



Minutes of Cullen and Deskford Community Council
7 pm 22 April 2025

Present:

Colin Burch (Chair)

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Phil Lovegrove (treasurer)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Les Tarr

Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
Stewart Wilson (Planning and Resilience)
Councillor Tracy Colyer
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
April 2025 report has been received.
4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 18 March 2025
 - a. Corrections: None
 - b. Approval: approved by Colin Burch and seconded by Les Tarr
 - c. Matters arising not on agenda: None
5. Chair's report
Delay of one week of the regular CDCC meeting was due to the unavailability of CDCC members and would have meant we were non-quorate. There is a lot for CDCC to discuss, so the decision was to delay by one week, rather than cancel. Thanks to all CDCC members and regular CDCC attendees for forbearance. Otherwise, I have placed my feedback at relevant points below.
6. Treasurer's Report
Phil Lovegrove reported that the Admin Accounts has £236.47
Spending this month has been £0.99 for iCloud DD, £43.97 for VE Day flags, £48.84 to Les for domain name etc and £60 to TKCA for Feb and March meetings.

The Fundraising account has £17669.06

We've received two payments of £250 from TKCA for their loan repayment, one of which was refunded to them. That leaves them £250 outstanding until the loan is repaid.

£621.28 reimbursed from Moray Council for resilience items.

£283.80 received from calendar sales

So, we've £14397.40 allocated and £3271.66 unallocated.

Allocated made up of:

- Town centre regeneration fund £1578.61
- Community lunches £2218.93
- Cullen connected £1923.25
- SSE £8676.61

7. Secretary's Report

All relevant information in the text below.

8. Planning Officer's report

Nothing to report.

9. Councillor's reports

Theresa Coull reported - The next Harbour User Group meeting, to be held on Thursday 5 June, will be held in a different venue – not the Howf. All the ward councillors were invited to Keith Primary School and told P6 & P7 all about their roles. Attended a meeting about battery storage in Keith. Attended a Cullen Library Users Group. There was Princess Anne's visit to Cullen. There was a special full Council meeting. Attended the Cullen Art Group coffee morning then a soup and sweet event in the Deskford Hall.

Donald Gatt reported – Audit Scrutiny workshop. attended and online COSLA mini conference and convention. Also attended a Cullen Library User Group meeting, the battery storage event in Keith. Attended Cullen's Heritage Centre season's opening. Held councillor's surgeries in Portnockie, Cullen, Grange and Keith, with more planned. Various meeting including planning and Strategic Leadership forum. The planning committee met recently for a predetermination meeting.

10. Community Development Officer's report /

Community Development Officer's Update – 22 April 2025

Works – Contract works were all complete by 31 March 2025 with additional necessary works being undertaken over the last couple of weeks. Heating in one room to be reinstated and the disabled toilet room at The Haven to be finished. The Haven is now open. All insulation panels fitted and being taped and painted at the moment in three rooms.

Visit – HRH The Princess Royal – The visit on 9 April 2025, went extremely well with the Princess speaking to everyone at the Centre. One of the Directors of the Association took Princess Anne around the building to both introduce her to all of the groups and to tell her of the history of his old school.

Volunteer Fair – Looking to hold a community Volunteer Fair early June to tie in with volunteering week. All local groups have been invited to take part. Had six groups respond so far but would be looking for more!

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.

Council's Proposed Motorhome Stopover – Consultation paper received, and we will be submitting an appropriate response as managers of the Cullen Motorhome Stopover Site.

11. Deskford and District Community Association – minutes

Colin Taylor reported on activities at the Deskford Community and Jubilee Halls: Repairs to the roof; Soup and sweet event; the Big Blue Pantry activity; continuing with upgrades to the halls; discussions about using the CDCC web site.

12. Current Business

a. Visit by Princess Anne

Attended by representatives of various volunteer groups in Cullen. This visit has generally been seen as being good for Cullen. CDCC agreed to create an archive of the visit for posterity which would be both digital and paper based.

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

<http://www.cullendeskford.org/>

Thanks to Les Tarr the CDCC now has its own website. There will be other information in the next edition of the Cullen Connected newsletter. This will be an important tool for CDCC in the forthcoming Community Council elections as well as information into the future.

Report from Les Tarr:

Authors Manual: I have attached the latest version, hopefully final for the moment, of the manual for loading 'Posts' onto the site. I can do some 1-1 training or group training on the week of the 28th of April to 2nd of May.

Future Developments: I am working with the platform suppliers to have the security certificate attached to the site, there is an error with their system. This will allow us to take proper comments from residents through the site

I've found free plug-ins to the WordPress system that will allow the site to generate a 'newsletter' with information on the latest posts, and one to allow visitors to the site to register for the newsletter. We need the security certificate fixed first to be GDPR compliant.

Now, we can take comments on posts, that do not require any personal data to be recorded, so GDPR compliant. We have had our first. This is in relation to the Campervan initiative.

Web site usage: We have had a successful launch with 283 site visitors and 585 page or post views. The site and some pages have been advertised on the Cullen Past and Present, and Cullen Chat. I will contact the admins to make sure they have no objections to us continuing to do this till the site matures.

Top pages or posts viewed.

- Home page
- Cullen Library Users Group
- Planning applications 5th to the 11th of April
- Election 25
- Who's on CDCC
- Overnight Stay / Campervan post

Page Development: Once I get the remaining pictures of CDCC members I can add these and complete the relevant page.

- c. Aultmore Windfarm: Vattenfall's redesigned Aultmore Wind Farm proposal
Meeting with representatives from Vattenfall on Tuesday 29 April
- d. Cullen Centre Camera Club (CCCC)
Cullen Centre Camera Club are eager to do another Cullen calendar for 2026. They will work on some proposals and present them to CDCC. It is anticipated CDCC involvement will be minimal, with some of the proceeds going to CDCC for community disbursement.
- e. Three Kings Cullen Association – AGM -minutes
Minutes of meeting on 20 March 2025 have been received.
- f. Community Engagement
See 12b above
- g. Resilience Planning
Nothing to report
- h. Cullen Volunteer Group
A meeting with the volunteer group has yet to be held. There has been no further contact from them after initially acknowledging our first contact. Agreed to try and initiate a dialogue.
- i. Community Lunches
Now monthly on the last Wednesday of the month.
- j. CullenConnected
Next issue in May. Request for articles will be issued soon. Intended to include articles about the Cullen Skink painting and 3D modelling.
- k. m.connect drop in sessions
A session took place in Cullen on 28 March. Other than Jill Sowden, there was only one attendee.
- l. Hole is Port Long Road beside harbour
Tracy Colyer forwarded the following:
"Apologies for not getting back to you sooner with an update. I met with the roads inspector and the sink hole appears to be directly where one of the borehole's was taken by a contractor during the harbour wall investigation raised by Structures, a few years ago.
I have asked the roads inspector to monitor the sink hole (as the hole is bone dry), and we were awaiting some substantial rainfall (which unfortunately has been somewhat lacking this year) to check and see if the hole has been formed by either washout from a source uphill, or whether it was indeed the sea defence that is letting in the water and then drawing out the fines. If it is the latter (which I suspect it is), then I need to have a discussion with Will Burnish of Structures regarding it.
Having looked at the site, I still cannot see how the hole in the carriageway would cause any damp issues to the property, as the sink hole is downhill of the property and also much lower than it."
Agreed to remove from agenda.
- m. VE Day
CDCC has purchased flags - one for Castle Hill and the other for Deskford. Flags should be raised at 0900Hrs and lowered at 2130Hrs
- n. Community Council Elections 2025
Les Tarr reported on developments and presented plans for the way forward.
- o. Joint Community Council (JCC) – next meeting 22 May
 - a. Transport Forum

No update

- b. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup

No update

13. AOCB

- a. Fires in Crannoch Wood

After a telephone call from David Greer (Seafield Estates Property Manager), Colin Burch accompanied the Seafield Estates gamekeeper to Crannoch Wood to douse a bonfire that had been lit the previous night and was still burning. CDCC posted on Facebook:

‘Cullen and Deskford Community Council has received reports of fires being lit in Crannoch Woods. It hasn't rained for two weeks and the forest and ground is tinder dry. Lighting fires in the woods is incredibly irresponsible. Please don't.’

- b. Public Meeting - Buckie High School.

Meeting that was due to take place on 27 March has been postponed. No known revised date has been scheduled. Les Tarr to contact the chair of Buckie Community Council.

- c. NCN1 Track signs

From Portnockie Community Council:

‘We have for some time been asking for signs at the start of the track to warn cyclists to be aware of pedestrians and to give warning of their approach.

Finally, it looks like Sustrans have agreed to do this at our end.

I am guessing you may like the same at your end, we got results by going through Janet MacDonald at Moray Council if you want the signs get in touch with her to arrange.’

Agreed to let Portnockie CC make the arrangements.

- d. BT Digital Voice Engagement Event Buckie

BT are holding drop-in sessions on the 10th and 11th of June between 10:00 and 16:00 at Cluny Square Car Park, 7 Cluny Square, Buckie, AB56 1AH. To help alleviate concerns for people regards the switch-over. Also, may be of interest for local resilience groups due to the potential loss of ‘normal’ telephony services.

(posted on Facebook)

- e. Kronach Meeting 28th April

“On behalf of the Lord Lieutenant Mr Andrew Simpson, I am inviting you to attend the next Kronach meeting on MONDAY 28th APRIL at 7pm in the COMMUNITY CENTRE in Cullen when - hopefully - we will take our first step forward.”

Les Tarr has agreed to attend

- f. Overnight stay for campervan/motorhome consultation

From Paul Wolverson, Service Manager, Environmental & Commercial Services

“As you may be aware [the Moray Council Economic Development & Infrastructure] ED&I committee recently approved that a consultation take place on the proposal to introduce an overnight stay initiative for campervan/motorhomes at designated sites.

I am pleased to inform you that the public consultation is now live. It would be appreciated if you can take the time to respond to the consultation and please share this as widely as possible.

The closing date is the 16th May 2025 and the links to survey are below.”

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7SQZFF>

(on Facebook)

CDCC agreed to respond to the survey.

- g. Cullen Volunteer Fair 2025

Suggestion from Jill Souden that Cullen holds a Volunteer Fair during Volunteer Week – CDCC thinks this is a good idea and Les Tarr is preparing material.



- h. Cullen Tourist Initiative
CDCC. Is being asked to support new signage. This was agreed.
 - i. Leaking water pump
Les Tarr Reported on a leaking water outlet (the thing that looks like a fire hydrant on the corner of Port Long Road beside No. 200) in the Seatown. Colin Burch to visit the site and then pursue ownership.
14. Dates for the calendar
Tuesday 29 April - Meeting with Vattenfall representatives
Thursday 8 May - VE Day flag raising
15. Dates of next meetings
20 May - Cullen Community Centre
17 June - Cullen Community Centre

Meeting ended 20.23