



Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council

15 August 2023

At Cullen Community and Residential Centre

Present

Colin Burch (Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Councillor Donald Gatt

Jill Sowden (Community Development Officer, Three Kings Cullen Association)

John Jappy, Graeme Smith (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies

Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor Tracy Colyer, Lyra Wilson, Stewart Wilson, Les Tarr

2. Presentation by Jill Sowden, community development officer

Based in the Cullen Community and Residential Centre, with a twofold role:

- One part is building on the possibly unique feature of a community centre which also has the residential facilities; to support the building, boosting its use,
- The other part is within the wider community Cullen and Deskford, getting out and speaking to every community group that can be found, ultimately to have a community wide engagement – not just the groups but the whole community.

This will build towards a community action plan – getting the community's needs, prioritising those needs, then working out best place to deal with them, which could be a single organisation, a group, or a partnership, or Moray Council, though, more usually, it is back in the community via community resilience. Lots of groups suffer the same issues – lack of younger people coming through for succession planning. The action plan will try and bring the groups together so they can work jointly – shared procurement, shared use of facilities, shared resources.

The Three Kings Association are planning an event called 'Cullen Salute' for veterans (current and former including emergency services), at the end of October, which will perhaps be a brunch, lunch or some other annual event, the aim being provide support.

3. Outside Agencies Reports

a) Police

CDCC had received the July policing report.

There was nothing of particular concern to CDCC members present.

b) Fire and Rescue Service

John Jappy and Graeme Smith reported the complement would be increasing by two more once the recruits have completed their breathing apparatus training; one firefighter had had his head shaven for Kierens Legacy; provided water safety advice at the Cullen Sea School Gala; have been providing information via social media but, otherwise, things have, recently, been fairly quiet. If an automatic alarm goes off, the alarm is call challenged – and a call is made to a responsible nominated person.

Jill Sowden asked whether there was a program for testing smoke and fire alarms in the premises of old and vulnerable people who, for example, may not be able to stand on a chair and test it themselves. Home fire safety visits can be arranged via the firescotland web site <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/at-home/home-fire-safety-visit/> Anyone – home helps, family, carers, etc., can initiate this.

Discussion as to whether Cullen Community Centre's fire alarm system is interlinked – to be investigated.

Charity car wash in March 2023 – some of the money raised has been allocated to the CDCC. Phil Lovegrove provided the CDCC bank details.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 20 June 2023 and matters arising.

Approval deferred to next meeting, and there was no matters arising from those present.

5. Chair's Report

Subsumed within the text below.

6. Treasurer's Report

The admin account has £479.21. The only expense during the past month has been for cloud storage as CDCC didn't receive an invoice for use of the hall in July.

The fundraising account has £18468.58.

CDCC received £350 from the common good fund to cover the expenses incurred during the French twinning visit.

Ring-fenced amounts are:

- £8956.61 SSE resilience
- £4000 Logie playpark (hopefully paid out soon)
- £1185.34 TSi grant for Cullen Connected newsletter
- £1500 for eBus shelter.

This leaves us £2826.63 of unallocated funds.

Community Council Funding

CDCC receives as admin grant of £628 (for the 2022/23 financial year) from Moray Council. From that, CDCC has commitments of £360 for room rental; wreaths for Cullen and Deskford

war memorials - £70; phone - £60, iCloud - £12, and information commission office (data protection licence) - £35, giving a total of £537, leaving £87. This is before any mileage claims (Elgin town hall and back is 44 miles @ 45p/mile = £19.8), secretarial costs (an honorarium is available to the secretary or minute taker), Zoom licence, postage, printing, hall hire for community events, etc., are added, and which, if claimed, implies CDCC would then be running at a deficit or be unable to function.

Community Councils with a bigger population will get a bigger grant and some will be able to have meetings in council buildings at no cost to them, e.g., schools, which are open in the evening for other activities.

CDCC members are encouraged to apply for all out-of-pocket expenses to provide a record of the true cost of CDCC operations.

Query as to whether CDCC could use the Fire Station for meetings – to be investigated.

7. Secretary's Report

During the past two months the secretary has posted on Facebook:

- CullenConnected July issue
- Information from Moray Council about pavement parking
- Thanked Stuart Riddoch for grass cutting
- Information about progress at Logie Play Park
- Draft agenda for this meeting.

8. Councillor's Reports

Donald Gatt reported: Couple of committees during the current week – planning and IT digital group, and Police, Fire and Rescue services later in the week. Next week, planning starts for the 2024/25 budget.

Cullen Harbour Toilets – see below

Market Cross – see below

Road works – York Place, part of Cathy Terrace and part of Old Church Road were resurfaced. There is still a metal plate in the road on Seafield St at the bottom near the Port Long Road junction.

9. Planning Officer's Report

23/01235/APP Erect extensions and replace windows at Wakefield Nursing Home 13 Seafield Place Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4TE

23/01213/APP New dormer window and conservation type velux windows new colour scheme and new door to porch at 161 Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SL

23/01129/LBC Repairs to existing boundary wall between 13 And 15 South Castle Street Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4RT

None of these were of particular concern to CDCC members present.

10. Current Business

- a. Moray Joint Community Council (JCC) – feedback from JCC meeting on 10th August. There were not many attendees from other Community Councillors. There was nothing of direct note to CDCC. Police Scotland are going through a challenging time with numbers of officers in the area being 39 less than last year. The issue of CC funding was raised. There was feedback regarding the Moray Growth deal with subsequent information forwarded to Community Councils from Councillor Macrae.
- b. Resilience Planning – four issues to consider
 - i) What to do with the remaining SSE funds
There is a pick list which will be revisited & revised as necessary when the working group is in place.
 - ii) Progressing the Moray Council Support Agreement
Meeting with Rhona McNicol to be arranged.
 - iii) Les Tarr’s proposal for a resilience planning workshop.
To be injected into the resilience working group when in place.
 - iv) Moray Local Action Fund 2023-2024
Colin Burch to discuss this with Jill Sowden

It was noted that Keith & Strathisla Community Council are holding a public resilience meeting on Thursday 17th August. Colin Burch and Jill Sowden intimated that they would be attending, and the event will be brought to the attention of other key Cullen & Deskford persons. Attendance by local persons would be for information gathering to explore how best to do something similar within the Cullen and Deskford area.

- c. Community Lunches
Next one on 30th August where Vatenfall will have an exhibition about the proposed Aultmore Windfarm.
- d. Logie Park Play Area
This may be completed by the end of August. CDCC has provided invoicing details to Moray Council. No confirmation of handover from contractors to MC, though CDCC members are anticipating an offer to be included in the handover ceremony.
- e. E-bus shelter
There needs to be a meeting with Moray Council representation, and it is anticipated that Yvonne Joss, or some other Moray Council representative, will be available to take this forward.
- f. CullenConnected
This is put together by volunteers and time over the Summer has been pushed. Ideally there would be a larger team of volunteers to take this forward without other distractions of involvement within our community.
- g. Three Kings Cullen Association (TKCA) – minutes.
A request for recent minutes was submitted. Last minutes received were for a June meeting and no minutes have been received since.
- h. Mercat Cross

Donald Gatt noted ownership had been resolved to Moray Council and suggested a meeting of interested parties – to possibly include Stan Slater, Stewart Black, Cullen, Deskford & Portknockie Heritage Group, and Three Kings Association. Funding may be available from Historic Environment as a community group or a local authority. CDCC role is now as support to Community organisation (TKCA). Action – Colin Burch to arrange dates.

- i. Network bandwidth at Cullen Primary School
The feedback from Moray IT via Tracy Colyer: ‘At the moment it appears as though there is no obvious answer, however work is continuing by numerous ICT Officers to try to identify the root cause or causes of the connectivity issues and I will provide a further update as soon as I have anything to report.’, does not answer the original question questions, nor tell us where the problems lie - presumably downstream somewhere.
Action – Keep on agenda for next month.

- j. “20s Plenty” signs
Action – Colin Burch to check whether Les Tarr or Ernest Kopp has distributed these round Seatown.

- k. Harbour toilets
Follow on from the Harbour Advisory Committee meeting in June where, without prompting, the harbour users present raised the issue of lack of access to the public toilets despite the lease saying there will be ‘unrestricted’ access to harbour users. This then caused an issue when the key safe which was supposed to contain the key for the toilets was found to be empty on the same day as the public (as part of the paint out art day) were seen to have access. At the HAC meeting Moray Council estates had offered to provide information on the lease by the end of June. This did not happen. A chance meeting with Donald Gatt (while being photographed and interviewed for the Buckie Advertiser about the Mercat Cross) left Donald offering to see if he could get access to a copy of the lease between Moray Council and the Three Harbours Association (aka the Sea School).

Representatives of CDCC will be invited to attend a trustees meeting of Three Harbour’s Association.

Action – Donald Gatt to look at previous correspondence and seek a view of the lease.

- l. Aultmore Windfarm
Ruth Liddicoat and Lucy Blake (Vattenfall’s new Project Manager for Aultmore Wind Farm) attend the informal CDCC meeting on 18 July updating those present with the current design proposals, confirmation of the exhibition in the Cullen Community Centre on 30 August and the Community Funding Workshop in Portessie on 1 September.
- m. Town Flowers
CDCC thanks the Millenium Garden Volunteer Group who are successfully managing the town flowers. They have been made aware of the glass house space available at the allotment site and intend using the facilities to grow flowers from seed for the next season.

- n. M.Connect on demand transport
CDCC received an e-mail from Angela Whyte, Moray Council Public Transport Unit, 'You might have heard of Dial M for Moray which has now been rebranded and is called m.connect. m.connect is part of Bus Revolution which is part of the £4.3 million Growth Deal funded project for Moray Council. One of our aims of the project is to remove existing barriers for people travelling to places of Employment/Education/Health/Recreation and many more. Myself or my colleague would be more than happy to come and give you some more information about the project or I can arrange for leaflets to be issued to you offering leaflets'

Action – Colin Burch to extend an invitation to attend the September Community Lunch.

Also – include the 309 bus timetable in the next CullenConnected.

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file148197.pdf>

- o. Pet's Cemetery
A freelance journalist for the Glasgow Herald enquired about the cemetery seeking contact with Stevie. The journalist's e-mail contact details were passed to Lily's café, which Stevie frequents, for him to follow up as he wished.
- p. Grass cutting on Crannoch path
CDCC thanks Stuart Riddoch for cutting the grass on part of the Crannoch path and the track from Logie House (though that is in Aberdeenshire). It seems Moray Council don't take responsibility for maintenance of the Core Path Network, and they have passed a request to cut the remaining part of the track, which Stuart thought was too narrow for his tractor and runs the risk of being overgrown with gorse, onto the Moray Coast Ranger, Ged Connell, who will liaise with the Criminal Justice team to see if they can carry out the gorse clearance. Nothing heard since.
Action – revisit next month in case there has not been any action.
- q. Charitable Lighthouse
Colin Burch informed the meeting the lighthouse is now going to be sited at the Bijou By The Sea in Portessie, rather than in Cullen.
- r. Scarecrow competition
In October 2020, Cullen Primary School ran a 'Scarecrow Fundraiser' where pupils created a scarecrow - front garden, doorway, window etc., photographed it and submitted the photograph(s) for judging by CDCC, with donations via QR code raising over £700 for the primary school.
Action – Colin Burch to contact Carene Hay
- s. Cullen Square Notice Board
The glass got smashed in the outbreak of vandalism earlier. CDCC does not have the funds to replace the glass with more toughened glass though it might be able to afford Perspex / polycarbonate, or it could leave it where it seems to work as a public access notice board. Agreed to leave it as is at present. It may be necessary to introduce an etiquette for usage.

11. AOCB

- a. Motorhome stop over site at Port Long Road
Still waiting for the barrier to be installed. Fire safety stuff coming – but this will be updated next year once electric services are installed. The road is getting temporarily repaired; a proper resurfacing will be done later.

12. Dates for the Calendar

- a. 30 August, Cullen Community Centre: Community Lunch with Vattenfall, Aultmore Windfarm Exhibition
1 September, Portessie Hall, Vattenfall Community Funding Workshop,
- b. 21 September, Portessie Hall, Community resilience event & fundraising awareness

13. Next meetings

- 19 September 2023 at CCRC
- 17 October 2023 at Deskford (TBC)

Meeting closed at 20.55

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.