



Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council
19 November 2024
By Zoom

Present:

Colin Burch (Chair)
Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)
Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)
Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)
Stewart Wilson (Planning and Resilience)
Les Tarr
Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association
Councillor Theresa Coull
Councillor Donald Gatt

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
Councillor Tracy Colyer
John Jappy, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer (Cullen and Deskford)
3. Outside Agencies Reports
 - a. Police Scotland report
Community Councils should now expect a quarterly report.
 - b. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
John Jappy reported in absentia: Not much happening over the last month. This month we will be attending the Christmas lights switch on in the square with the appliance, where we will be promoting fire safety, and recruitment. This year's Xmas charity collection will take place on 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th of December, times and locations will be advertised on station social media pages nearer the time. This month's focus will be on festive safety and, again, this will be advertised on station social media pages. CDCC thanked John Jappy for submitting his report.
4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 15 October 2024
 - a. Corrections - None
 - b. Approval – proposed by Lyra Wilson and seconded by Stewart Wilson
 - c. Matters arising not on agenda - None
5. Chair's report
Not much wider feedback to report other than the library review coming out of the blue. I attended the Moray Council budgeting review workshop in Elgin on 7 November, to discover that it had been cancelled due to lack of participants. I had missed the E-mail confirming the cancellation. MC Budgeting review feedback can be found at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_157435.html . There is the Moray Pathways fund due to open soon (<https://www.moraypathways.co.uk/community-space-fund>) . This fund is to provide greater access to Community spaces and to address digital exclusions. Can CDCC members have a wee look at the criteria for this

fund and decide if there is anything that CDCC can/should apply to? I will ensure that this information is available to TKCA also. (also see AOCB)

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil Lovegrove reported the Admin account has £423.77. Expenditure this month has been £0.99 for iCloud storage and £30 to TKCA for last month's hall use.

The Fundraising account has £13572.83. No expenditure this month. Income of £250 from TKCA as loan repayment, and £485 from community lunches.

This gives us £2518.68 in unallocated funds and £11054.15 in allocated funds.

Breakdown of allocated funds is:

- SSE resilience fund £7176.61
- Town centre regeneration monies of £1578.61
- Community lunches £2298.93

CDCC have received a letter from the Bank of Scotland noting the account will be changing to a community account with a monthly account fee of £4.25 and transaction charges for items such as cheques and cash deposits and withdrawals. The treasurer was instructed to look at alternative banking options.

<https://business.bankofscotland.co.uk/assets/pdf/bos-account-charges-processing-times-4500484-7.pdf>

7. Secretary's Report

Subsumed with the text

8. Planning Officer's report

Nothing to report

9. Councillor's reports

Donald Gatt reported: Attended housing and community safety committee; involved in the recruitment of new permanent chief executive; normal run of committees and budget forums; there has been a huge amount of correspondence about libraries.

Theresa Coull reported: Attended corporate committee, police, fire & rescue services and the resilience event (see below). There was a by-election for an Elgin Councillor. Upcoming audit & scrutiny, NE sensory service meeting. And correspondence about libraries.

10. Community Development Officer's report / Three Kings Cullen Association – minutes Report submitted in absentia

Community Centre

Funding and permissions received to undertake environmental work to four rooms at the Centre with a completion date of 31 March 2025. Meeting to discuss programme of works to be held on 20 November – CDO to keep Community Council up to date with programming.

Empty Shops

We have been allocated a Development Officer from HIE to help us through the process if we wish to progress the purchase of Seaford Seafood for a community enterprise.

Initial meeting to be held on 20 November.

Cullen Community Survey

Survey is now closed. Currently analysing results and drafting Plan. 170 surveys completed (supplemented by 58 responses from the Gala and 22 from the Primary School). Initial standouts – lots of positives but issues crossing the A98, the desire for a locally produced fresh food outlet and parking in Seatown. The results will be fed into the Moray Local Development Plan 2027 and inform the Cullen & Deskford Community Action Plan 2025/28.

Motorhome Site

We need a sign near Campbell Street to signpost motorhomes down to the site as Sat Navs have been directing people up the Street. I have advised people on their final booking email to ignore the Sat Navs and the site is named on google maps. Where do we get the brown road signs from?

Donald Gatt noted Portnockie had asked Moray Council for a brown sign pointing to the Bowfiddle and the price quoted had been considered excessive. Theresa Coull suggested contacting Moray Speyside.

Note – Road Sign to the appropriate specification can be purchased on-line. See <https://roadsignsdirect.co.uk/road-signs/custom?optionID=639>

Staffing

We have had a volunteer primarily helping Stan with maintenance and IT over recent months who has proved extremely hardworking, willing and conscientious. We are pleased to say we have been able to secure funding to offer him a paid part-time position for six months.

Benefits

Held meeting with the Money Advice Moray Team Leader, together with Chair of the Community Council, re Pension Credit following which we have been receiving regular info from him. The Library has never been asked to help complete a Pension Credit form but figures suggest that the Buckie catchment area has a higher take up of Pension Credit than elsewhere in Moray. However, the figures are not available for how many are eligible to apply for Pension Credit and it is not possible to differentiate between people not eligible to apply (income too high) and people who are eligible (due to low income) but haven't applied.

Agreed to publicise eligibility for Pension Credit in the next edition of CullenConnected. Jill Sowden was thanked for her report.

11. Deskford and District Community Association – minutes

Colin Taylor gave a summary of recent activity at Deskford Halls: Decided to postpone painting the exterior but hope to pain the interior of the big hall; install hot water in the toilets; have bit of an issue with an electric meters giving incorrect readings, discussion about grit bins for the car parking areas – Moray Council have refused to supply them even though their recycling facilities are sited there – so looking at alternative options, including putting up disclaimer noticers; fund raising going on including a games night or two, a Halloween party on 25th October, and a Christmas Craft Market on 2nd Nov; There will be a festive tractor run on 23rd December which will visit Deskford; in December; maybe get bowls and badminton nights up and running again; managed to install 5G Wi-Fi which works well; the AGM has been postponed to November.

CDCC members expressed their admiration for progress achieved over the year.

12. Current Business

a. Resilience Planning

Workshop at Inchberry Hall on 7 November

This workshop was again well presented with Stewart Wilson & Colin Burch attending from CDCC and Jill Sowden from TKCA . It was agreed that a direct meeting with the Community Centre (Three Kings Cullen Association – TKCA) and other key community partners is the crucial next step prior to a wider public engagement exercise. Moray Council CSU are able to support CDCC & TKCA that.

b. Local Place Plans

No further progress at this time

c. Community Lunches

These continue to be well attended, the frequency being the second and last Wednesday of the month through to 11 December, with the same frequency being continued into 2025. The social side is an important aspect to many. Looking at ways of getting some assistance out to various people during the Christmas period. What that consists of and who will be targeted, still to be fully established, though looking to work with 'The Haven' in providing something to local young people as well as older population.

If anyone is aware of surpluses of food which could be used by the community lunches, they should contact the community centre.

d. CullenConnected

The recent issue, which was sponsored by two anonymous benefactors, has been well received. CDCC has received an offer of sponsorship for the next issue. CDCC expresses its gratitude for this sponsorship which, until there is an established funding stream, allows publication to continue.

Meanwhile, a funding application to the Moray Mental Health & Wellbeing fund (via TsiMoray) has been submitted. Calander sales have been going quite well.

e. Ramp to beach

No further development – agreed to remove from agenda for now.

f. Millenium Wood

No further development – agreed to remove from agenda for now.

g. Moray Firth Coastal Partnership - Seashore Hub at Cullen

Matt Barnes, Marine Conservation Coordinator, Moray Firth Coastal Partnership, contacted CDCC with information about a 'Seashore HUB Spot', which looks to equip communities with the tools they need to collect data on marine litter. The information was passed to David McCubbin who has previously organised beach cleaning parties.

h. SSEN Community Benefit Fund

Colin has registered for updates and information when available and hopes to submit an application for CullenConnected funding.

i. Community Council Elections 2025

No further update at this time, though the library situation will be attended by a CDCC member, which will let the community know the CDCC is involved.

j. JCC (next meeting – 14 November 2024)

CDCC did not have any representation at the meeting – apologies were submitted.

13. AOCB

a. Moray Council Libraries, Learning Centre & Heritage Proposal

Moray Council is consulting on proposals to transform library services across the region which, for Cullen, may result in closure of the library which is in property rented from the Community Centre (The Three Kings Cullen

Association). The consultation includes a survey, available on-line at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Libraries_budget. Paper copies have been made available. Details have been posted on CDCC Facebook.

Agreed to approach retail outlets to see if they can hold copies of the survey.

Agreed that Les Tarr should represent CDCC in on-going discussions.

Agreed to approach TKCA to see how involved they wish/are able to become as the library is housed within the Community Centre.

Agreed to provide funding for the campaign – to the “Save Our Libraries – Moray” group and for local printing as necessary

<https://www.change.org/p/save-moray-s-libraries-make-moray-council-withdraw-its-2024-proposal-to-close-7-libraries>

b. Community Space Fund open for applications

The Moray Pathways Partnership and CLD Communities Team are delighted to have a new grant scheme available of up to £16,000 to organisations who are eligible, this is for established community spaces/hubs within key localities in Moray.

<https://www.moraypathways.co.uk/community-space-fund>

c. Lawtie Trust

https://www.google.com/url?client=internal-element-cse&cx=018169252035124248266:nopcj3r4dru&q=http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_91585.html&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwicz-Dg4uqJAxW0SaQEHUilBPQQFnoECAgQAQ&usg=AOvVaw0obJgvv9o-ndi57leY12cJ

Anyone living in Cullen and Lintmill, or with a substantial connection or association to this area, who, through reason of financial disadvantage or hardship, requires assistance to enjoy leisure pursuits or pursue recreational, educational, cultural, leisure or other sporting goals.

Any project that meets the above criteria will be considered

Total funds £127,333

The amount available to disburse in the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 is £7,132

If you need any more information on this or any other trust fund, please contact Accountancy on 01343 563125 or email accountancy.support@moray.gov.uk

Agreed to include to include an article in the next CullenConnected.

d. Potholes on the access to the beach car park

CDCC had been forwarded correspondence regarding Potholes on the access to the beach car park. Agreed CDCC needs to establish exactly where and confer with Moray Council to establish ownership and process for repair.

e. Stewart Wilson reported attendance at the Remembrance Day events in Cullen and Deskford had been well attended. The provision of chairs by the Heritage Group at the Cullen event was much appreciated. Provision of chairs at Deskford less likely to be needed though the community hall is close by should they be need.



Agreed to refund the cost of wreaths to the uniformed groups such as Guides and Brownies

14. Dates for the calendar

Thursday 21 November: Meet the funders event Mansefield Hotel Elgin

Wednesday 27 November and 11 December: Community Lunches

Friday 29 November: Moray Fairer Forum workshop Forres Town Hall (Les Tarr is attending on behalf of CDCC) No-one from the Community Lunch is available to attend.

15. Dates of next meetings

10 December 2024

21 January 2025

Meeting closed at 20.35