



Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council
19 September 2023
At Cullen Community and Residential Centre

Present

Colin Burch (Chair)
Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)
Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)
Stewart Wilson (Planning)
Lyra Wilson
Less Tarr
Councillor Donald Gatt
Councillor Theresa Coull
Councillor Tracy Colyer
Debra Duke (Community Council Liaison Officer, Moray Council)
Jill Sowden (Community Development Officer, Three Kings Cullen Association)
John Jappy (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

One member of the public

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies
None

2. Outside Agencies Reports

The August policing report was received on 4 September 2023.

John Jappy reported things had, recently, been quite quiet; two new recruits were part way through their training at Portlethen; there were another two in recruitment process; topical issues for the month are chimney safety and electrical safety – will be posting information on social media.

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 20 June 2023 and 15 August 2023

June 2023 – proposed as a true record by Stewart Wilson, and seconded by Lyra Wilson

August 2023 - proposed as a true record by Colin Burch and seconded by Bruce Edelsten

- a. Corrections - none
- b. Matters arising not on agenda - none

4. Chair's report

Is subsumed in the text below

5. Treasurer's Report

Phil Lovegrove reported the admin account has £594.22 £250 was transferred from fundraising to admin to reimburse money paid out for the use of CCRC for the Wednesday meals. We received funds from BAF to cover this. Expenses this month have been £60 to TKCA for last two month's meetings and our monthly iCloud DD.

The fundraising account has £18307.58.

CDCC received a donation from Cullen Fire Station, following their car wash, of £125.

Outgoing was £6 for gift for Ernest Kopp and £30 for camp beds from SSE resilience fund.

This leaves:

£4000 still to be paid out for playpark.

£8926.61 in SSE resilience funding.

£1185.34 in Cullen Connected newsletter funding.

£1500 for eBus shelter

6. Secretary's Report

Posted on Facebook during the past month were:

- Notice about Logie Play Park being open
- Vattenfall public exhibition in the community centre
- Moray West Wind Farm newsletter (subsequently removed)
- M.Connect transport survey

7. Councillor reports

Cllr Coull reported that there were the normal committees to attend, a lot of budget stuff to deal with and resilience planning to attend. Cllr Colyer also attending the normal committees including education, community council meeting and parent council meetings. Cllr Gatt also attending the normal committees with first budgetary stuff due in October and onwards - other items discussed below.

The member of the public raised the issue of inconsiderate parking round the harbour area. Cllr Gatt recommended such issues should be reported to the police on the basis if enough reports are made resources may be allocated.

8. Planning Officer's report

Ref. No: 23/01400/APP Demolish existing extension erect new extension refurbish existing single glazed sash & case windows replace existing casement window W5 with new double glazed painted timber casement replace concrete tile roof with new roof construction with pantile finish replace door and internal alterations at Open for comment icon 214 Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SJ

Ref. No: 23/01181/APP New forestry access onto A98 from Bauds Wood Cullen Moray

Ref. No: 23/01182/APP Proposed forestry track at Bauds Wood Cullen Moray

Ref. No: 23/01471/LBC New dormer window and conservation type velux windows new colour scheme and new door to porch at 161 Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SL

None of the above caused the CDCC any concerns.

9. Current Business

a. Resilience Planning

What to do with the remaining SSE funds. A Cullen and Deskford resilience working group will be initiated in conjunction with TKCA some time after the MC resilience workshop on Thursday 21 Sept.

- There is a pick list which will be revisited & revised as necessary when the working group is in place.
- Progressing the Moray Council Support Agreement - Meeting with Rhona McNicol to be arranged.
- Les Tarr's proposal for a resilience planning workshop. - To be injected into the resilience working group when in place.
- Moray Local Action Fund 2023-2024 - Colin Burch to discuss this with Jill Sowden
- Resilience container needs to be put to Deskford, though requires at least 4 volunteers to do so.

b. Community Lunches

Next one takes place on Wednesday 27th September. M.Connect Moray Transport and other organisations will be attending. Aiming to go fortnightly in October, though this is dependent on volunteers being available to help.

c. Logie Park Play Area

Outstanding items:

- Grading of rough area
- Siting a bench
- Redoing pedestrian entrance
- Paying out the funds

A member of the public raised the issue of wheelchair access from the all-access roundabout to the street where the rubberised surface is excellent, but this stops short of the street, the rest of the surface being grass which inhibits wheelchair access. Street access may require a dropped kerb.

Action – Colin Burch to contact Sarah Campbell to see what funding might be available.

Action – Bruce Edelsten to look at funding for a picnic bench.

d. E-bus shelter

Colin Burch reported he had spoken to Yvonne Joss who will come to Cullen with new member of staff sometime soon to explore possible way forward, or options for the available funding.

e. CullenConnected

Next edition due hopefully by end of September. Somerset Francis, who designed and typeset the newsletters. is leaving the area and will no longer be able to assist with the typesetting, and delivery that he did. A thank you to him for his time and wishes to him for

his new future. There will be an article in the newsletter about what it meant to him to be involved.

f. Three Kings Cullen Association – minutes

A request for recent minutes was submitted. Last minutes received were for a June meeting and no minutes have been received since as it seems that there have been no Management Group meetings.

g. Mercat Cross

Representatives from Three Kings Cullen Association, Cullen, Deskford & Portknockie Heritage Group, and Cullen and Deskford Community Council met on Tuesday 29 August and agreed there should be a small working group to work with Moray Council officials in progressing any aspect of the Mercat Cross. Donald Gatt agreed to inform the relevant officials within Moray Council.

Colin adds: Yvonne Joss, (Environmental Services) says she has this on her desk. As above, (point d), Yvonne says she will come to Cullen sometime soon. When this date is known, CDCC will organise a meeting with relevant persons.

Donald Gatt reported Kirsty Conti (Economic Growth & Regeneration) is investigating sources of funding.

Agreed that Donald Gatt will pursue this and report back.

h. 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 – Tracy Colyer to make further enquiries.

i. "20s Plenty" signs

Colin Burch will ensure they are forwarded to Less Tarr.

j. Harbour Advisory Committee - Harbour toilets

During August, Karen Adams MSP wrote to Roddy Burns, Chief Executive, Moray Council

RE: Cullen Harbour Toilets – Access

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, who has contacted me regarding access to Cullen Harbour toilets.

By way of background, my constituent advises me that the issue is dependent on interpretation of the lease between Moray Council and the Three Harbours Association where approved harbour users will have unrestricted access to the public convenience.

I note that we have previously contacted you regarding this issue in 2021 however it would be appreciated if you could inform us on who is able to use these toilets at Cullen Harbour and provide us with any update on this situation.

I would appreciate if you could investigate my constituents concerns, and take steps to address the issues raised.

Thank you and I look forward to your response which I will share with my constituent.

Nicola Moss (Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Moray Council) responded:

“Thank you for your letter dated 9 August 2023 concerning the access to toilets at Cullen Harbour. I hope the following information will clear up some of the concerns.

The lease gives the following terms with regard to public access:

“Landlord’s staff, contractors and approved harbour users (including but not limited to anyone who pays harbour dues or fees and the emergency services operating in or from the Harbour) free, unrestricted access to the public convenience.” The decision on who are approved harbour users is the decision of the Harbourmaster.

“By signature of this Lease, the Tenant accepts that the work and business of the Landlord as harbour owner (specifically in reference to the work of the harbour master) must take precedence over the Tenant’s work or activities at the Premises. This is to ensure the smooth and safe running of the harbour in accordance with the Harbour Act.”

Authority and right is reserved to use the toilets as a harbour authority for harbour operational uses above all else. Anyone finding access restricted to the toilets where they are involved in harbour operational activities should contact the Harbourmaster.”

A member of public questioned why the harbour toilets were not open while the public toilets in the square were being refurbished. However, on Monday 18 September, Theresa Coull, and others, received an e-mail from Cullen Sea School which implied public access is now enabled by a card payment system and this should continue into October.

The lease will be up for renewal in 2025 and this would need to be added to the CDCC agenda late in 2024 to ensure CDCC, as representatives of Cullen residents, are involved in ensuring best possible access to necessary public toilets in the harbour area.

A member of the public reported there used be a notice banning dogs from the beaches in the harbour. This will be raised at the next Harbour Advisory Committee meeting.

k. Aultmore Windfarm

On Friday 1 September, Colin, Phil and Bruce attended a Community Benefit Workshop in Portessie public hall hosted by Vattenfall. All found the meeting interesting and useful. Subsequently, Colin and Bruce visited the Clashendarroch wind farm, again hosted by Vattenfall, as part of the Open Doors Day.

l. M.Connect on demand transport

They will attend next community lunch on 27th September. They are keen to promote the service locally and have an article in the upcoming Cullen Connected newsletter

m. 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. Cullen Primary School have agreed to do it again this year. No other involvement from CDCC other than possibly acting as judges. Jill Sowden added there is a plan to produce a map of the scarecrows so people can walk round the town to view them.

n. Motorhome stop over site at Port Long Road

<https://www.spanglefish.com/cullenmotorhomestopover/index.asp>

Jill Sowden reported the barrier arm needs replacing as it too short; plenty of people are using the facility though they not being charged as they not accessing any services; they cannot access the chemical waste facility and water facilities though they are ready to go; electricians to barrier have been fitted and it will soon be ready to go; electric points (hookups) to pitches being thought about – whether all thirteen pitches or just some – as some users will just use their batteries for one or two nights. Hope the site will be fully open soon.

o. Scottish Water – at the links car park 16 Sep

On Saturday 16 September Scottish Water held a customer-facing event at Cullen Top-Up-Tap to engage with residents and visitors, handing out reusable water bottles, quizzing people on their water knowledge, offering kids colouring-in sheets and raising awareness of the water network of top-up taps across the country. Scottish Water reported there was a good turn out at the event and have submitted some text for the next CullenConnected newsletter.

p. Auld Kirk and Hall Church

Colin Burch and Lyra and Stewart Wilson attended a meeting about the future of the Auld Kirk and Hall Church which would inform the Church of Scotland. Decision has been made by Church of Scotland in Edinburgh to retain the Hall church, and sell, dispose or 'other' by 2027 the Auld Kirk. There will be an article in the upcoming CullenConnected newsletter. No further action by CDCC

q. Accident blackspot – A98 / Seafield Rd coming into Cullen from the east

There have recently been accidents where vehicles have 'come off the road' at the top of Cullen. By good fortune that there have not been any known major injuries to vehicle occupants or pedestrians. Before submitting a 'something must be done', it would be useful to have the facts about the number of accidents recorded at that location. Donald Gatt suggested CDCC contact Diane Anderson (transportation) for the statistics. Action - Colin Burch to pursue.

r. Cullen Square Toilets

These will be closed for refurbishment from 17 September 2023 for about three weeks. Chair has received a telephone call from a member of the public in respect of why the harbour toilets weren't open to compensate (see above).

s. Community Council funding

Chair has requested this to be added to the next JCC agenda. Debra Duke has responded to confirm that all MC Community Councils receive a grant of £500 + £.0725/member of public in their corresponding area. For CDCC this equates to around £630. CDCC mandatory

expenditure before members out-of-pocket reimbursement, honorariums, or other CDCC activities for the year, amount to around £600 which, if paid out, would mean a major funding shortfall. Debra Duke reported on which Moray Community Councils have access to free accommodation and which paid out other costs, such as payment for auditing. The issue of Moray Community Council funding will be on the next JCC (Joint Community Councils of Moray) agenda.

10. AOCB

- a. Dinosaur
Correspondence has been received from a member of public regarding the dinosaur head and why it has not yet been removed. The planning applicant was informed on 5 July that the retrospective planning application had been refused. Moray Council Planning confirmed the applicant has up to 3 months from the date of that letter to either comply or appeal. Donald Gatt noted that if the applicant neither appeals nor complies the matter goes to the Planning and Regulatory Services committee to decide whether to act or otherwise. That committee meets on an eight-week cycle.
- b. Path into Crannoch Woods along the A98 and the path past the Crannoch
Lyra Wilson raised concerns about the cinder path along the A98 at the top of the junction with the B9018 (Lintmill road), where the grass and weeds are encroaching on the path, and the track past the Crannoch Woods where gorse were encroaching on the track. The cinder path was created by the Volunteer Group quite a few years ago and is not the responsibility of the Moray Council. Colin Burch had, last year, noted he had a back-pack sprayer and will check to where it is. Bruce Edelsten had contacted Moray Council re the track alongside Crannoch Woods as it is part of the Core Path Network, but they had responded that they do not maintain the Core Path Network.
Action – Colin to check whether he still has the sprayer.
Action – Bruce to check whether his petrol strimmer can tackle the path alongside Crannoch Woods
- c. Ramp to beach
Debra Duke had forwarded an e-mail from a member of the public seeking help for someone who is a permanent wheelchair user and who loves exploring the local beaches but, currently, there is no wheelchair access to Cullen beach.
Discussion about a) land ownership, b) whether there is an existing ramp past the toilets buried under sand, c) funding opportunities. However, it may make sense to start from scratch.
Action – Colin Burch to initially check on land ownership.
Action – Debra Duke to check whether the original email can be forwarded to CDCC.
- d. National Democracy Matters Webinar
Thursday 21st September 2023, 10am - 11.30am on Zoom
<https://www.scdc.org.uk/democracy-matters-2>

11. Dates for the calendar

- a. Thursday 21 September – resilience awareness and funding opportunity event at Lhanbryde Community Centre.
- b. Wednesday 27 September - Community Lunch at the Community Centre
- c. Thursday 28 September - Local Place Plans meeting, online

12. Dates of next meetings

17 October 2023 (AGM) at Cullen Community and Residential Centre
21 November 2023 at Deskford Jubilee Hall (TBC)
12 December 2023 at Cullen Community and Residential Centre or Cullen Fire station

Meeting Closed at 20.53

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.