



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

**Present:**

Colin Burch (Chair)  
Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)  
Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)  
Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)  
Stewart Wilson (planning)  
Les Tarr  
Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association  
John Jappy (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)  
Councillor Theresa Coull  
Councillor Donald Gatt  
Councillor Tracy Colyer

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies  
Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer (Cullen and Deskford)
3. Outside Agencies Reports
  - a. Police Scotland reports for June and July 2024 had been received. Nothing of particular concern for Cullen and Deskford. NB: CDCC are not permitted to publish the information provided via these reports as they are for Community Council information only.
  - b. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
John Jappy reported – The Sea School Gala was attended in July where some water safety stuff was done alongside the Coastguard people. Coming up, there will be some drop-in sessions at the station aimed at recruitment which will be advertised on social media and via posters. This month the force will be focussing on countryside and outdoor safety – again advertised via social media. Incident-wise, nothing in the Cullen, Deskford and Portnockie area.
4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 18 June 2024
  - a. Corrections - none
  - b. Approved by Stewart Wilson and seconded by Less Tarr
  - c. Matters arising not on agenda - none
5. Chair's report  
The break over the summer allowed CDCC time to look forward as the current CDCC session ends in September 2025 and CDCC needs to raise its profile which could inspire others to become involved with

CDCC either during the last year of the current session in 2025 and/or the following 2025 - 2029 session.

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil Lovegrove reported:

The Admin account has £603.19. Since meeting in June expenditure has been 2 x £0.99 for iCloud storage, ICO direct debit of £35, DDCA £20 for use of hall and £10 to Three Harbours Association for table at Cullen gala. We received MC grant of £314.13. (50%)

The Fundraising account has £11766.82. Since June expenditure has been £269.16 to Greens Nurseries for Millennium Garden plants, £325.70 for Cullen Connected printing, £4410.79 to Seivwright Brothers for bench plinths (which were provided through re-diverted funds from the E-bus shelter project and originated from the Town Centre regeneration fund administered by Moray Council) and £10 to DDCA for hall use for community lunches.

Income has been a £250 refund from TKCA for use of hall for community lunches, 2 x £250 from TKCA as loan repayments, £100 contribution towards bench installation, £30 from Lib Dem's towards hustings event and £22.50 from Fordyce and Sandend Community Council for same.

Allocated funds are:

£1578.56 for town centre regeneration fund

£6426.61 SSE resilience fund (£2500 still owed by TKCA)

£1140 for community lunches etc.

Unallocated funds are £2626.35

7. Secretary's Report

Correspondence included in current business.

8. Planning Officer's report

24/01079/APP demolish existing garage and erect rear extension at 35 Ogilvie Park Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4XZ  
(CDCC has registered interest)

24/00744/APP Replace windows and asbestos roof with natural slates at 104 Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SN

9. Councillor's reports

Tracy Colyer reported – All the councillors attended the Keith Show; attended full council meeting; visited the Blackhillock Substation; joined, with MSP Maree Todd, a ministerial tour of Moray health and social care properties; met two fellows who raised £18.5K for Moray Resource Centre by motor cycling Lands End to John 'O Groats in under 24 hours.

Donald Gatt – Attended Police and Fire & Rescue Services committees and the full cycle of other committees has started. There seems to be a notable upswing of people reporting anti-social behaviour, ranging from barking dogs to criminality.

Theresa Coull – much the same as Donald Gatt. The budgeting cycle starts on Wednesday 21 August.

The councillors thanked CDCC for organising the hustings event.

10. Community Development Officer's report / Three Kings Cullen Association – minutes  
Minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> August received.

#### **Community Development Officer's Update for 20 August 2024 Community Centre**

Funding applications being submitted for environmental improvements to four rooms within the centre to include insulation and lining (Coffee Bar, TV Lounge, Radio Buckie room and former Playgroup Room). Funding also sought to drop the ceiling in the former Playgroup Room, create a second entrance and install a disabled toilet to bring the room back into use as a Community Hub, to include cafe facilities to complement support activities within the room.

Funding application being submitted for acoustic wall panels for the Sports Hall to allow for increased use to host concerts, theatre etc

#### **Motorhome Site**

Going well – full much of the time, particularly weekends

#### **Empty Shops**

Met with David McCubbin and a rep of Moray Town Centre Taskforce to look at the number of vacant units in Cullen and how best to promote opportunities to prospective businesses.

#### **Farmers**

Waiting to hear back from NFU and will then arrange first meeting with all interested parties (most likely online).

#### **Counter Terrorism**

Been in touch with the Police re advice on what to do in the event of a knife or gun attack. Counter Terrorism Officers have got back to me with several useful links to their site but also with the offer to come out to speak to us about specifics if that is what we want. This would include the whole community including businesses/hotels etc. Any premises with capacity to hold 100 people (standard tier), by law (Martyn's Law following the Manchester Arena bombing), has to undertake a security risk assessment and make staff/boards/responsible persons aware of procedures. I've quickly looked at the Community Centre and escape routes are not necessarily obvious so will do a full assessment.

#### **Community Engagement**

Took the opportunity to host a stand at the Gala and together with our intern from the Career Ready programme spoke to people about their priorities for Cullen. Top priorities were Community Activities and Feeling Safe – both from a positive point of view – people were happy with the activities and felt safe and wanted both to stay that way. Spoke to 53 people and the results will be taken forward and looked at in greater detail as the engagement progresses.

11. Deskford and District Community Association – minutes  
Colin Taylor talked the meeting through recent activities at the Deskford Community Halls including properties developments, fundraising, past and future planned activities, newsletters, social media and correspondence,
12. Current Business
  - a. Local Place Plan  
The closing date for proposals is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024.  
See [http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_155545.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_155545.html)  
NB this will be implemented anyway without CDCC input. To be removed from agenda.
  - b. Resilience Planning  
The fundraising account has £6462 for this project. The topic to be included in next edition of CullenConnected.
  - c. Community Lunches  
Currently on the last Wednesday of the month but will revert to weekly or fortnightly, probably in October.
  - d. E-bus shelter (benches and planters)  
Outstanding items include adding plaques to the benches and replacing the glass in the town centre notice board after which this item can be removed from the agenda.
  - e. SSEN Powering Communities to Net Zero Fund 2024  
Community Councils have received notification of this fund which opens on 31 August 2024  
<https://www.ssen.co.uk/news-views/2024/SSEN-opens-applications-for-new-3m-community-fund/>  
<https://www.ssen.co.uk/about-ssen/our-communities/powering-communities-to-net-zero-fund/>
  - f. CullenConnected  
Moray Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund is due to open soon.  
<https://tsimoray.org.uk/funding/moray-communities-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>  
And CDCC is looking to make an application for two year's funding of the newsletter. A thank you to all involved in making CullenConnected happen – it has received good feedback.  
Next edition should be during September 2024.
  - g. Ramp to beach  
Nothing to report
  - h. Millenium Wood  
Nothing to report
  - i. Storm overflow repairs  
Catchment Moray Ltd (CML) has completed a drone survey of its outfalls and has identified a number of issues that will require repairs. The latest surveys have identified 6 locations, including Cullen, that require remedial works at the earliest practicable opportunity, which, due to the licensing process, CDCC was informed, is expected to be Spring 2024(?).

- j. Harbour Gala  
CDCC had a stand at the Cullen Harbour Gala on Sunday 21 July 2024. A short survey was undertaken by CDCC at the Gala. Results from the responses will be collated in due course.
- k. Poverty in Moray  
Colin circulated a report from Iain Sneddon, Research and Information Officer at Moray Council, which provides a view of poverty in Moray based on local and national data (such as benefits & grants levels, foodbank use etc). It was agreed for Cullen to offer to host the next meeting of the Support Hub Forum at which Iain Sneddon will present his findings. The offer has not yet been taken up.
- l. Aultmore Windfarm (Vattenfall) update  
Colin Burch and representatives from the Cullen Three Kings Association met with Ruth Liddicoat and Lucy Blake on Monday 22 July at the Community Centre for an update on the proposed wind farm. Nothing particular to report as it was more of a catch-up meeting. Important to keep up the rapport with them as there is potential for community benefits to the CDCC area. Deskford Halls also opened a dialogue.
- m. Growing Food Together Fund 2024  
Debra Duke (Moray Council Community Council Liaison Officer) forwarded an email: 'Funded by the Scottish Government, Green Action Trust (under the Central Scotland Green Network banner) have up to £100,000 available to support community growing groups across Scotland. Further information can be found here - [Green-fingered communities to benefit from food growing funding](#) - Central Scotland Green Network.  
Projects that are eligible to be funded are those that support community food growing projects that include, but are not limited to, elements of:
- Setting up a community growing area where the land has been set aside for this purpose
  - Installing physical infrastructure such as raised beds or polytunnels
  - Source materials and equipment to prepare sites for growing
  - Purchase or lease of tools and equipment
  - Make the site safe for growing e.g. installing fences, ensuring accessible access
  - Soil analysis testing and site research
  - Site feasibility studies or design work
  - Learning and training opportunities to increase knowledge about food growing
- The email was forwarded to Jill Sowden who has forwarded the information to others.
- n. SCVO Presentation - Place based digital inclusion  
Bruce Edelsten attended a presentation about the process(es) used by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) with a) a group, an organisation, a community, an area, etc., to b) identify the needs, requirements, resources, assets etc. of (a), for c), a plan, a project, a way forward, etc., to promote digital inclusion. This

process could identify a pathway to promote better digital inclusion within Cullen and, having done so, would provide a case for any subsequent funding bids.

- o. TsiMoray Funding Roadshow  
CDCC attended a TsiMoray promoted funding roadshow at the Community Centre on 25 July 2024. Present at the roadshow were representatives from Moray Local Action, Moray Climate Action Network, Just Participatory Budgeting, And Community Mental Health and Wellbeing.
- p. Speeding on North and South Castle St  
During July dash cam footage was posted on Facebook showing a vehicle having travelled south up North Castle Street, speeding over the junction outside the Co-op, leaving the ground while doing so. Copy of the video was forwarded to CDCC who contacted the police who have informed CDCC that they 'have a person of interest' in relation to the incident. CDCC wishes to thank the people who brought incident to the attention of CDCC.
- q. Disabled Parking – Statutory Consultation  
CDCC received notification of a proposal to introduce a new Traffic Regulation Order which will have the effect of updating the existing Road Traffic Regulation Order in line with the current requirements. This will make a number of existing on street advisory Disabled Parking Places enforceable throughout the Moray area and ensure that the abuse of such spaces in residential areas is reduced. The notification included a list of current Disabled Parking Spaces in Moray, including the ones in Cullen. See also [http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_154601.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_154601.html) Comments to Moray Council by 26th August 2024.
- r. Auld Kirk  
CDCC were approached by David McKay (Press and Journal) about the future of the Auld Kirk. After consulting with others, CDCC responded with a prepared statement, 'Cullen Auld Kirk is an asset to Cullen. The disposal of the Auld Kirk is solely a matter for the Church of Scotland (CofS). CDCC hope that the CofS will consider its historical value to Cullen when the Auld Kirk is passed on.' It is known that the Auld Kirk is an active 'project' for the Portsoy based North East Scotland Preservation Trust <https://nespt.org/>.
- s. Census Stats  
Jill Sowden forwarded figures from the most recent census
 

Total population	1,239		
Population (under 16)	202		
Population (over the age of 16)	1,037		
No aged 55 - 64	- 207	Women - 113	Men - 90
No aged 65 - 74	- 216	Women - 109	Men - 106
No aged 75 - 84	- 167	Women - 97	Men - 73
No aged over 85	- 63	Women - 44	Men - 15

(Discrepancy in figures due to some people not declaring sex)  
Therefore 53% of the population are aged over 55.  
The total population of 1,239 is a bit lower than the approximate figure of 1,500 generally quoted, though that may include Deskford.
- t. Community Council Elections 2025



CDCC held an informal meeting on 16 July 2024 to discuss ways to generate greater community interest and involvement with CDCC.

- u. JCC (meeting on 8 August 2024)
  - a. Transport Forum (13 August 2024). CDCC could not attend, though have asked to be kept informed.
  - b. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup (21 August 2024) – Les Tarr and Colin Burch attending.
  - c. Review of Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils. Feedback has been requested from all Moray Community Councils.

### 13. AOCB

- a. It was agreed CDCC would approach Cullen’s voluntary sector and other groups in the area requesting to be kept informed via their minutes.
- b. Tractor charity run  
CDCC was asked about using the links carpark for a stop-over of a tractor charity run. CDCC considered the Seatown seafront more appropriate. Drone footage of the stop-over showed that area as probably more suitable.
- c. Replacement streetlights in Olgive Park and Findlater Drive.  
Stewart Wilson queried why the tarmacking in Olgilvie Park has not been finished. Donald Gatt will pursue.
- d. Hustings event  
Discussion about how a hustings is funded; by the candidates, by the host, or shared between the host(s) and candidates. It was agreed charging was appropriate but would need to be documented and candidates, their agents, and/or supporting community councils kept informed. The Scottish parliamentary elections are scheduled for May 2026.

### 14. Dates for the calendar

- Friday 23 August 7pm at Inchberry Hall - Impact on local areas due to wind farms, battery storage facilities, and associated infrastructure.
- Wednesday 28 August - Deskford & District Community Association (Deskford halls) group meeting

### 15. Dates of next meetings

- 17 September 2024 (at Deskford)
- 15 October 2024 (AGM)