Linda would be happy with it being located there if possible.

On speaking with Sarah Campbell (Moray Council Open Spaces) and with Moray Council Planning, CDCC could submit an outline planning application to test the viability of this, given that is in the conservation area. Colin is happy to submit the paperwork and see what comes back. As statutory organisation, there would be no cost to CDCC for going through this process (it would normally be £70).

Distribution

First draft is circulated for comment to community councillors, as are revised drafts until no more comments are received.

The final draft will be presented for approval at the next prescribed meeting of the Community Council then, within 14 days of approval, circulated to other appropriate parties (Moray Council councillors), the Moray Council Community Council Liaison Officer, TKCA Development Officer, Cullen Library, and posted on Facebook.