

DRAFT
Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council
19 March 2024
At Cullen Community and Residential Centre

Present:

Colin Burch (Chair)
Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)
Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)
Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)
Les Tarr
Councillor Donald Gatt
Councillor Theresa Coull
Councillor Tracy Colyer (on-line)
Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association

1. Welcome and introductions

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

2. Apologies

Stewart Wilson (Planning)
Jill Sowden (Community Development Officer, Three Kings Cullen Association)
John Jappy (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

3. Outside Agencies Reports

a. Police

The police report for February 2024 was received at the beginning of March

b. Cullen Fire and Rescue Service

John Jappy submitted his report in absentia. The Christmas charity collection distribution.

The following groups have been selected to receive a donation and the Service is in the process of contacting groups and organising handovers.

Deskford area: Deskford Community Association

Portnockie: Portnockie Primary school and Toilets Group.

Cullen: Primary school, Volunteer Group, Men's Shed, and Toilets Group.

Grampian area: Anchor foundation and Scottish Charity Air Ambulance.

Recent local incidents were an unattended campfire at the Crannoch woods. Seafeld Estates are aware and new signage regarding wildfires and summer safety will be erected in the car park.

We will continue to promote summer safety, wildfire safety and home fire safety messages on our station social media pages.

Colin Burch will pass on various contact details.

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 20 February 2024

a. Corrections - none

- b. Approval: Proposed by Lyra Wilson, seconded by Les Tarr
- c. Matters arising not on agenda – none.

5. Chair's report

The Chair's report is subsumed in the text below.

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil LoveGrove reported the admin account has £479.46. Expenditure this month: £30 for hall use and iCloud DD of £0.99

Fundraising has £14734.88

Allocated funds are:

- £1500 for ebus shelter
- £1060 for community lunches (includes £500 from Groundwork's/Tesco)
- £654.42 for Cullen Connected
- £8926.61 SSE resilience fund

Leaves £2593.85

7. Secretary's Report

Posted on Facebook:

- Outfit Moray Easter Program
- Moray Council – Play Sufficiency Assessment Survey
- Aultmore Windfarm Redesign: Newsletter April 2024.

8. Planning Officer's report

Ref. No: 24/00375/S36 Erect 16 wind turbines up to 200 metres tip height (generating around 105.6 MW) and associated infrastructure and includes a battery energy storage facility of up to 50 MW at Aultmore Wind Farm Keith Moray

Ref. No: 24/00418/APP Permanent retention of the forest access junction improvements completed as part of the Moray West cable route works.

Ref. No: 24/00404/LBC Proposed rear bay window and velux and rear velux cabriolet to first floor at 56 Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SJ

9. Councillor's reports

Tracy Colyer Reported: We have been doing various bits of work: finished the budget-attended the Moray Integrated Joint Board (partnership of health, and social care), NHS Grampian, potholes, bins etc. Theresa Coull reported: finished the budget, attended the board of the North East Sensory Service, British Sign Language plan for Moray – being developed with the deaf community, plan for more community wardens and youth workers (new posts for the whole of Moray), attended a Cairngorms Park presentation, attended planning meetings and the Joint Consultative Committee. Donald Gatt reported – attended strategic leadership forum meetings, best value meetings, met the audit commission (Audit Scotland), attended scrutiny training and the planning committee.

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

Community Development Officer update – 19 March 2024

Motor Home Stopover Site

Booking system up and running and working well (full on Saturday night). We are numbering the pitches which we hadn't originally planned to do as we were doing a "first come first served" basis. However, it has come apparently very quickly that there is a favoured pitch (pitch 6 - the one parallel to the sea and track) and people would run the risk of going out in their vans only to come back and the pitch be gone. Most modern motorhomes don't have rear, only side, windows and as they want a sea view, they have to go on pitch 6. The Vehicle Plate Recognition appeared to be working at the end of last week and we were doing final tests this week. However, there was an incident on the cliffs on Saturday requiring an ambulance and although the Ambulance Station has the barrier code, we don't know why or how but the barrier appears to have come down on the vehicle damaging and bending the barrier so it no longer sits in its receiver. Guests are still issued with the barrier code and it is still working.

Solar Panels – Phase 2 (roofs 1 & 3)

Funding from CARES, Baxters and Levenseat Trust. Discussion held with Community Council re assistance with the shortfall – agreed in principle. Further discussion to be held. 52 panels now on roofs 1 & 3 needing connection. Due to finish 31 March 2024.

Event Planning

Attended useful session with Moray Council, Police Scotland and SFRS re organisation and management of events including licencing, risk etc. The Board has agreed to pay the cost of having access to The Purple Guide (a comprehensive and up to date online guide to event management) which will be available for all Groups in the area to access.

Community Engagement

To build on the engagement already started, I am looking to do a wider community engagement at the Cullen Harbour Gala on 21 July. I mentor a pupil from Buckie High on the Career Ready Scheme who will be joining us at the Community Centre for four weeks in the summer and who will be helping with the engagement. I also sit on the Community Research Network working group looking at Mental Wealth so will be tying this in with any engagement I do going forward.

Winter warmers: Afternoon Teas

There were 65 and 62 people at the last two. People coming along who don't engage in any other way. Three generations of families including babies joining us. We are looking at ways of keeping the Teas going once the Lottery funding has finished.

The next Veteran's Brunch is on 30th March with Networks of Wellbeing veteran support officer from Huntly who will be organising activities: surfing, yoga, etc and veterans can enjoy a walking tour of Seatown.

Active Start (for youngsters) has 10 pre-schools attending – going well.

Archery Group – Thanks to Pete Greenslade for volunteering to run two groups – children and adults – following the success of the taster day.

Cinema on 14 April – Wicked Little Letters and One Love (Bob Marley)

Jill and Colin attended a licencing event with Moray Council in Elgin and groups or regular events which collect donations ought to have a licence. "To run a group or organisation that makes public or house-to-house collections for charitable purposes you need a licence for

the collection from unless you hold an exemption". See http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_65773.html

11. Deskford and District Community Association (DDCA) - minutes.

Colin Taylor reported the 14 February minutes had been circulated. DDCA is hopeful of receiving match funding via various bodies for various building works. Events for funding: boot sale, coffee morning etc. all will provide useful money.

Next DDCA meeting on the 27th April - Colin Burch will attempt to attend.

Cullen Community Lunches – will be monthly through to around October, but there will be clash when the residential centre is in use in May, but the Jubilee Hall could be available.

Colin Taylor will check availability for 29th May to possible use of Deskford for the event. The Jubilee Hall is booked on Tuesday evenings so a CDCC meeting at Deskford could be problematic while the main hall is out of use.

Contact has been made with Vattenfall re the Aultmore Windfarm which will impact the Deskford area more than Cullen.

12. Current Business

a. Resilience Planning

Solar panel array on Community Centre (see 10 above)

b. Community Lunches

The next one will be on Wednesday 27 March, then last Wednesday of the month from April through the summer period till September or October. A thank you to all the volunteers. Much appreciated by all the persons who attend. There is a real buzz at the lunches. The lunch may relocate to Deskford in May due when a residential group will be using the CCRC.

c. E-bus shelter

Confirmed that the E-bus shelter as was envisioned is no longer going to happen. The allocated monies will hopefully be re-aligned to other public realm works in Cullen as below. Confirmed for progressing are:

- Replacement bollards in the Main Street
- Barrel planters replacements
- Three picnic benches in the Mediki
- Replacement seating at the east side of the square
- Noticeboard repair (perspex on the front)

Possible:

- Millennium garden mosaic stabilising (awaiting further information on what would potentially be required) – it was made John Wilson.

d. CullenConnected

Bruce Edelsten forwarded to the treasurer the invoice for the cullenconnected.com domain.

Newsletter frequency will need to be reviewed due to the funding being close to running out. The funding was for 8 pages 4 times annually. The newsletter is so successful, that it is now generally 16 pages in size. There will be some boilerplate text in the next issue reminding people that the Community printer at the Community centre helps with the funding of the newsletter.

e. Network bandwidth at Moray Schools

At the most recent Joint Community Council meeting it was agreed that CDCC would prepare questions which could be passed on to schools with the wards of other community councils. Les Tarr and Bruce Edelsten have formulated the following:

During discussions with staff at Cullen Primary as part of an exercise to set-up a twinning arrangement with a town in France, we discovered that the school were having computer network issues that resulted in an inability to hold virtual meetings via Zoom.

The issue has been reported to the IT department at Moray council, but so far there has been no resolution. We are aware that other schools in the area may have the same or similar issues. There was an agreement at the last JCC for Cullen and Deskford Community Council to make contact with other community councils to try and draw together data on how widespread this may be.

To this end we have drafted some questions to help pull together a picture of the scale of the issue.

The questions to any schools in your area that may be affected are:

1. Can you hold video conference calls within your classrooms?
2. Can you login to the GLOW application or network within 30 seconds to 1 minute?
3. Does the network performance on your wireless network impact teaching?
4. Are school staff using mobile hotspots from their phones to access the internet for teaching and communication?
5. Are you aware of any Service Level Agreement metric in relation to the GLOW application and network?

End of questions.

CDCC intends forwarding this to the Joint Community Council

f. Ramp to beach

Bruce Edelsten contacted Will Burnish informing him CDCC had seen plans showing two options. The plans were produced by Moray Council, possibly in 2019.

See CDCC minutes from April 2019

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file125657.pdf>

and from May 2019

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file126008.pdf>

A member of the public updated the meeting with information about a previous enquiry from <https://friendlyaccess.org/> who wanted to run surfing sessions for the disabled from Cullen and who thought the sums involved were not impossible. In addition, the Three Kings Association may be able to assist in sourcing funds.

Bruce Edelsten to contact Will Burnish again and to contact Friendly Access.

The meeting was informed about a proposal for a Portable /Mobile Sauna at the beach.

g. Road Closures

Theresa Coull has forwarded notices of road closures she received from Moray Council. CDCC thanks Councillor Coull. Donald Gatt noted Moray Council's web site has a list of road closures:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_index/index_113891.html

And <https://www.roadworksscotland.org/> which sends alerts, but only for a relatively small area such as Cullen itself but not Cullen and Deskford.

h. Memorial Benches

Colin Burch is dealing with the most recent request.

i. Aultmore Windfarm

Vattenfall has submitted an application to the Scottish Government for its redesigned Aultmore Wind Farm scheme. The documentation is here <https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/aultmore> and a paper copy is in Cullen Library. Colin Burch and Bruce Edelsten met with Ruth Liddicoat and Lucy Blake in Cullen Library on Thursday 14 March to discuss the application though, as the scheme is so complex, it could only be an overview. Colin pointed out that in the absence of any direct feedback from public CDCC can adopt an agnostic, no comment, view even though the views of individual members may be different. The closing date for any representations we may wish to make in this case is 16th April 2024.

j. Moray Transport Forum

Meeting on 5 March 2024 advertised at very short notice - CDCC was unable to attend.

Road Safety Champions - the deadline for expressing an interest in the proposed Road Safety Champions group is 22 March 2024.

k. UK Parliamentary Elections – potential hustings event

Colin Burch has been in touch with the various surrounding community councils all of whom seem to be in support of the suggested event.

l. King's Portrait

A portrait has been ordered.

m. Joint Community Council

i) Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant sub group

Debra Duke circulated a draft running costs calculation which shows widely differing costs and revenues between the various different Moray Community Councils and, if CDCC had to fund many items other community councils do fund, CDCC would have a substantial shortfall in funds.

ii) Next meeting Thursday 9 May

- a) Match Funding request from David McCubbin
Colin Burch to forward to David a form which David could fill in which would show how much money he is requesting.

- b) Millenium Wood – Bruce Edelsten to enquire as to the current situation.

14. Dates for the calendar

- 20 March - Buckie Area Forum (via Zoom)
- 21 March - Join The Dots – Elgin
- 27 March - Community Lunch

15. Dates of next meetings

- 16 April 2024 at Cullen Community and Residential Centre
- 21 May 2024 at Deskford Hall (to be confirmed)

Meeting Closed
20.57

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 Ward councillors, the Moray Council Community Council Liaison Officer, Three Kings Cullen Association Development Officer, Cullen Library, Secretary of Deskford and District Community Association, Seafeld Estates Office, and posted on Facebook.