



Minutes of Cullen and Deskford Community Council
7 pm 18 March 2025

Present:

Colin Burch (Chair)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Stewart Wilson (Planning and Resilience)

Les Tarr

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

Councillor Tracy Colyer

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
Lyra Wilson
Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association
Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer based at the Community Centre
3. Outside Agencies Reports
 - a. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
No report received
 - b. Police Scotland
No report received
4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 18 February 2025
 - a. Corrections - none
 - b. Approval – approved by Stewart Wilson and seconded by Les Tarr
 - c. Matters arising not on agenda - none
5. Chair's report
Most of feedback is provided below. Most notable points being to Minute decision on the waste bins increase in capacity size.
6. Treasurer's Report
Phil Lovegrove reported that the Admin account has £387.87
Spending this month has been £0.99 for iCloud DD, £22.86 for printer ink, £20 for CDCC mobile phone.
The Fundraising account has £16393.98
We've received two payments of £250 from TKCA for their loan repayment. Payment of £621.28 for resilience items which we should be reimbursed by MC.
We've £13606.12 allocated and £2987.86 unallocated.
Allocated made up of:
Town centre regeneration fund £1578.61
Community lunches £2298.93

Cullen connected £1923.25
SSE £8426.61

Phil noted that, as we only have a debit card for the admin account, there's been a bit of moving money between accounts to buy the resilience items.

7. Secretary's Report

All relevant correspondence included in the text below.

8. Planning Officer's report

Nothing to report

9. Councillor's reports

Donald Gatt reported that there is not a huge amount going on other than: obviously the budget has been a big issue; Moray Council business plans; National Care Day; meeting with AMEY re Union Bridge in Keith; the Harbour User Group meeting in Cullen; planning site visits; elected members digital group; meeting P5 at Keith Primary, workshop on Buckie Harbour master plan; workshop on Moray Council transformation, then another planning meeting.

Tracy Colyer reported: more or less the same as Donald Gatt but including planning training with first planning meeting last week; also at Keith Primary School, but with P7; housing strategy development; audit scrutiny work. After which it should be quiet until mid-April.

Theresa Coull – also much the same: there is a new chief executive - Karen Greaves; webinar about pylons; Transport Scotland's public event in Keith on road speeds; also met P7 at Keith Primary School, and meeting in Keith about battery storage at Coachford.

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

Works – Contract works are all due to complete by 25 March 2025 with additional necessary works being undertaken over the next couple of weeks. Flooring being laid this week in The Haven, corridor and toilet. All insulation panels fitted and being taped and painted at the moment in three rooms. High temperature heat pump being commissioned next week. Additional works to the Coffee Bar main wall have been completed.

Visit – HRH The Princess Royal will be visiting the Centre on Wednesday 9 April (time not yet known) where she will be meeting the Board, staff (TV Lounge), Cllrs (?) and Centre activity groups who will have a table to display their activities (main hall and Coffee Bar). She will move on to the Men's Shed and then outside at the north end of the building (weather permitting) there will be voluntary groups within the community who have equipment etc (ie Sea School with a skiff, Volunteer Group with a ride-on etc) and make her way around to The Haven where there will be reps of other groups in the community (eg Community Council, Christmas Lights, Discover Cullen, pre-schools, brownies, guides etc etc) and some youngsters in the play area. There will be the unveiling of a plaque and a cake and The Princess Royal will be presented with flowers at this point. The visit will take around 1hr 10mins. NOT FOR PUBLICATION AS IT MIGHT CHANGE

Community Resource Network – Collaboratqion for Mental Wealth in Moray. I am one of the network partners for this project which successfully bid for £1m funding over 5

years. The project launches on 25th March in Elgin and will be seeking community buy-in to find out what works to improve mental wellbeing that we can share with others (nature all the way for me!) <https://mentalwealthmoray.org.uk/>

Career Ready – I currently mentoring two pupils from Buckie High to help them onto a positive pathway once they leave school. I attended Abbie’s “graduation” from the two-year Career Ready programme earlier this month and am delighted to see her doing so well in her prelims and with a clear focus of what she wants to do when she leaves school this summer. Gabi is in her first year and is keen to come to the Centre to do her internship for a month this July.

Volunteer Fair – Looking to hold a community Volunteer Fair early June to tie in with volunteering week. Unlikely to be at the Centre as all weekends are booked around that time for residential so will need another venue. All local groups will be invited to take part.

Community Forum – Building on Cullen Connected and the Volunteer Fair, to set up a forum for local groups and interested individuals to meet face to face on a regular basis to share their news, their plans, their needs and what they could achieve by working together.

Cullen Sea School – a new part-time Manager has commenced this week with a focus of the kiosk opening this year. Gala proposed for 27 July and looking to widen this out next year to a larger community event.

MSP

– Karen Adam will be at the Centre for a surgery on Friday morning 10.30-12.30

CDCC thanked Jill for submitting her report.

11. Deskford and District Community Association – minutes
No submission

12. Current Business

- a. ‘
 - Theresa Coull updated the CDCC on 20th February and Les Tarr forwarded correspondence from MSP Karen Adams on 27th February
 - Les Tarr reported the consultation has started – wants the campaign group to work with Moray Council and councillors. Noted that there is a rumour about PC access at Cullen library which Les will try to pursue.
 - Suggestion of running IT classes for seniors over the summer.
 - It was agreed to remove from the agenda for now.
 - See <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file160257.pdf>
- b. Community Council(s) domains, web hosting and e-mail
Les Tarr emailed CDCC on 13 March with his thoughts on the subject.
It was agreed to proceed with a pilot period for a CDCC web site and email system.
- c. Community Engagement
A ‘What is a Cullen Skink’ drawing competition was held during the Cullen Skink championships. A prize of £10 local shop voucher was awarded to the winners.
- d. Resilience Planning
 - i) Rhona Nicol, Community Support Officer, Moray Council, emailed all Moray Community Councils offering an opportunity to bid for funds with a very short timescale for bids. CDCC submitted a bid, and the following were purchased:
 - 10 x Camp beds
 - 10 x Emergency sleep bags
 - 6 x Emergency wind-up radios / torch / recharge

- ii) Stewart Wilson met with Seafield Estates who said they could provide land-based support, e.g. firewood for Men's Shed's stoves should the community centre be without heating. Also, if the community centre had a diesel generator, they could provide red diesel. They also suggested the community centre should have a dried food store. Stewart also met Caroline at the Royal Oak Hotel which could supply hot water for tea urns and, possibly, soup. They discussed zoning off areas in Cullen and, if this happened, the Royal Oak could cover the Seatown. Stewart spoke to Karen, the manager at the Coop and she is more than happy to supply the basics – tea, coffee, etc. as required. Stewart is waiting for confirmation of a meeting with the Seafield Arms Hotel.
- e. Cullen Volunteer Group
A meeting with the Cullen Volunteer Group, who the CDCC understands are disbanding, has yet to be arranged. CDCC have requested a meeting, though to date there has only been an acknowledgement to that E-mail. CDCC await a response.
- f. Motor Home Report
The Moray Council paper on stop-over places for campervans / motor homes is now going out to consultation. CDCC will need to respond to the consultation – and agreed to write to Nicola Moss after consulting with the Three Kings Association.
- g. Harbour User Group
CDCC thanked Heather Cameron for attending the Harbour User Group meeting held on Thursday 6 March and for submitting a report of the meeting.
- h. Community Lunches
Recent ones very well attended – full house – now moving to monthly on the last Wednesday of the month through the summer period.
- i. CullenConnected
Next issue should be in May. CDCC received direct feedback from Gillian Pirie, MC Community Volunteer Development Officer who said her article produced one volunteer, with hopefully another volunteer. The Aberlour Youth Point Coordinator got in touch to see if they can put an article in the next edition.
- j. m.connect drop in session
Next one is due in Cullen on Friday 28 March.
- k. Hole in Port Long Road beside harbour
Tracy Colyer still pursuing the matter.
- l. VE Day – 8 May 2025
Colin asked the Cullen Volunteer Group Chair whether CDCC could use the flagpole on the Castle hill and the owner of the ex-church at Deskford to use its flagpole. This has been agreed and CDCC agreed to order two flags.
- m. JCC – next meeting 22 May
- a. Transport Forum
Nothing to report
 - b. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup
Nothing to report
 - c. Community Council Elections 2025
Debra Duke is organising documentation promoting the community council elections.
13. AOCB
- a. Local Community Support Group (about Buckie High School)
Peter West, Chair, Buckie Community Council has called a meeting at 6.30pm on Thursday 27 March at the Community Hall in Buckie High School. Colin and Stewart are attending.

- b. Mental Wellbeing
CDCC received an email from Heidi Tweedie from the Moray Wellbeing Hub advertising events supporting mental health and wellbeing which has been forwarded to Jill Sowden. Les Tarr agreed at the last JCC to attend the subgroup as a member, and will be attending as its a Zoom meeting being held on the 25th March at 11am. Jill Sowden is involved with this area of work already. It is anticipated that Jill will keep CDCC updated as appropriate
- c. Bins
CDCC received an email from Jim Durkin, Environmental & Commercial Services, Moray Council offering to replace several 110L bins with 250L bins and moving some of the displaced bins. Colin Burch met with Jim Durkin and CDCC generally agreed with the proposals which has been validated by CDCC members.
- d. Three Kings Cullen Association AGM
The AGM of the Three Kings Cullen Association (TKCA) is to be held at Cullen Community Centre on Monday 24th March 2025 at 7pm.
Agreed to ask at the AGM that TKCA minutes are forwarded to CDCC on a regular basis.
- e. Proposed support group for community councils in West Moray – meeting on 21 March in Buckie – Les Tarr and Colin Burch hope to attend.
- f. Town Flowers
Request for funding for the town flowers. by the Millennium Garden group who are also looking after the wider Town flowers. This was agreed up to £300. CDCC thanked the group for their efforts.
- g. Fly tipping at Cullen’s recycling area
Les Tarr reported on further occurrences of fly tipping which, if it persists, could result in the facility being closed.

14. Dates for the calendar

- Friday 21 March; Moray East CC’s Support group. Buckie HS 1830Hrs
- Monday 24 March; Three Kings Cullen Association Cullen AGM 1900Hrs
- Thursday 27 March; Buckie HS revamp: Public meeting. Buckie HS 1830Hrs
- Friday 28 March; M-Connect drop-in session. CCRC 1000Hrs - 1200Hrs
- Saturday 29 March – Grange quiz night - £5 per person – (asked to promote by Councillor Tracy Coyler)

15. Dates of next meetings

15 April 2025 Deskford

20 May 2025 Cullen Community Centre

Meeting closed at 20.36