



**Minutes of Cullen and Deskford Community Council
7 pm 21 January 2025**

Present

Colin Burch (Chair)

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Stewart Wilson (Planning and Resilience)

Lyra Wilson

Les Tarr

Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association

Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer based at Community Centre

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

One member of the public

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies

John Jappy, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services

Councillor Tracy Colyer

3. Outside Agencies Reports

a. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

John Jappy reported in absentia: The total raised during this year's Christmas collection will be announced soon and we are in the process of deciding which local groups will benefit this year. As normal, seasonal safety topics will be on the station social media pages. Recruitment is ongoing, the service has reviewed the terms and conditions for becoming an On Call firefighter making it more flexible to suit individuals' requirements.

A member of the public reported on issues with a hole in the road outside his house in the Seatown. He had previously contacted Councillor Tracy Colyer who had contacted Moray Council Roads Department who had responded, '...due to the complexities of this issue, and the ever-rising workload, it could take a considerable amount of time to progress'.

Councillors Coull and Gatt agreed to confer with Councillor Colyer and Les Tarr will also investigate.

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 10 December 2024

a. Corrections

b. Approval – Proposed by Colin Burch and seconded by Lyra Wilson

c. Matters arising not on agenda

Parking in the Seatown.

Les Tarr has drafted text for CullenConnected and, if there is no reaction from

CullenConnected, has prepared a notice which could be posted round the Seatown.

5. Chair's report

Subsumed within the body of the minutes.

6. Treasurer's Report

Bank account switch has been completed for both accounts.

Admin has £462.61. We received the Moray Council admin grant on 17th December. Expenditure has been iCloud DD £0.99, TKCA for library meeting and CC meeting £60, mileage claims of £107.14, CCDC mobile phone £60, paper and file dividers £6.90 and £39.27 to TKCA for printing.

Fundraising account has £14,535.31

TKCA monthly loan repayment received of £250. CDCC received a cheque from Strathisla CC for £12.50 towards the 2024 hustings event. Also £140.50 for calendars and a £350 donation for CullenConnected.

Expenditure:

£356.70 for Cullen connected

£199.74 for Cullen calendars

£22.24 to Brownies

£22.24 to Rainbows

£39.60 to Guides for Remembrance Day wreaths.

Unallocated funds are £2987.86

Allocated funds are £11547.45

Made up of:

SSE £7426.6

Town centre regeneration fund £1578.61

Community lunches £2298.93

Cullen Connected -£6.70 (this should sort itself out when we receive grant funding which has been approved).

7. Secretary's Report

Published recently on Facebook: M.Connect drop in session dates and survey; speed management review consultation; coastal erosion reporting tool, and minutes and agenda.

8. Planning Officer's report

Nothing to report

9. Councillor's reports

Theresa Coull reported – After the Christmas & New Year break things are now back in full swing; full council on the 21 January, Council budget meeting on 19 February. Donald Gatt – checking up on the landslip by the viaduct cycleway; various other meetings going on; attending a webinar about codes of conduct; met the new area police commander; and the budget including the capital plan details of which are available on-line.

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

The Local Place Plan is done and was put out to the community on 20 December 2024 and is now closed for comment by the community. The suggestion to create additional parking spaces at the links produced to comments with reasons for leaving the grass area alone and that part of the Plan will be removed. Buckie Community Council has responded positively. Hope to follow it up with a community action plan.

Works inside the community centre: The TV room is mostly complete – relined and insulated. The coffee room has been stripped back which revealed loads of damage to the internal wall, which will delay progress. Other rooms are progressing.

At a council planning meeting at the end of 2024 Vatenfall was discussed, one councillor was suggesting community ownership of part of the windfarm as opposed to emphasising community benefit.

Jill notes Noted that the Lurg Hill Windfarm (eight turbines) is going ahead within eighteen months and the company involved has yet to have on-site community engagement though there will be a community benefit fund. Link to Moray Council's Wind Turbine Proposal Interactive Map

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_119083.html

11. Deskford and District Community Association – minutes

Colin Taylor reported that, at the AGM, all the office bearers were re-elected unopposed. TsiMoray's Just Transition funding bid failed so now looking at alternative sources of funds. Event wise there was a very successful Burn's Supper. Money was received from the Christmas Lights fund. The Association hosted the Tractor Run, and a Deskford tractor won the best tractor award. Plans to hold a Valentine disco. The outside needs painting. Hope to provide text for the next issue of CullenConnected.

12. Current Business

a. 'Save our Libraries – Moray'

Les Tarr reported.

FOI request to Moray Council out of which came some interesting information. The information showed usage of the libraries which were destined to close had shown an average growth of 7-8% while, for those destined to remain open, usage had grown by 4%. Also, Moray Council suggests there are 233 users at Cullen, whereas Cullen Library says there are over 551, which suggests some of the information used by council officers could be a bit dodgy. More campaigning to follow with posters and rallies.

The subject will be discussed within Moray Council on 19 February.

b. Community Council(s) domains, web hosting and e-mail

CDCC has received an offer from Peter West, chair of Buckie & District Community Council, to set up, if desired, for each Moray Community Council, an appropriate domain name with web site and email system for a reasonable annual cost. A similar, but more expensive, commercial offering has been suggested by Debra Duke. Though CDCC probably doesn't require a full-blown web site (yet something else to maintain and update), it would benefit from the email system. Having an individual provide the support compared to commercial support with a service level agreement has its down sides, but CDCC probably has, currently, enough expertise, to provide its own support. CDCC agreed to continue dialogue.

c. Community Engagement

Stephen Birtwistle, Findochty Community Council, circulated an email enquiring about other Community Council's strategies for community engagement. Colin Burch responded listing CDCC's various community engagements initiatives.

d. Resilience Planning

Ross Ferguson, Moray Council's resilience officer, met with Colin Burch, Stewart Wilson, Les Tarr, Stan Slater and Jill Sowden. From that Stewart has drafted a letter to go to the larger businesses in Cullen telling them what the resilience plan is about, seeking support,

and offering to meet them at their convenience to discuss the resilience plan. Jill Sowden has been asked to investigate whether the solar panel's batteries can be used to supply one room in the community centre. Jill Sowden says the electrician intends altering the existing mains circuits to supply the TV room, the office and the kitchen which the batteries could supply for 24 hours providing the cooker, heaters and kettles were not used – though a soak test will be required to prove this once the rewiring works have been undertaken.

Also, she intends at a matter of immediacy to have a supply of dried food, such as cuppa soups, for unexpected events. The 4Kw generator would be moved when necessary to supply part of the building – such as for a hot water urn. Also discussed was space heating using, for example, Calor gas heaters, which would require CO monitoring and input from the Fire and Rescue services.

e. Local Place Plans

Also see above, report by Jill Sowden. The community council thanked Jill Sowden for preparing the Place Plan. At the end of December 2024 Colin Burch issued notice of CDCC's intention to submit by statute a Local Place Plan by the end of January 2025.

f. Community Lunches

Still doing well – averaging 30 to 40 people attending on a fortnightly basis. During the spell of bad weather meals were delivered to those who felt they could not manage out. Community Lunches are scheduled for the second and last Wednesdays of the month during February and March.

g. CullenConnected

Colin Burch has issued a request for input for the next issue of CullenConnected which will be published and distributed in February 2025. The CDCC application to the Moray Health & Wellbeing Year 4 fund for the Cullen Connected newsletter has been successful. CDCC will receive an award of £1929.95 which will fund the issues into 2026. CDCC has also received funding from an anonymous donor, and CDCC expresses its thanks for the generous donation.

h. Cycle parking / infrastructure

CDCC has submitted to Active Travel Moray for Sustrans ideas where cycle parking and/or infrastructure could be sited in Cullen. Sustrans who will consider the submission and may make a site visit. However, they noted a plan to install a repair station at the Portnockie end of the viaduct cycleway.

i. Community Council Elections 2025

CDCC plans to include an article in the next issue of CullenConnected

j. JCC – next meeting 13 February 2025

a. Transport Forum – meeting cancelled.

b. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup unlikely to meet before the next JCC

c. Review of Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils- now finished and can be removed from the agenda.

13. AOCB

a. m.connect phase II

As part of m.connect phase II consultation, representatives of Moray Council Transport Department intend attending at the community centre on Friday 7th February and Friday 29th March.

b. H.M. Coastguard Safety Signage and recruitment

Colin Wood, HM Coastguard Senior Coastal Operations Officer, based in Macduff noted they have recently had a successful recruitment campaign with 25 new recruits, and provided information about new safety signage, one of which has been near the steps to Cullen beach near the Golf club house.

c. Historic Banffshire/Kronach Association



A Special General Meeting for the Association is being called. This will take place at 7.00pm on Monday 27th January at the Cullen Community Centre. CDCC intends attending.

- d. Three Harbours Association meeting 22 January 2025
CDCC notes the publication on social media of the 3HA meeting and intends having a presence.

14. Dates for the calendar

None – other than those mentioned above.

15. Dates of next meetings

18 February 2025

18 March 2025

Meeting closed at 20.50