

**DRAFT**  
**Notes of meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council**  
**21 May 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  
Councillor Tracy Colyer  
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

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)  
Les Tarr  
Jill Sowden (Community Development Officer, Three Kings Cullen Association)  
John Jappy (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

3. Outside Agencies Reports

- a) Police Scotland report for April 2024 has been received.
- b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

John Jappy reported: Not much happening on the fire front. We will be promoting recruitment again for the station to keep numbers up, information can be found on [myjobscotland](https://myjobscotland), posters to be displayed in local shops or anyone interested can pop into the station on a Monday night 18.30-21.30 for more information. Below is a link for a survey that the service is currently running. This is to engage with all in the shaping of the services future and needs, it is open to all and takes minimal time to complete.

[https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/planning-and-performance/shaping-our-future-service-your-say/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR14r0rjYJApW\\_xlfmZG6cAEOF32UObTVMwm-Bv94GvU8-OD7GF9PvumAD8\\_aem\\_AenzQzljm1lg5mMLt1gdM7fPxNDaxg\\_q7hmvqlUNv1xS8RTlZrjXM9jUQ-qpviXGprmuKKj0gTiftM7EV3MvA\\_G9](https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/planning-and-performance/shaping-our-future-service-your-say/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR14r0rjYJApW_xlfmZG6cAEOF32UObTVMwm-Bv94GvU8-OD7GF9PvumAD8_aem_AenzQzljm1lg5mMLt1gdM7fPxNDaxg_q7hmvqlUNv1xS8RTlZrjXM9jUQ-qpviXGprmuKKj0gTiftM7EV3MvA_G9)

- c) Minutes of previous meeting held on 19 March 2024  
Notes from 16 April 2024
  - a. Corrections
  - b. Approval (only for 19 March 2024)
  - c. Matters arising not on agenda

Note: Debra Duke advised minutes and notes could be publish in draft form if annotated as such.

d) Chair's report

It is continuing to be a busy time for the CDCC. There are a number of requirements that CDCC are expected to undertake and to carry forward. Some of those are not being able to be carried forward due to members time constraints. Aspects such as Resilience planning, Local Place Plan, involvement with JCC subgroups, especially transport forum and Moray CC funding. These all take time and as such are not fully able to be followed by CDCC members. If there was a full complement of CDCC membership, CDCC would be able to participate more fully with these groups

e) Treasurer's Report

As of 19 May 2024, the Admin Account had £387.75 where recent expenditure had included Apple iCloud: 99p, Three Kings Association (room hire): £35.53, and JCC travel expenses: £24.20. The Fund-Raising Account had £22,351.46 which included a recent grant of £8,200 from Moray Council for town improvements; recent expenditure included Cullen Men's Shed: £150.00; Cullen Tourist Initiative: £100.00, and Three Kings Association: £283.06.

f) Secretary's Report

- a. Draft agenda and road closure notices have been published on Facebook.
- b. Other correspondence included in current business.

g) Planning Officer's report

24/00801/APP Demolish existing extension, erect extension, replace 3 No conservation rooflights, alter window to form door, remove cement render, pick and repoint external walls with replacement lime harl render/lime wash, replacement front door paint margins, and surface water soakaway at 33 Castle Terrace Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SD

h) Councillor's reports

Tracy Coyler reported the Integrated Joint Board is meeting to balance the budget. Attended a culture day for NHS Grampian discussing policy for where patients go for services. Full council Wednesday 22 May.

Donald Gatt reported there has been a briefing event on the Local Development Plan 2027 - the evidence report was presented to councillors. Attended the Moray Tenants Forum and the Moray Tennant Forum, Strategic Leadership Forum, Police, Fire and Rescue Services committee, various meetings with staff officers, Buckie Associate School Group (ASG) (Learning estate), new Forres Academy, and correspondence about Additional Needs Support (ASN)

Theresa Coull – Added planning meetings.

i) Community Development Officer's report / Three Kings Cullen Association – minutes  
Minutes from 25 April 2024 has been received.

Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer, update – 21 May 2024

**Motor Home Stopover Site**

Vehicle recognition system stopped working on 2 May for 10 days due to a network provider issue. Had been set to Vodafone but is now multi provider so it will pick up the strongest signal. The digital display, however, is not now working meaning you can't put the code in. It appears to be a problem with the sun causing the box and display to overheat. We have been fully booked at weekends for a few weeks and midweeks are filling up with the good weather. Summer holidays still looking pretty quiet at the moment. Tap fitment now

correct and working. I have been in touch with the Council regarding waste facilities and am awaiting the correct person to get back to me.

#### **Solar Panels – Phase 2 (roofs 1 & 3)**

Final completion report received and submitted to funders. All Feedback requirements for each of the funders completed. Early results are promising with all three meters going in reverse – SSE didn't believe us until we sent them a video!

#### **Paths for All**

Paths for All came for a visit this week to see the finished path and lighting at the Centre. They raised a few concerns about the access at the start and end of the path but appreciated that they didn't form part of our application and others had done as we had. They are changing their next round of funding to make sure the wider area is included in the project. We were already aware of safety issues with vehicles and pedestrians, but she advised undertaking a risk assessment as soon as possible which I have started to do. I have spoken to Yvonne Joss who deals with Town Centre funding for the Council, to see if there was any funding available to help us and although there is no town centre funding remaining, she has asked me for costs and quotes to see if she can find any funding to help elsewhere. Given what happened in Balmedie last night, I am treating this as urgent.

#### **Awards for All – Eat and Meet/Lunches and Teas**

Still a bit of funding remaining so am looking to see possibility of more Active Start Sessions which went down very well and has now finished. Lottery happy to fund a "thank you" trip out during May for the volunteers who work at the Community Lunch and Afternoon Tea. They are going to Gordon Castle next Wednesday for Afternoon Tea and a guided tour of the Garden.

#### **Wimbledon Strawberries**

I'm looking at doing simple strawberry tart/scone afternoons in the TV lounge the first two weeks of July, Monday to Friday from 1.00pm – 4.00pm ish to tie in with Wimbledon Fortnight. We can have the TV or Video showing the games and people can come and go as they wish. One of our volunteers who holds a food hygiene certificate has kindly priced up making tarts and scones and we think we can host the events to fundraise either by charging or through donation. This would help fill the void for people who came to the Afternoon Teas and be open to anyone. Our Career Ready student has a food hygiene certificate and will be here that fortnight helping with our forthcoming community engagement so would be a good tie in for her.

#### **Tesco Funding**

Application for Equipment and Materials for a Youth Hub submitted

#### **Archery Group**

Going well and we had 16 (max 18) at the session last week – cancelled this week due to a residential. I've applied to Aldi for funding for equipment. We are going to charge £3 per session which will make the group self-sustaining.

- j) Deskford and District Community Association – minutes  
CDCC received the draft minutes from 14 April 2024  
Colin Taylor talked the meeting through recent developments, proposed future events, funding streams, and future bookings at the Deskford halls.

- k) Current Business
- a. Memorial Benches

A memorial bench has been installed at Nelsons point. The family have donated to the Cullen Volunteer group for the installation of the bench. A reminder to all that permission from relevant landowners is required before the installation of memorial benches.
  - b. Local Place Plan

The Cullen & Deskford community are consultees on future planning and aspirations for our area. If there is no input from the Community, Moray Council are under an obligation to feed into the Moray-wide plan for each area. Planning Officers will, if asked, arrange consultation workshops. CDCC will liaise with other local community organisations with a view to doing a consultation with the local community in respect of a Local Place Plan.
  - c. Resilience Planning

There is work to do in conjunction with Three Kings Cullen Association (TKCA) and the Deskford Halls management group.
  - d. Community Lunches

They are still being regularly attended by around 40 persons. The lunches are operating monthly on last Wednesday of the month until October. Due to the Cullen Community Centre having a residential group in residence, the May (29th) Community lunch will be at Deskford hall. The M-connect service will be providing a minibus transfer service on the day. The Community lunch volunteers are being offered a 'thank you' afternoon tea at Gordon Castle. This is in recognition of the time that the volunteers all provide to the smooth operation of the Community lunch. Moray Council are hosting a session at Portgordon for support groups such as the Community lunch. Three of the Cullen Community lunch volunteers who have expressed an interest in attending this event.
  - e. E-bus shelter (benches and planters)

The funds from the no longer viable E-bus shelter project are being diverted to other Cullen town projects including heritage style bollards along Seafeld Street (done), picnic benches at the Mediki area (ordered), replacement barrel planters in the town centre (ordered), as well as replacing the broken glass on the noticeboard in the Square. It is hoped that further benefits for Cullen town will be provided from the funds.
  - f. CullenConnected

The next edition of the newsletter will be collated and distributed end of May / beginning of June. Funding for the newsletter is getting tight. Other streams of funding will require to be sought. A wee reminder that using the printer at the Community centre will help with funding the newsletter. Also, there is the need to more accurately establish the effect that the newsletter is having on the local community. A small, low-level assessment will be produced - possibly in the form of a simple, quiz. It is envisaged that there will be a small financial incentive to encourage participation, probably in the form of a gift card of the winner's choice.
  - g. Ramp to beach

See notes from April. Decision required as to whether 3KA can take this on as a project. Secretary to email 3KA secretary.

- h. King's Portrait  
It has been received and will be hung in the Community Centre. There is another one which will be hung in Deskford Community Hall
- i. Millenium Wood  
Transfer of ownership to Seafield Estates in progressing.
- j. Moray Transport Forum  
A representative from the Moray Transport Forum has attended the Community lunch over the last few months. The Moray Transport Forum is a sub-group of the Moray JCC. Its role is to work with local transport providers in ensuring an adequate public transport service is available throughout Moray. Any transport concerns can be put to them via the CDCC
- k. Community Council Elections September 2025  
The next election is over a year away, but CDCC needs to advertise and promote itself to try and increase the number of community councillors.  
Bruce Edelsten circulated a photograph of a 'what we do' from the Oldmeldrum community council notice board and it was agreed to prepare something similar for Cullen. Also agreed to take a table at the next Sea School Gala (date to be confirmed), and the next CullenConnected can contain a 'Cullen needs you' advert.
- l. UK Parliamentary Elections – potential hustings event.  
Work with neighbouring Community Councils will be undertaken to establish if there is a viable option for our area. There are potential issues in relation to a single venue and ensuring that people are able to get there on a particular time. There will be a meeting with neighbouring CC's to establish the whole viability, though they have all intimated a willingness to be involved.
- m. Joint Community Council (JCC)  
Meeting in Elgin on 9 May 2024. On the agenda was Lord Lieutenancy update, Local Development Planning presentation by MC representative, feedback from subgroups, most notably a request for smaller Moray Community Councils to be involved with the admin grant funding group as they are most adversely affected by the current method of funding of Moray Community Councils.
  - a. Network bandwidth at Moray Primary Schools  
A request for feedback has been forwarded to the JCC.
  - b. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup  
Next proposed meeting Thursday 8 August 2024
  - c. Review of Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils  
Bruce Edelsten has volunteered to be on a sub-group.
- l) AOCB
  - a. Drain and mains  
Scottish Water was approached in relation to overflowing drain in the Square. Scottish Water also approached in relation to underground water breaching the road surface on Seafield Street. Secretary to email Scottish Water expressing concern about the condition of the water mains within Cullen.
  - b. Harbour Advisory Committee meeting 22 May  
The lease of the harbour toilets was extensively discussed at the previous HAC meeting and likely to be raised as an issue at the meeting.

- c. Local Walking Action Plan  
Cullen has an extensive, and possibly enviable, network of paths and tracks – some created and maintained by the Volunteer Group, some, in the woods, by Seaford Estates, the Sustrans funded path along the viaduct which is the start, or finish of the [Moray Way](#), the green signposted (though the posts are rotting away) routes described on [DiscoverCullen](#), and lots of walks logged by hikers – such as [this](#), [this](#), and [this](#). See <https://www.pas.org.uk/news/stepping-up-could-your-community-benefit-for-a-local-walking-action-plan/> Jill Sowden has offered to take this on.
- d. Cemeteries  
A member of the public raised concerns about mowing at cemeteries. Donald Gatt informed the meeting that, following input from Nicola Moss (Head of Environmental Services, Moray Council), the issue has mostly been the weather, persistent rain, saturated ground and a high water table delaying grass cutting and strimming then, after two weeks of dry warm weather, rapid growth.
- e. Traffic incorrectly entering and the leaving the northern, downhill, entrance of the west side of the square – despite the signage.  
Chair to email Diane Anderson (Transportation Service, Moray Council)

- m) Dates for the calendar  
29 May - Cullen Community lunch (at Deskford hall)  
29 May - Deskford management group meeting

- n) Dates of next meetings  
18 June 2024, Cullen / Deskford (TBC)  
20 August 2024, Cullen

Meeting finished 20:18