



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

Present:

Colin Burch (Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Les Tarr

Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

Two members of the public

1. Welcome and introductions

This meeting is an out-of-cycle meeting (usually 3rd Tuesday of the month). This is due to the Buckie High School public meeting on Tuesday 17 June, and it was felt important that CDCC members, as well as Moray Councillors and potentially other members of the public did not have any conflict with that important public meeting to establish what is happening with the Buckie High School.

2. Apologies

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Stewart Wilson (Planning and Resilience)

Councillor Tracy Colyer

John Jappy, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association

3. Outside Agencies Reports

a. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

John Jappy reported in absentia, 'Thanks again to Jill for organising the Volunteer Fair in the town hall. Seasonal safety topics along with recruitment posts will continue on station social media pages. Appliance and crew will be in attendance at the upcoming Sea School Gala in July,

b. Police Scotland

Buckie and Keith Community Policing Team Community Council Report for June 2025 had been received.

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 20 May 2025

a. Corrections - none

b. Approval – Proposed by Colin Burch and seconded by Les Tarr

c. Matters arising not on agenda

5. Chair's report

Feedback included at various sections below.

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil Lovegrove reported in absentia:

The Admin account has £429.38. Spending this month has been £0.99 for iCloud DD and £52.82 to TKCA for room hire and printing

The Fundraising account has £17,112.17

Spending this month:

- Colin was reimbursed for £90 for Camera Club donation and prize vouchers for the calendar - £50 calendar contributions, £40 for the first and second prizes for the school drawing competition for the calendar.
- £50 to TKCA for community lunches room use
- £410.67 to TKCA for Cullen Connected printing
- £236.22 to Millennium garden for plants etc.

Leaving £14,186.73 allocated and £2,925.44 unallocated.

Allocated made up of:

- Town centre regeneration fund £15,78.61
- Community lunches £2,168.93
- Cullen connected £1,512.58
- SSE £8,961.61

Jill Sowden raised the issue of the state of the street furniture and bus shelters in the centre of Cullen and asked whether some of the unallocated funds could be used to regenerate these areas. Donald Gatt suggested Jill contacts Donald MacRae, Public Transport Manager donald.macrae@moray.gov.uk about the bus shelters, and added, for the tourist information signs, there will probably be no objections to doing what you want from Beverly Smith, (Acting) Head of Economic Growth & Development, Beverly.Smith@moray.gov.uk

The ward councillors noted that the Common Good Fund will be coming up for discussion at full council and it could be a source of funds. Applications for funds are made to the ward councillors. <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file126588.pdf>

7. Secretary's Report

Correspondence re York Place / Seafeld Road junction closure between 23 - 27 June. All other correspondence included in text below

8. Planning Officer's report

- i. Query about planning permissions for category B & C listed buildings
Secretary and Chair responded with advice on the planning requirements within Moray
- ii. Planning applications
Ref No: 25/00621/APP
Re-point and fit two new roof-lights with internal alterations at 155 Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SL

9. Councillor's reports

Theresa Coull reported – It has been busy month cramming stuff in before the summer recess: full council meetings, briefings, site visits, audit scrutiny, corporate committee. Donald Gatt added – neighbourhood planning board for Elgin, attended a development meeting on social media usage, long service awards for council workers, extra leader's meetings and the tenants' forum.

10. Community Development Officer's report

- Volunteering Fair held on 8 June went well. Eleven tables were booked. All the attendees had a good response. Intend to repeat next year as it captures the interest of Cullen's new residents.
- Moray Funding for Community Groups is open for bids.
- Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund– closing in July
- <https://tsimoray.org.uk/funding/just-transition-participatory-budgeting-fund/>
- Mentee from Buckie High starting soon and will be helping out in the Haven.
- A smart / digital screen has been installed in the Coffee Room
- The master plan for Buckie Harbour has been approved.
- <https://newsroom.moray.gov.uk/news/moray-council-approves-buckie-harbour-masterplan>
- Plans to have a shop in the High St have stepped back and, instead, are considering the growing side, using part of the old Seafield Nursery, downhill from Cullen Allotments, and developing a scheme similar to the MacRobert Trust's training scheme at Douneside House in Tarland.
- <https://www.themacroberttrust.org.uk/>
- <https://www.themacroberttrust.org.uk/horticultural-training-scheme/>
- <https://dounesidehouse.co.uk/>
- Also, worth looking at <https://www.theseedbox.org.uk/> at Aboyne
- Discussion on whether using that would require an amendment of the Local Place Plan.
- Funding for Jill's Community Development Officer post finishes in March 2026.

Three Kings Cullen Association

Minutes for 8 May 2025 were received.

11. Deskford and District Community Association – minutes

Colin Taylor reported in absentia, 'The only real update is that painting has now started on the outside walls of the main hall. It will be a slow process, being undertaken by the volunteers, but hopefully people will start to see an improvement in the overall appearance'.

In addition, a lot of work has been done to address the overgrown grounds.

12. Current Business

- a. Community Council domain, web hosting and e-mail
 - i. Digital Archive of visit by Princess Anne
Other organisations who were approached regarding capturing the royal visit in April have not confirmed any meeting to take this forward. Due to inaction, and the time since the visit, it is felt there is no willingness to collectively capture this visit.
 - ii. Web site statistics

Web Site Statistics to 15th June

This week	117	215
Last week	81	122
This month	207	348
Last month	487	1.02K
Last 7 days	117	215
Last 30 days	469	905
Last 90 days	1.17K	2.29K
Last 6 months	1.17K	2.29K

iii. e-news letter

There are 17 subscribed residents with an average 75% to 82% opening rate for the email. Small numbers but steadily growing. Coming up to the election period this could be a useful tool. Les Tarr have been using the lists function to move residents into a group to target.

b. Community Engagement / Cullen Volunteer Fair

CDCC attended and provided information on various aspects of what we have been involved with and are currently doing. Interested people sought information on the CDCC and what we were up to. A thank you to Jill for her organisation, and to the other Cullen groups who had representation there. It seems most people who attended were either new or are soon to be coming into the area and there weren't too many 'local' people attending.

It came to light at the Volunteer Fair that someone had offered to tidy up the Pet Cemetery. The Volunteer group have offered to weed kill the area. Les Tarr and Colin Burch agreed to offer the Volunteer group reimbursement of the weedkiller used. The Volunteer group were requested to put an invoice to CDCC for reimbursement to which they agreed to do.

c. Resilience Planning

No update.

d. Cullen Volunteer Group

No other direct feedback. The Volunteer group had requested presentation at the Volunteer event. The reps who were there didn't recall that CDCC had requested a meeting. They agreed to look at that and revert back to us.

e. Community Lunches

Currently, community lunches are on the last Wednesday of the month. Alternative arrangements were required in May as there was a residential group in residence at the Community Centre. Thanks to the Hall church for their assistance with that.

There has been interest in the group un-tying from the CDCC and operating as a separate entity. This is welcomed as the current CDCC tenure nears its end in October and ensures the continuation of the lunches beyond that time. This will happen in due course, once it is established that the finances and other aspects will be able to operate in a secure way.

f. CullenConnected

There has been a notable thank you feedback to the last edition. It would be good if other feedback were to be forthcoming as it helps with funding assessments and requests.

g. Buckie High School

Public information meeting in Buckie on Tuesday 17 June. Two spaces had been booked for CDCC members. Feedback was provided at the CDCC meeting after Colin Burch attended on behalf of the CDCC.

<https://newsroom.moray.gov.uk/news/moray-council-statement-on-buckie-high-schools-condition>

h. Obstructions on highway on A98 through Cullen.

A local resident contacted CDCC regards a local street-facing business obstructing the road, possibly to preserve parking spaces and pictures have been provided of the obstructions. A letter has been put to street-facing businesses reminding them the public highway is for everyone and that restrictions can basically only be put in place by an authorised body, or by individuals in specific authorised circumstances. Authorisation can be sought from the police of Moray Council.

i. Workplace Active Travel Infrastructure Fund

A survey was undertaken was by CDCC via the website. A thank you to all who took part in this and provided their feedback. The results being as follows:

- Next to Heritage Centre = 24 votes
- By model train under the viaduct = 12 votes
- Neither location = 11 votes

There were also various comments submitted, with concerns expressed about the accessibility space at the Heritage Centre. Given the limited space available at the Heritage Centre, or nearby, it was concluded that this is not achievable.

j. Cullen Primary School – Defibrillator

Further information was sought on what was required, with a response of what the school PTA were funding in the coming months. Due to personal time restrictions, CDCC Chair hasn't fully followed up on this. This will be pursued fuller in the coming weeks.

k. Cullen Harbour User Group McBoyle Hall, Portnockie at 6pm on Thursday 5 June
Bruce Edelsten attended the meeting and reported back. Matters covered included dredging, safety, maintenance, security, communications and the public toilets. Next meeting Thursday 4 September.

l. Berryhillock Bus Stop

A member of the public informed CDCC that they have contacted Moray Council in respect of updating / improving the Bus shelter at Berryhillock / Deskford due to the MConnect bus service now serving the stop. The shelter is in a dilapidated condition. The member of public has been requested to keep CDCC informed of progress of the dialogue between them and Moray Council. Suggested the member of the public contacts Donald MacRae, Public Transport Manager donald.macrae@moray.gov.uk

m. Community Council Elections 2025

Les Tarr has been developing promotional material for the elections and suggested starting a survey about safety on the A98 similar to the consultation about cycle racks. This was agreed.

n. JCC – meeting 22 May

CDCC had a presence and specifically raised the issue of obstruction of parking spaces in Cullen. The police present informed the meet in that they are required to prioritise their workload in order of severity and life-threatening basis. Unfortunately, parking issues are a

low priority though if able to, they will respond to parking issues with the understanding of the priority criteria. The police subsequently provided feedback via E-mail of the specific legislation in relation to obstructing the public highway. This has subsequently been forwarded in hard copy to street-facing businesses for their information.

The newly appointed Chief Executive, Karen Greaves, was in attendance. Karen is supportive of Community Councils and has expressed a wish to visit all Moray Community Councils before the end of the current tenure in October.

- a. Transport Forum
- b. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup

13. AOCB

- i) Moray Community Council consultation on the Community Council scheme of Establishment - stage 2 consultation until 25 July (1200Hrs). Stage 2 consultation feedback to be put to Full Council meet on 27 August. Further information can be found at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_156899.html
- ii) Buckie Area Forum meeting that was due on 29 May will be rescheduled to 25 June as the Zoom meeting not working.
- iii) Trees on the east side of Cullen Allotments adjacent to the B9018 Cullen to Lintmill Rd – the land is leased from the Lawtie Trust, which is managed by Moray Council. Some of the trees are dead or dying and could pose a risk to road users. Theresa Coull offered to contact Moray Council Roads Dept.
- iv) Cullen Sea School have been nominated for the School Community Sports Project of the Year with the awards ceremony taking place on Friday 20 June at Elgin Blowing Club. <https://newsroom.moray.gov.uk/news/awards-celebrate-morays-sports-volunteers-and-projects>
- v) Kronach Twinning Association meeting – Les has posters to print. <https://www.facebook.com/HBKTA/>

14. Dates for the calendar

Tuesday 24 June- Deskford Halls management group meeting
 Wednesday 25 June - Community lunch
 Wednesday 25 June – Buckie Area Forum meeting in Buckie
 Sunday 27 July – Cullen SeaSchool gala (CDCC to have a stand for promotional purposes)

15. Dates of next meetings

No scheduled meeting in July
 19 August - Deskford Halls
 16 September - Cullen Community Centre

Meeting Closed 20.45

