

DRAFT
Notes of meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council
16 April 2024
At Cullen Community and Residential Centre

The meeting was not quorate. These notes are for informational purposes only.

Present:

Colin Burch (Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

Colin Taylor (Chair, Deskford and District Community 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

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Stewart Wilson (Planning)

Les Tarr

Councillor Tracy Colyer

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

3. Outside Agencies Reports

a) Police Scotland report for March 2024 has been received.

b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

John Jappy reported: Money from the Christmas charity collection has all been paid out. The Easter egg hunt was attended by 40 children. Seasonal topics on social media this month will be wheelie bins and derelict properties.

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 19 March 2024

a. Corrections

b. Approval – the minutes could not be approved as the meeting was not quorate and will be verified at the next quorate meeting.

c. Matters arising not on agenda

i. Market Cross - Donald Gatt reported that proposed spotlights for the Market Cross were not going to be funded.

5. Chair's report

Subsumed within the text of the meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

Admin account £448.47

Fundraising account £14,434.52

Admin outgoings include £30 for hire of community centre and £0.99 for iCloud.

Fundraising outgoings include £150 to men's shed for planters to the Cullen nursery, which will come out of allocated funds (Community lunches/Tesco) and £100 grant to tourist initiative.

The Fundraising account includes various ringfenced funds:

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

Which leaves £2293.49.

7. Secretary's Report

- a. Posted on Facebook:
 - i) Caledonia Wind Farm consultation
 - ii) Advert from Constituency Officer re employment opportunities at next election.
- b. Other correspondence included in current business.

8. Planning Officer's report

Application 24/00424/LBC: Retrospective consent to replace roof rooflight window timber cladding to side elevation replace window with double doors to side elevation paint rear elevation replace guttering and downpipe boundary fence and front door at 18 Castle Terrace Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SD.

9. Councillor's reports

Donald GATT reported there had been a gap in activities over the Easter break but was getting back into the swing. He had received quite a bit of correspondence about the Aultmore wind farm and had been attending strategic leaders' meetings. Theresa Coull added there were briefings and workshops about the local development plans for 2027 which would be a total revision of policy.

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

Jill Sowden had submitted her report in absentia. It covered:

- Motor Home Stopover Site
- Solar Panels – Phase 2 (roofs 1 & 3)
- Veterans Brunch
- Active Start (for youngsters)
- Archery Group
- Residential Centre – looking to increase residential bookings – any ideas welcome.

11. Deskford and District Community Association – minutes

The minutes from 27 March 2024 had been published on Facebook. Items covered included:

- Treasurer's update
- Property Manager's update
- Local Fundraising update
- Booking Secretary Update
- Newsletter and Social Media
- Hall Keeper's update
- Correspondence
- Task Register

12. Current Business

a. Resilience Planning

CDCC needs to discuss plans with the Three Kings Association and Deskford and District Community Association. The allocated funds require to be appropriately used in resilience planning for the CDCC area.

b. Community Lunches

Now monthly on the last Wednesday of the month until October. A thank you to all the volunteers for their commitment to this programme, and also to the Community Centre for working with the CDCC in helping to provide these to our community. A thank you to those who attend as, without people attending, they would not be such a success. It is planned to use the Deskford Jubilee Hall for the 29 May community lunch.

c. E-bus shelter

Moray Council provided advice detailing a process for processing pro-forma invoices and, following from that, funds have been reallocated to town centre improvements including benches, picnic benches, planters, replacement bollards, and notice board repair. It is envisaged that these will be progressed in the coming weeks in time for the summer season.

d. Cullen Road Works (notifications)

As noted in previous minutes, 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 a Cullen itself but not Cullen and Deskford.

Bruce Edelsten has registered for alerts and will see if he can automate forwarding to CDCC.

e. Match funding request

CDCC members agreed via email to the request for £100 from the Cullen Tourist Initiative.

f. CullenConnected Newsletter

Hopefully there will be a May issue. Funding may be an issue into the future. There will be more information in the next issue.

g. Network bandwidth at Moray Primary Schools

Carene Hay, Head Teacher, Cullen Primary School, forwarded correspondence detailing the information requested a year ago. Amongst the information, 'The school is presented with a 30/30Mbps synchronous circuit. This will be reviewed when the Council transitions to the new SWAN 2 contract.'

Bruce Edelsten to further respond to Carene Hay.

Less Tarr has yet to forward the request for information to the JCC.

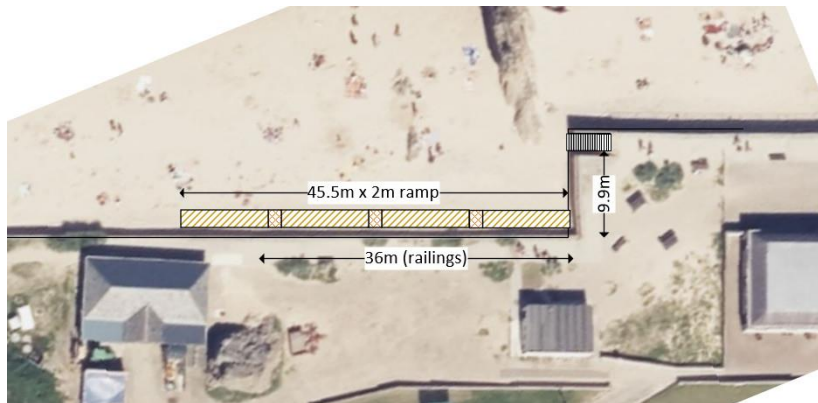
h. Ramp to beach

Correspondence from <https://friendlyaccess.org/> who run surfing sessions for the less abled details:

'At the moment we use our beach wheelchairs to access at the next set of steps, past the toilet block and the golf course shed! It's not perfect at all, the only way we have been able to make that safe is to use slings and a team of 3 or 4 volunteers to manually lift a surfer out of their beach chair and using the sling with handles, carry them up/down the steps. Lift the chair then transfer back to chair.'

Which makes a good case for a ramp.

Will Burnish has supplied a pdf of a plan for ramp modelled on the CDCC suggestion:



"The ramp would need to be constructed in with Building Standards in mind, it can be constructed from a range of materials such as wood, concrete or composites. The detail in option 3 (as attached) for the 45.5m long ramp with landings meets these requirements. Refer to the following website for more information: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-standards-technical-handbook-2023-non-domestic/>

The works are likely to need planning permission so I strongly advice that you make contact with the planning team. http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_41669.html

A concrete ramp may be preferable to match the surrounding defences, it will also provide longevity and resilience against the tidal conditions and storm activity we have been experiencing recently. Further investigation is required to clarify the depth to rock, or a solid foundation where the ramp will be laid. This could impact the length of the ramp depending on the depth to solid ground. I would also recommend that the existing railings along the upper platform are extended to past the end of the ramp and that an additional handrail is installed for the length of the ramp on the seaward edge.

Due to the nature of the works it would be best for a local Civil engineering contractor to undertake the works"

Following further correspondence from Jill Sowden and Stewart Black, Will Burnish wrote;

"Hi All

I can add some further detail on to what I think the reinforcement for the walls may look like, but for a proper structural design to be done I need a site investigation done to determine a few of the soil parameters to ensure that it won't just tip over.

The design I did was to fit within the existing walls to reduce construction and design risk.

With regards to having time to do any further work in this prior to a meeting is very limited. The whole team is very stretched. I can add some notes on enough to allow a contractor to give a good indication of the works will be and be able to put a budget price together.”

CDCC to ask Three Kings Association management group whether Three Kings Association is willing to manage this project as it is felt that there needs to be a single lead organisation (The CDCC have an election period of 4 years, with the current period expiring in September 2025. It may not be prudent to have a long-term project conducted by a group that have a defined end date, so it is the view of CDCC that the TKCA are better placed to oversee a project of that size).

i. Millenium Wood

At the last meeting it was agreed to contact Seafield Estates regarding current situation. David Greer responded that if the Trustees of the Millenium Wood were still happy to make the transfer (of title), then Seafield Estates would arrange the paperwork. After consulting with the Trustees, Bruce Edelsten confirmed this was still the case.

j. Aultmore Windfarm

CDCC received a pdf of the latest edition of the Aultmore Windfarm newsletter. CDCC has not received any representations about the proposed wind farm and, therefore, did not feel it was in a position to respond with an opinion. However, CDCC was being encouraged to respond, even if that response was ‘no comment’, and it was agreed this would be done.

k. Caledonia Offshore Windfarm

<https://www.caledoniaoffshorewind.com/>

CDCC received notification of a public consultation / exhibition for the proposal which is for a wind farm east of the Moray Firth ones and where cable landfall is proposed between Portsoy and Banff.

l. King’s Portrait

A portrait has been ordered. There will be two available, one for Cullen & one for Deskford. No word yet as to when those will be delivered.

m. Buckie Area Forum

Most recent meeting, via Zoom, was on 20 March. Possibly of interest are proposals to develop Buckie Harbour – note there is a presentation in the McBoyle Hall, Portnockie at 2.30 pm on 17 April.

n. UK Parliamentary Elections – potential hustings event.

All neighbouring community councils say they are interested in participating.

o. JCC

a. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup. A fuller update will be presented to the next JCC on 9 May. Though at this stage it is worth noting that there is agreement that there needs to be a re-aligning of the funding of Moray CCs as a whole. Various options have been discussed from simply requesting more funds from the MC, to altering the block grant and pro-rata rate to each Moray CC. Also under consideration is looking at those CC’s who are unable to access ‘free’ MC hall use and recognising that as being available from a separate funding pot.

b. CDCC received an e-mail which contained links to old Moray Council JCC minutes which showed this issue has been active since, at least 2010, and that the grant seems to have not changed since. If index linked, a £500 grant in 2010 would be £740 in 2024.

c. Next meeting Thursday 9 May

13. AOCB

Nothing

14. Dates for the calendar

JCC 9 May

15. Dates of next meetings

21 May 2024

18 June 2024

Meeting Closed 2010

DRAFT - inquorate meeting