



**Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council
21 November 2023
At Deskford Community Centre**

Present

Colin Burch (Chair)

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Stewart Wilson (Planning)

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

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

1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting opened at 19.00 and Colin Burch welcomed those present.

2. Apologies

Les Tarr

Tracy Colyer

Graham Smith (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

3. Outside Agencies Reports

a. Police

The October report was received by CDCC.

b. Cullen Fire and Rescue Service

Due to work commitments and annual leave, a representative from Cullen Fire Station was unable to attend but did submit a report.

Few things from this month:

- There were no bonfire related incidents in the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie area in the lead up to and on bonfire night.
- Cullen Fire and Rescue Service continue to post safety messages on their social media pages.
- Cullen Fire and Rescue Service are supporting Moray Firth Radio Cash for Kids Mission Christmas and become a drop off point for gifts. Gifts can be dropped off between 18.30 and 21.30 every Monday night from the 20th of November until Monday the 18th of December, gifts can also be dropped off to Intricate Designs in the square.

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 17 October 2023

a. Approval

Proposed by Lyra Wilson, seconded by Colin Burch.

- b. Corrections- none
 - c. Matters arising not on agenda - none
5. Chair's report
- Colin Burch reported he continued being busy. Most of his feedback is within the text of the minutes below. The Deskford Hall outgoing committee intimated only recently that the CDCC should have had a presence at their management meetings and Colin apologised on behalf of the CDCC, though this was news to him. He did say to the Deskford committee, however, CDCC do not currently have any Deskford representatives and there are three full spaces available.
6. Treasurer's Report
- Phil Lovegrove reported that the Admin account has £341.89. Spending for the month has only been hall use for the October meeting (£30) and apple iCloud monthly DD (0.99p). The Fundraising account has £13749.96. We've eventually paid MC £4000 for Logie play park roundabout.
- CDCC received £29.75 from TKCA for stationery that CDCC supplied to them from the last Avansas order. This amount has been credited to the TSi monies for Cullen connect as that was where Avansas was paid from.
- The ring-fenced amounts now are:
- £1500 for ebus shelter
 - £8926.61 SSE resilience funding
 - £654.42 TSi for Cullen Connected.
- Which leaves £2668.93
7. Secretary's Report
- Posted on Facebook during the past month:
- Cullen Viaduct footpath closure
 - Prohibition of waiting on some streets due to water works.
 - Cullen Conservation Area Review.
 - Moray Council budget 2024/25 consultation.
 - Results of Cullen Primary School scarecrow competition.
8. Planning Officer's report
- a. Mercat Cross
<https://publicaccess.moray.gov.uk/eplanning/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S1P6IHBG0CQ00>

The text of the planning application was extracted from the pdf and circulated to CDCC and others, and posted on Facebook. Donald Gatt reported that the project is going out for tender.
 - b. Conservation Area Designation Area Review 2023
Colin to ask Keith Henderson (MC Planning Officer) to the next Community Lunch
 - c. Construction works associated with Moray West wind farm cable route
There were a few planning applications, one referring to work at the 'substation' at Whitehillock Farm near Keith, another for a bit of the cable route from Sandend to the substation near Lurghill and another for the whole cable route, where

permission was being sought for seven-day working, twelve hours a day. CDCC sought assurances that those near the cable route would be directly alerted to the planning applications.

- d. http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_65978.html and http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_151591.html and <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file151590.pdf>
(Dinosaur Head, Bayview Rd Cullen)

As previously noted, the application is waiting to be reviewed by the Moray Local Review Body.

9. Councillor's reports

Donald Gatt reported that he had been attending the normal cycle of committees – licencing, Police, Fire and Rescue Services, etc. Of interest was a review of the number of rent levels for social housing which would be reduced from 328 to 86. Other matters included review of local development plans.

Theresa Coull added the Banffshire flag event at Castle Hill Cullen, Outfit Moray AGM, Moray Citizen's Advice Bureau AGM, and Remembrance Day at Cullen

10. Report from Joint Community Council meeting - 9 November 2023

Matters discussed:

- Dr Gray's maternity developments – presentation
- Moray Woodland and Forest Strategy – presentation
- Lord Lieutenancies (Moray and Banffshire) updates
- Police update
- Treasurer's report
- Resilience plans
- CCLO (Debra Duke) update
- Scottish Joint Forum
- 50 years of community councils
- Current funding of community councils in Moray – agreed to form a working group – CDCC agreed to be present.
- Feedback from subgroups
- Community Council Updates – each CC present gave a summary – thanks to Colin for providing the briefing notes.
- Next meeting will be a Zoom one in February

11. Community Development Officer's report / Three Kings Cullen Association – minutes
CDCC had received minutes from 19th October and 2nd November 2023.

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

The Force's Brunch was a success with 65 people attending. The Men's Shed Band was good. A quick survey suggested there was enthusiasm for another one, though the frequency would probably be less than some of the others in the area. A survey of activities suggested many wanted archery. The next brunch will be in the new year.

Work has started on the path down to Seafield Place. It will be lit.

Motor home site is being used but there are issues with the barrier. The road surface on Port Long road, which is not an adopted road, has some serious potholes. Donald Gatt to pursue a solution.

A survey of what Primary School pupils wanted to do in Cullen and within the Community Centre suggested Nerf Guns were popular along with painting, drawing, and cooking. Moray Active Schools will be visiting the pupils.

Solar panels: Installation should be by end of March 2024. The batteries will be installed before that. They can be charged off the mains and will help with resilience.

Deskford Community Association (see below) now have a full committee.

Contact from Portnockie Community Council – where Portnockie does not have a community development officer. Jill Sowden and Michelle Good (Portgordon) aim to meet with the Portnockie group.

The cinema film show held on 19 November just about broke even. Considering whether, perhaps, a cream tea before a showing might attract viewers.

The Tabletop Sale on 26 November will use all the rooms in the community centre.

Then the Christmas Fayre on the 2nd of December.

2. Current Business

a. Resilience Planning

No developments

This will be progressed in the new year.

On-line resilience training is available – Colin to organise.

b. Community Lunches

Still being well attended, with around 40 persons at each event. New volunteers have become involved. The group will assess the viability of increasing the frequency in the early months of 2024. The next lunches are 29 November, 6 December, and 10 January 2024

c. Logie Park Play Area

Basically, now completed. CDCC has paid Moray Council who are undertaking regular maintenance visits. Possibility of local groups being able to place a bench and improve paths. Remove from agenda.

d. E-bus shelter

No further movement as yet.

e. CullenConnected

Next edition will be early 2024. A volunteer from Moray College has offered to assist with the typesetting. The new Deskford and District Community Association are interested in producing a local version though there is also the possibility of including a Deskford supplement in the next issue of CullenConnected.

f. Network bandwidth at Cullen Primary School

Nothing new to report.

g. “20s Plenty” signs

Availability of the signs to be made aware via social media. Then remove from agenda.

h. Cullen Primary School - Scarecrow Competition

3rd place: Living scarecrow with dog,

2nd place: Pumpkin Heid,

1st place: Donald.

Local shop vouchers to the value of £10, £15 & £20 for 3rd, 2nd and 1st place.

Congratulation to the winners and a big thank you to all the entrants. £188.96 was raised for the school pantomime visit.

Details also posted on Facebook.

Remove from agenda.

- i. Motorhome stop over site at Port Long Road
See Jill Sowden's report above.
- j. Accident blackspot – A98 / Seafield Rd coming into Cullen from the east.
Officially, Moray Council roads dept say there are no statistics for this area as there have been no reported injuries. However, stats from Seafield Estates, who organise repairs to the dyke on the east side, suggest there have been four incidents during 2023 and, since 2019, there have been more than ten incidents (eleven as of 20 November 2023) at or around that area. Possible suggestion would be a 'grippy' surface at that area. Colin Burch to maintain contact with Moray Council roads department and to forward e-mails.
- k. Ramp to beach
Not yet pursued. Is it Seafield's land? Who would progress the project? Tsi Development Officer for Scotland suggested there may be money. Theresa Coull to pursue. Colin Burch to reestablish contact with the original enquirer.
- l. Memorial Bench on Mediki Ley
This is now on order and is expected to arrive in around four to six weeks.
- m. Community Council funding
See JCC report above. At the JCC there was general acknowledgement that the current system is unfair. Debra Duke (CLO) had circulated details of the Community Council funding processes in other Scottish councils, and a draft Community Council expenses process. Documents from the JCC meeting are in the iCloud Drive.

3. AOCB

- a. Deskford Community Hall.
The management group who had been involved historically for many years have stepped down. A new Deskford and District Community Association management group has been set up with a full complement of office bearers and is preparing to take the Deskford Community Centre into the future. Jill Sowden, Community Development worker based at the Cullen Community and Residential Centre, will be working with the group to allow them to achieve their goals. CDCC involvement will be to work with the group and, where possible, attend the groups meetings. It is expected that the new group will have a regular attendance at CDCC meetings and provide copies of Minutes to the CDCC.

Recent minutes and a Task Register have been received by CDCC.

- b. Meet the Funders event, Elgin Town Hall 16 November.
Colin Burch attended the event. This is a good way of meeting potential funders into the future for different programmes / projects in the Community. Encourage other Community groups and organisations to make use of this networking programme by TsiMoray.
- c. Moray Transport Forum meeting at the same time – relevant information will be forwarded to CDCC – and they have been invited to community lunch.



- d. Zero Carbon Moray Newsletter - offer of loan on thermal imaging camera and offer to have a Zero Carbon Moray stall at any community event.

Colin to make contact and extend an invitation to a community lunch and arrange the loan of an infra-red camera.

- e. CDCC thanks Cullen Community Centre for the Veterans Lunch. There were many happy faces.

4. Dates for the calendar

Community Lunches on Wednesdays: 29 November, 6 December, and 10 January 2024

5. Dates of next meetings

12 December 2023 at Cullen Fire Station

16 January 2024 at Cullen Community and Residential Centre

Meeting closed 20.30.

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, Three Kings Cullen Association Development Officer, Cullen Library, Secretary of Deskford and District Community Association, and posted on Facebook.