



**Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council  
16 January 2024  
Via Zoom**

**Present**

Colin Burch (Chair)

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Stewart Wilson (Planning)

Les Tarr

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

Councillor Tracy Colyer

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

John Jappy (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

**1. Welcome and introductions**

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

**2. Apologies**

Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association

**3. Outside Agencies Reports**

**a. Police**

The December 2023 report had been received by CDCC.

**b. Cullen Fire and Rescue Service**

John Jappy reported that not much had happened since the report in December. The charity fundraiser raised £1665.60. 55% of that goes to the Fire Fighters' charity with the rest distributed amongst local charities. Colin Burch to supply list of local groups.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 12 December 2023**

**a. Corrections- none**

**b. Approval: Proposed by Stewart Wilson / Seconded Less Tarr**

**c. Matters arising not on agenda – none.**

**5. Chair's report**

The Chair's report is appended to relevant aspects as below. A thank you to all involved in the CDCC meetings and to the wider Community groups who involve themselves in the wide-ranging CDCC operations.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

Phil Lovegrove reported the Admin account has £556.05. Spend last month has been £0.99 for iCloud Direct Debit and £27.99 for printer ink.

The Fundraising account has £14174.88.

Spend last month has been £25 for scarecrow winner vouchers and £150.08 for Millennium Garden flowers.

We received £100 towards the cost of a memorial bench installation, which has been passed on to CPPVG. Update: The family are looking to attend sometime in February, and the Volunteer Group intimate that the bench is likely to have been replaced by then.

Allocated funds are £11081.03

- £1500 for ebus shelter,
- £8926.61 for SSE resilience,
- £654.42 for Cullen connected.

Leaving £3093.85 unallocated funds.

#### 7. Secretary's Report

Published on Facebook over the past month:

- Result of Review: Planning Application 23/00340/APP – Retrospective application for installation of dinosaur head to roof at 1 Bayview Road, Cullen
- Moray Firth West Wind Farm newsletter.

Communication from member of the public over accident incident in the square during the particularly icy period in December. UPDATE: In collaboration with relevant authorities and persons, there is no need for CDCC involvement, though the offer is there as required. Communication about an invitation to a Moray Council Libraries, Learning Centres & Heritage Stakeholder workshop, which was forwarded to Jill Sowden.

Query from Aberdour, Pennan and Tyrie Community Council about the facility to donate for Cullen's toilets via an online donation. Colin forwarded this to Julie-Anne Drake (Friends of Cullen) who agreed to communicate directly with the Aberdour Community Council.

Aultmore Windfarm: Community Benefit Workshop Report was received at the end of December.

#### 8. Planning Officer's report

- a. 23/00340/APP (Dinosaur Head, Bayview Rd Cullen)  
Result of review by the Moray Local Review Body  
<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file152984.pdf>  
The review temporarily approved the planning application to be reviewed in five years.
- b. Mercat Cross  
No news – hopefully have news in later in the year. This is largely in the hands of Moray Council in collaboration with the Heritage group. CDCC involvement is from an awareness viewpoint with the offer of further involvement as required.
- c. 23/02111/APP  
Glamping pod in rear garden at Ellieside Cottage Lintmill Buckie

#### 9. Councillor's reports

Tracy Colyer reported the committees haven't fully resumed yet. She has been involved with NHS Grampian and IJB budgets. Donald Gatt reported he and Theresa Coull had been on an estate walkabout in Keith – walking about a couple of the areas in Fife Keith, mainly checking in Council areas. (NB: The Councillors take walkabouts in various areas under their jurisdiction during the course of the year). Council activities, mostly budget related, are

ramping up. Theresa Coull - next week start of busy weeks with a special full council meeting. There should be a meeting of the Portnockie and Cullen Harbour Advisory Committee – but no dates fixed yet. She and Donald attended Cullen Primary School Christmas concert- which was really good.

10. Community Development Officer's report / Three Kings Cullen Association – minutes

Jill Sowden reported

Motor Home stopover site - Just about getting there with the official booking system. In the meantime, a manual booking system has been used instead, which has worked well and there was the benefit of personal interaction and being able to tell people about Cullen, what to do and where to go. Over 50 nights were booked between middle of November and end of December.

Solar panels – first phase of the panels are up on the roof above the library. The scaffolding will be left till the second phase which should be in March but looking for match funding. The third phase, more panels going up but on south facing roofs. The batteries are being fitted shortly and they should supply at least 24 hours of supply, maybe more, depending on circumstances, and the system should save the community centre £7,000 per year.

Path down to Seafield Place – just about finished, but the weather has delayed the last bit, the top layer of tarmac.

Winter Warmers – community lunch has gone fortnightly – in between that, afternoon teas, and Veterans' Events - brunch on 27 January (10.30 – 12.00) with Moray Archery Club providing a taster session.

Working with Cullen Play Group, the Toddler Group at Hall Church, and the school nursery to get Active Starts in <https://sportinmoray.co.uk/physical-activity-for-all/> with activities with the youngsters. Will be also doing food with the youngsters. In February / March time.

Cinema – Sunday 18 February – Willy Wonka and One Life

Jill has been asked to go on the Community Research Network for Mental Wealth by the Moray Wellbeing Hub. This is to look at mental wealth rather than mental health and wellbeing– they want it to be about positivity rather than poor mental health - they want it to be about good mental wealth – looking at the positives about mental health. This ties in very well with what the Three King's Association (3KA) does – the impact of positive activities at the community centre. 3KA gets feedback from the users, which is necessary for the funders, and can feed that information back into this – and can be used to find out what people do to improve the mental health.

Jill did the level two food hygiene training.

Did flood resilience training – this had to be done by the end of December – mental health resilience was possibly the most useful bit.

Board Meeting in January - They are going to survey each room to see what works needs doing – looking at the building as a whole and not pick away at bits of which may subsequently not be viable.

Library Services – Jill is going to the Moray Council Libraries, Learning Centre & Heritage Stakeholder Workshop - Wed 7th February in Elgin. Interesting, Jill has just read the Scottish Government strategy on combating loneliness, and it promotes the use of libraries.

If anyone watches BBC's The Traitors, they might recognise a short clip of Cullen Bay at the beginning.

CDCC received minutes of a 3KA board meeting from the 11 December. Details are mostly covered in Jill's report above.

11. Deskford and District Community Association - minutes.

The Association has not met recently.

12. Current Business

a. Resilience Planning

Still no real progress in developing the Cullen plan – will be moved forward in January / February. There are various training opportunities available from organisations such as the Met Office and Moray Council such as the safeguarding and risk management training on Thursday 18 January.

All Moray households should have received the generic Household Resilience booklet. This is available online at: <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file152469.pdf>

CDCC area will do one more specific to the area when plans are firmed up and finalised.

Report received from the Resilience workshop that was held at Lhanbryde last September. The report failed to mention Cullen. Jill Sowden queried this and was informed Cullen had been included within the 'Portgordon to Portnockie' area – largely because the authors felt it was easier to refer to the 'Port to Port Area' rather than 'Portgordon to Cullen Area'.

b. Community Lunches

Still going well with about 40 people attending. The next one will be on 31 January. Debra Duke circulated information about a Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland Food Handling course which Colin forwarded to those involved in case they were interested. Another four people, plus Jill, took up the offer and attended the near full-day course. The training session was very interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile.

c. E-Bus Shelter

The funding deadline extension has been moved to end March 2024. Yvonne Joss and colleague are visiting Cullen to discuss on Thursday 18 January @ 1400Hrs. Any member wishing to be involved, please do so. Meeting at the Square in the first instance, then retreat to Community Centre for discussions.

d. CullenConnected

Quite a few submissions for the next issue. Marc Roy, a graphic student at Moray College will be assisting in the type setting and layout. Looking for this to be distributed by end of the January, or no later than first few days in February. A thank you to all who submitted articles and subsequently pulling it all together and delivering to all Cullen and Lintmill households.

e. Network bandwidth at Cullen Primary School

Bruce Edelsten to check that the network performance issues have not been resolved before Tracy Coyle reconnects with Moray Council IT people.

- f. Accident blackspot – A98 / Seafield Rd coming into Cullen from the east  
Another unreported accident took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> December outside the toll house. There was a two-car accident but as no-one seemed to be hurt and no debris so, unless you came across it while it happened, you would not know.

Diane Anderson of Moray Council informed Colin Burch that she and David Greer of Seafield Estate were due to meet early in 2024 and Colin offered to be included with that as required. He has tried to confirm if this meeting has happened, or whether it is still to be scheduled and is still await confirmation at time of writing. – it might be useful to prod at this as to whether a date has been set.

- g. Ramp to the beach  
This follows from an enquiry by a member of the public seeking access to the beach for a quadriplegic husband – but this could apply to anyone with disabilities.

Tracey Rae (Moray Council Community Support Unit) said she would put out feelers as to who would be best to advise on design for a ramp – no feedback yet.

Alex Burrell (Moray Council Property Services) forwarded our query to the Land Surveyor. Catriona Philip, (Moray Council, Housing & Property Services) responded with a map showing land ownership in the area concerned, which confirmed Moray Council as the owner.

Bruce Edelsten to forward the map to the Councillors.

- h. Community Council funding  
Joint Community Council (JCC) Admin Grant sub group = next meeting Thursday 25 January in Fochabers. The JCC is looking for greater involvement from some of the smaller Moray Community Councils.

### 13. AOCB

- a. Kirkton Cemetery  
Query from a member of the public as to who is responsible for a) mowing the grass and b) maintaining the site and buildings.

Donald Gatt did some research:

I'm assuming that this is about Deskford Cemetery, which is listed at [http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_39980.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_39980.html)

Having done some more research, as I remembered that as one of the budget measures some years ago there where changes to Grass Cutting, this page [Grass Cutting in Public Areas - Moray Council](#) gives the current policy. During the grass cutting season of April – October there is an aim to cut grass every two weeks, this should include Deskford.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission as I understand it will be responsible for only the graves of War Dead of which there is one at Deskford as per the screenshot. If the old Church is becoming a danger then that

would come under Environmental Health, details at [Environmental Health - Public Health - Moray Council](#)

This information has been forwarded to the enquirer.

a. Road Traffic Order – Pavement Parking – Exemptions

Markings indicating where cars can park on the pavement have appeared on the road and southside pavement in the Seatown:

From a point 3 metres west or thereby of the extended building line of Number 85 Seatown westwards for a distance of 65 metres or thereby to a point 1.5 metres east of Number 79 Seatown.

And

From the extended eastern building line of Number 21 Bayview Court westwards for 16 metres or thereby. This exemption is applicable over a footway width such that an effective width of 1.5 metres of footway is maintained from the existing back of footway.

[http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_152647.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_152647.html)

It is also worthy of note that part of Rule 243 of the Highway Code states: DO NOT stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space.

b. Rubbish Bins in harbour area at the harbour are being used by residents for the domestic waste.

Less Tarr is going to keep an eye on the situation.

Also, the recycling area on Port Long Road has been closed. Donald Gatt to enquire what the situation is.

Donald Gatt reported that there may be progress in filling in some of the potholes in Port Long Road.

c. Flooding due to blocked gully in Victoria Crescent. (outside number 7)

Query as to the process or whether there is a schedule for clearing gullies in Cullen. Donald Gatt suggested there was a process, but some might only get checked every five years. It was suggested the best action would be to use the Moray Council on-line reporting system - <https://online.moray.gov.uk/site/wss/request/RoadsFault>  
Theresa Coull offered to send an e-mail.

d. Invitation to nominate for 'My Place Awards'.

The closing date was 14 January. A few suggestions for an individual and group were made but the short time scale from becoming aware and closing date made pursuing this not viable. It was agreed CDCC would consider doing its own award scheme towards the end of 2024.

e. General Election Hustings

While the date of the next General Election is unknown, it was agreed to explore viability of a joint hustings event in Cullen. Les Tarr has prepared a list of the surrounding CC's (both Moray & Aberdeenshire) who CDCC could approach.

f. Offer of sets / cobble stones from Buckie Harbour



E-mail from Darren Bremner, Buckie Harbour Master offering cobble stones. Colin has forwarded it to Stan Slater and the Deskford Community Hall group.

14. Dates for the calendar

Thursday 18 January: Safeguarding & risk management Training (Resilience linked)  
Thursday 25 January: JCC sub-group: funding for community councils - Fochabers  
Next Community Lunch: Wednesday 31 January 2024  
Thursday 8 Feb: Joint Community Council via Zoom  
Thursday 22 February: Public Entertainment, Event Safety Planning, morning or afternoon  
(Chairperson has registered for the morning event)

15. Dates of next meetings

20 February 2024 at Cullen Community and Residential Centre  
19 March 2024 at Cullen Community and Residential Centre

Meeting closed at 20.23

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.