



Minutes of Cullen and Deskford Community Council
7 pm 20 May 2025

Present:

Colin Burch (Chair)

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Les Tarr

Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Theresa Coull

Pamela McKay, Cullen Centre Camera Club

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies

Stewart Wilson (Resilience)

Phil Lovegrove (treasurer)

John Jappy, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Jill Sowden, Community development Officer

Councillor Tracy Colyer

3. Outside Agencies Reports

a. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

John Jappy reported in absentia: Recruitment is a big issue for not only Cullen but the wider Moray area; advertising will continue on social media, and posters are displayed in local shops. We will also be holding another recruitment session at the station, date TBC. Seasonal safety topics will again be displayed on social media.

b. Police Scotland

No report

Pamela McKay, Cullen Centre Camera Club

The Camera Club are producing the 2026 Cullen Calendar and Pamela talked the meeting through the proposed format and layout, emphasising that it will be a community calendar. The Camera Club is looking for a headline sponsor to sponsor two pages (months) and for community council to generate the vouchers for the winning pictures.

CDCC agreed to donate £50.00 and to fund the vouchers, for which CDCC will be subsequently reimbursed.

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 22 April 2025

a. Corrections - none

b. Approval – proposed as a true record by Lyra Wilson, seconded by Les Tarr

c. Matters arising not on agenda - none

5. Chair's report

Thanks to Deskford Halls and the Cullen Volunteer Group for flying the VE Day flags

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil Lovegrove reported in absentia that the Admin account has £483.19
Spending this month has been £0.99 for iCloud DD and £60 to DDCA for Sept and April meetings.

Received admin grant from MC of £307.71

The fund Fundraising account has £17899.06

We've received the last payment of £250 from TKCA for their loan repayment which is now fully repaid.

Colin Burch was reimbursed £20 for repayment of vouchers for the Cullen Skink drawing competition.

So, we've £14647.40 allocated and £3251.66 unallocated.

Allocated made up of:

- Town centre regeneration fund £1578.61
- Community lunches £2218.93
- Cullen connected £1923.25
- SSE £8961.61

7. Secretary's Report

Nothing to add not in the text below.

8. Planning Officer's report

Reference 25/00442/LBC

Repair works to underside of the arches at Railway Viaduct Seafeld Street Cullen Moray

Reference 25/00461/APP

Replace existing door with composite traditional styled door existing recessed niche to be block up removal of wooden door pane at 19 South Castle Street Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4RT

Reference 25/00550/LBC

Re-point and fit two new roof-lights with internal alterations at 155 Seatown Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4SL

Reference 25/00532/LBC

Install combi boiler and balanced flue at Love Dale 9 South Castle Street Cullen Buckie AB56 4RT

9. Councillor's reports

Donald Gatt reported – Normal run-of-the-mill council committee meetings, tenant's forum, regional scrutiny engagement sessions with the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee, licencing committee, a briefing on hot food, Elgin neighbourhood plan board, few meetings with the head of planning, Housing and Community Safety Committee, VE day, planning meeting that day as well, councillors' surgeries with Tracy Colyer, and a series of meeting about local housing strategy.

Theresa Coull reported – Buckie High School, where there is no money to build a new school, but substantial repairs are being undertaken. Attended the Banffshire / Kronach twinning meeting. There will be a full council meeting on Tuesday 21 May.

10. Three Kings Cullen Association

Minutes

None received recently

Community Development Officer's report

Jill Sowden apologised for not being able attend and emailed in that she had been going to speak about the Volunteering Fair on Sunday 8th June 11.00 – 13.00 at the Seafeld Arms Hotel. It will be a good opportunity for the Community Council to have a stand to encourage new members. It will also be an opportunity to recruit volunteers for the Resilience Plan. (see also 12b below)

11. Deskford and District Community Association

Colin Taylor talked the meeting about recent activity at the Deskford Community Hall. There is a healthy bank balance but a lot of commitments for hall maintenance. A few events have taken place - soup and sweet, Elgin Cycling Club, car boot sale, pre-loved clothing stall; a mooted open day keeps on getting put off, also hope to have an 80's disco, mini ceilidh / jam session, NE touring arts films, perhaps tai-chi classes. Fast broadband is in place. Facebook pages have been sorted out. Still investigating how to make the best use of the solar panels. The Flower Show is going ahead as usual.

12. Current Business

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

The CCAA web, <https://www.cullendeskford.org/> is now active. The web site statistics up to 15th May 2025 are below:

Time period	Visitors	Post / Page Views
This Month [to date]	125	279
Last Month	485	927
Last 30 Days	547	1.1k
Last 90 Days	610	1.2k

Newsletters	%age
Percentage Opened	59.26%
Post open rates	14.81%

Notes:

Posts to the web site can be automatically forwarded to the CDCC Facebook page though some tweaking may be necessary. Spam Contact – WP Armour [free plugin] has detected 87 spam posts to forms on the site and removed them.

There is the facility for CDCC email though this is, currently, not being used.

An appreciative thanks to Les for his efforts in putting this together. CDCC members should come up with a date for when we can learn how to put articles etc. onto the website. Also, in relation to setting up and using the various 'positional' E-mail addresses (such as Chair, Secretary, etc. etc.). The current survey on the bike stands seems to have been well engaged – 197 views of the web page, and several responses to the survey.

Agreed to test forwarding of emails to personal email addresses.

b. Aultmore Windfarm: Vattenfall's redesigned Aultmore Wind Farm proposal

Colin Burch and Bruce Edelsten met with Vatenfall representatives for an update: Moray Council objected to the planning application on the basis of the height of the turbines and the planning application may now go to public enquiry. The proposals to redevelop Buckie Harbour haven't moved forward.

They have also been doing STEM subjects at local primary schools.

<https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00003365>

- c. Community Engagement / Cullen Volunteer Fair
Sunday 8 June at the Seafeld Arms hotel between 1100 - 1300Hrs. CDCC have booked a stand. Seafeld Arms Hotel are providing the accommodation
Les circulated CDCC promotional materials for the event
CDCC agreed to subsidise the beverages – teas, coffees etc., up to £50.00
- d. Resilience Planning
Nothing to report
- e. Cullen Volunteer Group
Colin spoke again with the volunteer group chair. He will mention it again to other members of the group and come up with a date for a meeting.
Agreed to maintain contact.
- f. Community Lunches
Now taking place on the last Wednesday of the month over the summer period.
The 50th Community Lunch will be on Wednesday 28 May. A thank you to all who have helped to make this landmark. Still being well attended and appreciated by around 50 persons at each lunch.
- g. CullenConnected
Next edition is imminent. This will be a larger edition than usual, likely to be 24 pages long, partially due to the recent visit by Princess Anne, though mostly to do with the many groups sending in articles for inclusion. A thank you to all of those who contributed. It is a bit disappointing that local businesses are still not sending in articles, even if it is to just thank local people for their custom. A big thank you to all who help put this together and with subsequent distribution.
- h. Overnight stay for campervan/motorhome consultation
CDCC submitted comments to the consultation. There were several Facebook comments to the consultation. In summing up, CDCC oppose the proposals.
- i. Leaking water pump in Seatown
Now dealt with by Scottish Water – remove from next agenda.
- j. Obstructions on highway on A98 through Cullen
A member of the public contacted CDCC about the proprietor of one Cullen's shops putting items on the road after opening up – presumably to display the wares of the shop and for sale, thereby obstructing potential parking spaces outside the shop.

CDCC understanding is that it isn't to sell wares but to preserve a parking space for their van and when people move the cones they get verbal abuse.

Colin spoke twice with the receptionist at the Buckie police station but hasn't had a response. Agreed to pursue the matter via email to BuckieandKeithCommunityPolicing@Scotland.police.uk and, perhaps, include David.Robertson@scotland.police.uk

k. Community Council Elections 2025

Les Tar has prepared promotional materials which will be Included with the next issues of Cullen Connected.

Les is on the JCC working group for this and has proposals for advertising the elections. A thank you to Les for his involvement with this. The Volunteer Day and the Harbour Gala are two opportune events that CDCC should utilise to highlight what we do and look at inspiring involvement from others in the community.

l. JCC – next meeting 22 May

- a. Transport Forum
- b. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup
- c. Elections sub-group

13. AOCB

i. Cullen Primary School – Defibrillator

Cullen Primary School are currently fundraising to install a defibrillator on the school building that would serve both the school and the wider Cullen Community and is requesting CDCC support.

Agreed that Colin will make contact to discuss.

ii. Workplace Active Travel Infrastructure Fund

Following on from an invitation to bid for cycling infrastructure, including bike stands, earlier in the year, CDCC received some possible options from Moray Council which have been put out to consultation via a survey on the CDCC web site.

CDCC will report the findings of the survey to the Active travel team by Friday 23 (or 30th?) May

<https://www.cullendesford.org/2025/05/16/activetravel-bike-infrastructure/>

iii. Cullen Bike Fest – 24 May 2025

CDCC received a promotional poster which has been displayed on the CDCC Facebook page.

iv. Cullen Square noticeboard. The Perspex has now been placed. There is a note inside that informs people that it is a community noticeboard. However, people are requested to put any notices past the Cullen Tourist Initiative, or CDCC, before placing anything inside. Contact details are in the notice board.

v. Cullen skink model.

At the recent Cullen skink championships, CDCC asked local primary school children to draw what a Cullen skink would look like if it was an animal or something. There were two winners, and one of those has been made into a 3D felt model. We have been trying to get this 3D scanned to reproduce models with a 3D printer, though the IT isn't doing so well. Colin has been working with the library service in trying to overcome those issues. Work on this is ongoing. A thank you to Moray Council library staff for their

continuing assistance with this. The felt model will be displayed in the Tourist Information office.

- vi. Erskin Veterans Activity Centre North at Forres
Proposed visit at some point
- vii. Zip Line (aerial runway trolley) at Logie Park
A member of the public contacted the CDCC about the zip line at Logie Park. Moray Council officials confirmed it was working correctly.
- viii. Digital Archive of visit by Princess Anne
Les Tar suggested the CDCC web site would be the best place for this and agreed to contact the chairs of Three Kings Cullen Association and the Cullen, Deskford & Portknockie Heritage Group who may have material.
- ix. Lintmill Defibrillator
Was recently reported faulty and has been repaired under warranty.

14. Dates for the calendar

- Thursday 22 May - Moray JCC meet, Elgin.
- Thursday 29 May - Buckie Area Forum. Via Zoom
- Sunday 8 June - Volunteer Day
- Monday 23 June - Kronach meeting Cullen CCRC

15. Dates of next meetings

17 June at Cullen Community Centre
19 August Cullen Community Centre

Meeting closed at 20.42