



**Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council  
18 June 2024  
At Deskford Community Hall**

Present:

Colin Burch (Chair)

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Stewart Wilson

Les Tarr

Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer, Three Kings Cullen Association

Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association

Ailidh Milne, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Andrew Castles, Coffee at the Kings

**1. Welcome and introductions**

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

**2. Apologies**

Phil Lovegrove, Treasurer

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

Councillor Tracy Colyer

**3. Outside Agencies Reports**

a. Police Scotland reports for June 2024 has been received.

b. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Ailidh Milne's report covered: burning prevention and fire prevention in anti-social behaviour being covered in social media; recruitment – big push on that, going to Cullen Primary School to try and catch the parents; recruitment sign on the A98 coming in from Portsoy; female recruitment night six will be call advertised on social media; six fire calls in the past month – two Activated Fire Alarms (AFAs), one kitchen fire, one flooding, one gaining entry, and one unlawful fire raising which the police are dealing with.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 19 March 2024**

Notes from 16 April 2024 (non-quorate)

Notes from 21 May 2024 (non-quorate)

a. Corrections

b. Approval (only for 19 March 2024)

Approved by Lyra Wilson, seconded by Colin Burch

c. Matters arising not on agenda

None

Agreed to publish the notes from 16 April and 21 May with the 'inquorate' watermark.

**5. Chair's report**

Nothing specific – all within main business

**6. Treasurer's Report**

Phil Lovegrove reported in absentia:

The Admin account has £356.76. Expenditure this month has been £30 for hall use and £0.99 for iCloud storage.

Fundraising account has £15,838.31 which includes £8,200 from Moray Council for town improvements and £176.16 coming from Tesco blue badge award.

Expenditure this month has been £6,513.15, £3,000 was loan to TKCA from SSE resilience fund.

This leaves £13344.46 of allocated funds and £2493 of unallocated funds

7. Secretary's Report

All recent correspondence included in current business.

8. Planning Officer's report

Ref. No: 24/00902/LBC Repairs in form of concrete infills to north pier and quay wall at Cullen Harbour Cullen Moray

CDCC to put in a 'no-comment' comment.

Ref. No: 24/00928/APP Erect sun lounge to rear of Seaview 242 Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SN

9. Councillors' reports

No reports submitted

10. Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer's report / Three Kings Cullen Association Minutes from 30 May 2024 had been received.

Jill Sowden talked the meeting through recent activities including:

- Outfall pipe east of harbour (also see below) – Jill Sowden had received further information which she will forward to CDCC.
- Solar panels – all funding in place and all working well. On a nice sunny day, the meters go backwards. There is a need to identify a circuit which can remain on in case of power failure and be powered from the backup batteries,
- Motor home site – booking pitches consecutively, or parking on the wrong pitch, is causing issues. Otherwise, going well with a full site on many nights, and bookings for 2025.
- Web sites – looking at revamping both the 3KCA and motorhome web sites.
- Starting to look at community engagement – Jill visited Bogtown farm as part of National Farms Open Day and met National Farmers Union (NFU) representatives to talk about the mental health of farmers many of whom work in isolation, without human contact in a remote location, possibly for days on end. NFU say they cannot find anyone in Moray to work with, so Jill, who has worked Networks for Wellbeing with forces veterans, aims to get something started with 3KCA which could include support for literacy levels or IT skills.
- Strawberry teas – Wimbledon fortnight, Monday to Friday, at the community centre.
- A volunteer looking at setting up a pre-school café in the ex-play-group room.
- Ramp to beach – 3KCA would be interested taking on the project, but funding would be an issue especially as it could be an expensive project.
- Archery – potentially open out to the wider public.

- Social Prescribing – potential for growing space at the community centre and looking at GP signposting to the community centre. Gardening being the obvious occupation, though the growing space at the community centre needs to be improved.

#### 11. Deskford and District Community Association

Colin Taylor talked the meeting through recent activities at Deskford. The main building has been completely rewired and can be used. The little hall is going great guns, and the big hall has only just got going. Local fund raising continues, but the association needs four big events each year to fund the association and needs to make about £2,000 each year. However, the association is solvent and has money in the bank. Agreed not to increase the rental charges.

Discussion of potential uses for sheep fleeces including weed suppressant, mulch, insulation and spinning.

#### 12. Current Business

- a. UK Parliamentary Elections – hustings event 20 June  
In conjunction with adjacent community councils in Aberdeenshire and Moray, the Hustings is planned to take place in Hall Church, York Place, Cullen on Thursday 20 June. Currently, four out of the five candidates have indicated they will attend. Posters have been prepared and distributed and a Facebook Event has been shared amongst the community councils.
- b. Repair to sewage outfall  
CDCC received notification of request by Scottish Water for a marine licence for repairs to the sewage outfall to the east of the harbour. The on-line chart was of too small a scale to determine exactly where, and this was clarified by updated charts and annotated aerial view. 3KCA (for the motor home stop over site) and the Sea School were notified, as they could be affected. 3KCA made further enquiries and it is likely work will not start until later this year or in 2025.
- c. Holiday homes – rubbish disposal  
Colin Burch received a phone call from a resident who was concerned about overflowing waste bins at a property used as a holiday let and, in turn, he contacted Moray Council's Environmental and Commercial Services who contacted the property owner.
- d. Radio Scotland – Out of Doors 6 July  
Colin Burch was contacted by the BBC who intend an Out of Doors outside broadcast on Saturday 6 July and were enquiring about access to power and a possible Internet connection. Colin met the sound technician at the beach on 18 June. The meeting started to compile a list of potential outdoor groups who might be relevant and interesting for the program.
- e. SSEN Community Benefit Fund  
The SSEN Transmission community fund will open for applications on 1 September 2024, with an initial £2m up for grabs.
- f. Memorial Benches  
Another request for a memorial bench dealt with by Colin. This one replaced one on the Mediki Ley.
- g. Local Place Plan  
A "Call for Sites" for the new Local Development Plan is currently open until Friday 23rd August 2024. This is an opportunity for individuals, landowners, developers and any other interested parties to submit proposed development sites for the new Local Development Plan. See [http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_155545.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_155545.html)
- h. Resilience Planning

CDCC agreed to lend 3KCA £3,000 to complete electrical work on the solar panel / battery storage system.

- i. Community Lunches  
Currently the last Wednesday of the month. The May one in Deskford Jubilee Hall was well attended, though the m.connect bus was not as well subscribed as had been hoped. The next one is on 26 June in Cullen.
- j. E-bus shelter project - diverted fund for benches, planters, etc.  
CDCC received funds from Moray Council for town centre enhancements including replacing picnic benches at the Midiki Ley and barrel planters. The notice board at the square, which needs the glass replacing, has not yet been repaired.
- k. CullenConnected newsletter  
The summer edition was printed, collated and distributed at the beginning of the month. Thanks to all those who contributed and who helped distribute it.
- l. Ramp to beach  
Bruce Edelsten wrote to 3KCA asking whether they could take on this project (see above, report from Jill Sowden)
- m. Millenium Wood  
No further updates
- n. Harbour Advisory Committee  
Colin Burch and Bruce Edelsten attended a Harbour Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday 22 May in the McBoyle Hall, Portknockie.
- o. Community Council Elections 2025 – community awareness  
Suggested CDCC and other relevant parties meet over the summer to discuss who to promote citizen engagement with CDCC.
- p. Joint Community Council (JCC)  
Next proposed meeting Thursday 8 August 2024
  - a. Transport Forum
  - b. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup
  - c. Review of Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils

### 13. AOCB

- a. Digital Hubs  
CDCC received notification of a Moray Council Digital Infrastructure project which is currently looking at ways Moray Council can support community owned managed assets to act as digital hubs. See <https://scvo.scot/support/digital/inclusion/doing-digital-inclusion/approach/place-based-digital-inclusion>  
Bruce Edelsten will be attending an on-line Teams briefing session in July.
- b. Sauna at the Kings  
Andrew Castles talked the meeting through a proposal for a barrel shaped wood fired sauna at the beach, sited near the golf course greenkeeper's building. The site appears to where beach huts had previously been sited so the ground didn't need any preparation other than removing a thin layer of sand and weeds and could easily be returned to that state. It will have eight seats. Still working through licencing agreement with Moray Council but hoping to be live by mid-July. Hours of operation will generally be tied in with the availability of the, mostly, young mums, who will be operating it. The meeting discussed the benefits of Cullen as a destination, of the benefits Cullen had in promoting mental health, physical and mental well-being. The meeting expressed support for the venture.
- c. Sea School Gala  
CDCC intends attending the Sea School Gala.
- d. Digital Infrastructure Project

CDCC received notification of a Digital Infrastructure Project which aims to reduce digital poverty and exclusion whilst increasing business productivity. The main objectives being to raise awareness of financial support to improve connectivity; build community capacity to provide digital support services and leverage external funding.

This is of greater relevance to those in rural areas where wired broadband is not available or, if it is, it too slow or unreliable, so the information was forwarded to Deskford Community Association and information was posted on Facebook. The Moray Council web pages are useful.

[http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_155119.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_155119.html)

14. Dates for the calendar

20 June - General Election hustings event

4 July - UK general Election

16 July - CDCC no monthly meeting, unless there is anything that requires a meeting, though it was agreed to have development meeting over the summer.

8 August - JCC meeting

15. Dates of next meetings

20 August 2024 in Cullen

17 September 2024 in Cullen

Meeting finished 21.00