



**Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council
20 February 2024
At Cullen Community and Residential Centre**

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 (on-line)

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

John Jappy (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

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

None

3. Outside Agencies Reports

a. Police

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

b. Cullen Fire and Rescue Service

John Jappy reported that Cullen's Fire and Rescue Service will be focussing on home cooking safety, and it is coming up to the wildfire season, both of which will be advertised on their social media pages, as will home safety visits. Recent call outs included assistance gaining entry in Cullen and a flat fire in Portsoy. While Graham Smith has moved on, there have been two new recruits. Within the next week or so the Christmas collection funds will be distributed.

John Jappy offered to supply leaflets for the afternoon tea and/or community lunches and, potentially, provide a talk.

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 16 January 2024

a. Corrections- none

b. Approval: Proposed by Less Tarr and seconded by Stewart Wilson

c. Matters arising not on agenda – none.

5. Chair's report

Colin Burch had included his feedback at the various points below. He would like to again thank all in Cullen & Deskford area who do a lot of good work to the good of others who live and visit our area.

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil Lovegrove reported the admin account has £510.45. Expenditure this month has been iCloud storage £0.99, printing costs of £18.97 and travel expenses of £25.64

Fundraising has £14734.88. Nothing spent this month.

£560 paid in for community lunches.

So allocated funds are £11641.03, made up of:

- £560 for community lunches
- £1500 ebus shelter
- £8926.61 SSE resilience
- £654.42 for Cullen Connected

Leaving £3093.85 for general use.

Bruce Edelsten noted he had renewed the CullenConnected.com domain.

7. Secretary's Report

Posted on Facebook during the past month:

- February issue of CullenConnected
- Survey about Scottish (temperate) Rainforests
- Presentation about the Cullen Auld Toon by Cullen and Deskford Heritage Group

All other relevant correspondence detailed below.

8. Planning Officer's report

- Ref. No: 23/02227/LBC Extension of lounge bar along with relocating glazed canopy from patio to the car park at Seafield Arms Hotel, 19 Seafield Street, Cullen, Buckie, Moray AB56 4SG
- Ref. No: 24/00073/APP Replace 2 No skylights on south elevation remove internal masonry wall and alter layout and fit new window between roof lines and formation of balcony at 103 Seatown, Cullen, Buckie, Moray, AB56 4SN
- Ref. No: 24/00076/APP Demolish existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwellinghouse at Homelea, 188 Seatown, Cullen, Buckie, Moray, AB56 4SJ

Stewart Wilson noted there was an objection from Moray Council, Flood Risk Management – see

https://publicaccess.moray.gov.uk/eplanning/files/8FC09A35F77C07C112CEED3CE8BD0020/pdf/24_00076_APP-MORAY_FLOOD_RISK_MANAGEMENT-1857806.pdf

- Ref. No: 24/00134/LBC Installation of electric stairlift to existing stairs at The Bellcot, Cullen House, Cullen, Buckie, Moray, AB56 4XW

9. Councillor's reports

Theresa Coull reported that the next big thing is the budget. Donald Gatt reported that the Market Cross has been granted conditional listing building consent and this has been passed to the intended contractor with an emphasis they have to liaise with Historic Scotland. Housing Committee, various other committees, and, as noted, the budget event on 28th Feb, and full

council on 6th March. Tracy Colyer reported she was getting ready for the budget day, and the budget for NHS Grampian.

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

Colin Burch and Bruce Edelsten attended the 3KA AGM on 29 January 2024

Jill Sowden reported:

Motor Home Stopover Site

The barrier still a problem - the number plate recognition wasn't working, but visitors are getting the code anyway and bookings are being done manually. There have been 59 bookings since the 1st of January – despite the weather.

The solar panels and batteries are now installed, so everything on phase one is now working. There are funding applications for phase two – 60% match funding is available, but the other 40% is being sought.

Winter warmers: afternoon teas. There were 51 people at the last one. Entertainment has been organised. There were visitors from the Care Homes, Wakefields and Parklands (Buckie), with some in wheelchairs, and kiddies from the play group, which worked well.

The Veterans Brunch went really well. Moray Archery Club came along, and, from that, archery groups may be formed for adults and children.

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, greyhounds (therapy dogs for veterans), and visual impairment exercises (exercises for teams to teach the issues of being visually impaired).

Active Start (for youngsters) starts after next community lunch, 27th February.

The recent cinema shows went well, showing Willy Wonka, and One Life.

Jill attended a Library Services Stakeholder Workshops. She subsequently queried Cullen Library's running costs, seeking a breakdown of costs, as the Three King's Association's board have expressed concern.

11. Deskford and District Community Association

Colin Taylor reported:

A new committee started in October 2023 with a broad range of folk including younger people. Financially quite insecure with a relatively small pot of money but quite a lot to do. The Jubilee Hall is up to spec and can be used with a capacity of 40. The main building has many issues – the roof leaks, as do many windows, the electrics have been condemned, but the roof will be fixed, and there may be temporary work rounds for the electrics, and some harling needs replacing. The Jubilee Hall is being advertised for events on a new Facebook page, and this has generated the first booking via that route. The committee don't want to mothball the main building because, if that happened, it might not open again. Even with the electrics off, the flower show could probably go ahead in August. On the financial side, there is a bid for lottery funds, but that requires match funding.

12. Current Business

a. Resilience Planning.

No update. However, the community centre's battery system is working.

b. Community Lunches

These continue to be well attended with more than 40 attending the most recent one. They are currently operating twice monthly. The frequency will be reviewed after March.

Volunteer time is valued, so a thank you to all who give their time.

c. E-bus shelter

Following a Teams meeting with Yvonne Joss, Development Officer, Moray Council, where options to make appropriate use of the funds were discussed, and replacing the Town Square notice board, and an information display in the Tourist Office seemed valid options, she e-mailed on 16 February enquiring about details of the current, damaged, notice board and whether the Tourist Office were able and willing to host an information screen. Colin Burch responded with images of the notice board and will respond further when he has been in contact with the Tourist Initiative people.

Colin has (since the above) spoken with the Tourist Office people, and they would be happy to host an information screen, though this would only be accessible during their opening hours. The window is not available for a screen due to a number of reasons such as the window panes size as well as hosting the old town clock.

Just prior to the meeting, CDCC received an email from Yvonne Joss seeking advice on any urgent capital works that could be carried out within the town centre (i.e. Cullen Square). Colin Burch agreed to contact the Millenium Garden Volunteer Group, and to check whether a replacement noticeboard can be funded.

d. CullenConnected

The February 2024 issue has been printed and circulated. CDCC thanks Marc Roy who typeset the most recent edition. Feedback (mostly verbal) continues to be good, with a rectification of previous concerns regards the type being too small. It is now deemed that the type size is now about right. This edition was 16 pages in length, with 1000 copies being printed each edition. The initial funding of this accounted for 8 pages in length. Funding for future editions will probably need to be sought or supported, otherwise articles will require to be reduced for future editions.

The Cullen Connected printer is a community printer, and as such, it is available to local groups and individuals to use in support of the Cullen Connected programme. There will be some boilerplate text in future editions to this effect.

e. Network bandwidth at Cullen Primary School

Colin Burch raised the topic at the Joint Community Council, and it was agreed CDCC would forward a query to other Moray Community Councils on the subject to identify whether this is a wide-ranging issue throughout Moray, rather than being isolated to Cullen Primary school.

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

This issue was raised at the Joint Community Council where officials from the roads department were making a presentation and CDCC was informed those officials had already met with Seafield Estates. Subsequent feedback from Seafield Estates suggested Moray Council Roads Dept are not enthusiastic about moving the 30mph sign uphill, and that there

is insufficient space beside the pavement for a crash barrier but suggested 'stippling' the road surface or anti-skid surface treatment to improve grip.

g. Ramp to 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. CDCC is waiting for information from Will Burnish, Senior Engineer, Moray Council who suggested there may be existing plans. It has been established that the area under consideration belongs to Moray Council.

Meanwhile, Jill Sowden produced plans showing two options. The plans were produced by Moray Council, possibly in 2019. Bruce Edelsten to query Moray Council.

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>

h. Road Closures

1. Seafield Rd for water works

Details will be posted on Facebook nearer the time.

2. In Berryhillock

Information passed to Deskford Community Association

i. Memorial Bench Requests

Following a request for a memorial bench on the path beside the caravan park towards Nelson's Viewpoint, CDCC received a land ownership map of the area and details of the administrative process where Moray Council will supply and install memorial benches on open space land managed by the Council.

CDCC have been approached consistently over previous years for assistance in placing memorial benches variously throughout Cullen. Open space land ownership in and around Cullen is largely either Seafield Estate or Moray Council (MC). MC are more rigorously implementing their policy of installing benches on their land by their own tradespersons at cost price. Installed benches principally being a choice of durable Glasdon benches. Individuals and local groups can still instal benches on MC land, though there requires to be Planning permission and a work-safe procedure agreed with MC prior to installation. Any future requests to CDCC for memorial benches will identify where a bench is requested to be placed and identify the owner of the land. If Seafield Estate or other private owner, permission will be sought then liaising between landowner, volunteer, or some other local group, to instal as requested. If the land is MC land, the requestor will then be direct to MC to arrange installation. The relevant department to approach will be Open Spaces, Environmental and Commercial Services. MC enquiry can be made at E-mail: landsandparks@moray.gov.uk, or Telephone 01343 543451.

j. Blocked Gullies – Victoria St

This issue was raised by the Fire and Rescue Service at the January CDCC meeting. Theresa Coull raised the issue with Moray Council Roads Maintenance, who produced a comprehensive report, with maps, of the issue. The correspondence has been forward to the Fire and Rescue Service.

Basically, cleaning is carried out on either an annual or 5 yearly basis depending on the individual gully's pot capacity. Some of the drains appear to be intricately linked to drains of various ages and subsequently, have 'responsibility' issues in respect of who clears them, i.e. MC or Scottish Water.

- k. Harbour Advisory Committee (HAC)
CDCC were canvassed for their opinion on whether the meetings should be during the day or the evening. CDCC's preference was for evening meetings. No date has yet been arranged for the next HAC meeting.
- l. Lurg Hill Wind Turbines
CDCC received notification that Lurg Hill Wind Farm Limited was acquired from Vento Ludens UK by EDP Renewables (EDPR) in July 2021 and EDPR will be in contact with local communities as the project progresses towards construction.
- m. Millenium Wood (Old Gravel Pit)
Jill Sowden enquired as to the location and of ownership the Millenium Wood (the old gravel pit to the west of Findlater Drive). Bruce Edelsten was able to pass on the relevant information.
- n. Sustainable Learning Estate
CDCC was invited to a presentation which would give an overview of the Buckie Associated School Groups (ASG) and inform CDCC on the engagement which is considering the sustainability of the current Learning Estate. CDCC passed the information on the Cullen Primary School, who had been invited to the same event at a different date. The events were then combined and CDCC was informed there would also be a drop-in event in Cullen Library on 27th February between 14.30 and 18.30.
- o. Plaque on Memorial Planter for Jimmy Mair
CDCC was contacted by the Millenium Garden Volunteer Group and CDCC agreed to fund a plaque.
- p. Blocked sewer at Cullen Square Toilets
CDCC was contacted by Alex Burrell (Estates Surveyor, Moray Council) who responded with the relevant contact details as the toilets are managed by the Friends of Cullen under the auspices of the Three Kings Association. It is understood the situation is now resolved.
- q. Road Safety Champions
Moray Council's Transportation section have been working on a new Road Safety Plan for Moray and are looking to engage with communities in a positive way to discuss road safety concerns and develop appropriate measures to address them. As part of the Plan, they are proposing that some members of Community Councils become Road Safety Champions to spread road safety messages in their communities and to share their communities' road safety concerns with the Council. Ideally it would be one member

from each community council. Response to emailing roadsafety@moray.gov.uk by 22 March 2024. Les Tarr may be willing to attend.

- r. UK Parliamentary Elections – potential hustings event
Colin Burch sent an email to the surrounding community councils: Buckie & District, Portknockie, Strathisla and Fordyce, Sandend & rural District (Aberdeenshire), and Findochty and District, asking whether they would be interested in becoming involved. There will very likely be a UK General election at some point in 2024, and in preparation for that, CDCC would like to hold a hustings event. At that election, the revised boundary changes will be implemented, and the area is much wider essentially going from Fochabers (river Spey) along the coast areas, through Fraserburgh, to Peterhead, and inland as far as Aberchirder and Keith. At time of meeting, none have confirmed, though in-person visits to Community Councils have still to be concluded.
- s. Joint Community Council (JCC)
 - i) Meeting via Zoom on 8 February.
The meeting spent the first ninety-five minutes on presentations before the remaining forty-five minutes was available for current business. CDCC may wish to suggest presentations are limited in time and quantity to allow the main business to proceed.
 - ii) Community Council funding
JCC Admin Grant sub-group met on Thursday 25 January in Fochabers. The JCC is looking for greater involvement from some of the smaller Moray Community Councils. Elgin CC have offered to host an event specifically to look at what can be done to more evenly distribute Moray CC funding. It is envisaged that this will look at meeting spaces, travel and other expenditure required for Community Councils to operate.

13. AOCB

- a. MC Councillors disbursement fund (<https://newsroom.moray.gov.uk/news/moray-council-allocates-gbp-15-000-to-be-spent-in-each-council-ward>)
Tracy Colyer detailed how the funds had been distributed.
- b. Tesco blue badge award: CDCC have monies from the TESCO blue badge to tackle food security. Discussions with the Cullen Nursery are underway to look at working with them in relation to using these monies. Preliminary discussions are looking at fruit trees and vegetable beds for the users to sustainably tackle food security into the future.
- c. Buckie Area Forum (BAF). CDCC and other groups within the Buckie Community High School Area have been requested to complete an updated application form. CDCC has done this.
- d. Free Portrait of His Majesty The King for Town, Parish and Community Councils and any public space buildings. To celebrate the new reign of His Majesty The King, the Cabinet Office announced a government funded voluntary scheme throughout the United Kingdom to allow public authorities to apply for a free, framed portrait.
See <https://tpc-portraitscheme.cubiquityonline.com/login?returnUrl=https%3a%2f%2ftpc-portraitscheme.cubiquityonline.com%2f>
- e. Moray Joint Integration Board
The Moray Integration Joint Board (IJB) is seeking to recruit people with a keen interest in health and social care to help steer its work to achieve best health, best care and best value services in partnership with the local community. To request a role description and application form, please email gram.hscmcorporate@nhs.scot . More information on the

IJB can be found on the Health & Social Care Moray website

<https://hscmoray.co.uk/index.html>

- f. Roles & Responsibilities of Trustees: regards governance of groups. Jill Sowden & Colin Burch are due to attend the event on Thursday 22 Feb 1030Hrs (other dates available through to September 2024), via TsiMoray <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/tsimoray-7864642811>

- g. Moray Climate Action Network

Events

- Sustainable Tourism Event: March 22nd - Join us for insightful discussions and presentations on sustainable tourism practices.
- Heating in Buildings Consultation Event: March 22nd (afternoon) - Participate in discussions about The Heat in Buildings consultation by the Scottish Government and provide your valuable input.
- Skills Training with Lesley Anne Rose: March 23rd (morning)
- "How to Bring Your Climate Story to Life" - Learn techniques to effectively communicate your climate story.
- "Writing that Creates a Sense of Place" - Enhance your writing skills to convey a sense of place in your climate-related content.
- Film Screening: "Everything Must Change" on March 13th - Join us for a free screening of this thought-provoking film, exploring interconnected crises and solutions.
- Sociocracy Event: March 25th - Discover the principles of sociocracy and explore alternative ways of running organisations. More details coming soon.

Funding

Moray CAN is committed to supporting projects that address climate change and contribute to the long-term well-being of our community. Details from TsiMoray

<https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=7e0a75f930db00734283afc7d&id=aacc68da7d>

14. Dates for the calendar

Detailed in AOCB

15. Dates of next meetings

19 March 2024 at Cullen Community and Residential Centre

16 April 2024 at Cullen Community and Residential Centre (TBC)

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, Seafield Estates Office, and posted on Facebook.