



Minutes of Cullen and Deskford Community Council
7 pm 19 August 2025

Present:

Colin Burch (Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Les Tarr

Councillor Donald Gatt

Councillor Tracy Colyer

Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association

Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer

John Jappy, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Five members of the public

1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting notes the passing away of Stewart Wilson, thanking him and Lyra for their service.

2. Apologies

Lyra Wilson

Councillor Theresa Coull

3. Outside Agencies Reports

a. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

John Jappy reported the rescue service attended the Sea School and Golf Club galas. Seasonal safety topics are being displayed on social media pages, and recruitment is ongoing, not only in Cullen but also elsewhere in Moray.

b. Police Scotland

A Police Scotland report was received in July.

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 18 June 2025

a. Corrections - none

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

c. Matters arising not on agenda - none

5. Chair's report

Firstly, I would like to express personal and CDCC condolences to Lyra and family on the passing of Stewart Wilson.

As we go into the last couple of meeting of the current session, I would like to acknowledge the assistance of CDCC members for their support in 'tidying up' various aspects of the current session.

My feedback is integrated into the various parts below.

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil Lovegrove reported that the Admin account has £229.53

Spending this last two months has been £0.99 x 2 for iCloud DD and £50.18 to TKCA for printing. £22.70 for VJ Day flags, £20 for lease of Community Centre and £35 for wreath for Stewart.

The Fundraising account has £16262.22.

Spending this month:

- £611.17 to TKCA for Cullen Connected printing
- £73.73 to Millennium Garden for waterproof leaflet holders
- £69.41 to TKCA for wood for bench repairs
- £115.64 to Colin for Cullen Connected volunteers thank you lunch. This is from the Cullen Connected funds and was specifically put into the funding request.

Leaving £13479.92 allocated and £2782.30 unallocated.

Allocated made up of:

- Town centre regeneration fund £1578.61
- Community lunches £2168.93
- Cullen connected £805.77
- SSE £8961.61

7. Secretary's Report

All communications are reported in the text below.

An E-mail was received on Monday 18 August with concerns regards a potential pedestrian crossing on the A98. This was read out at the meeting and it was agreed to respond after the meeting.

8. Planning report

Reference 25/00756/APP

Address Ardoch Mill Deskford Buckie Moray AB56 5XX

Proposal Change of use of commercial pottery to residential unit

Reference 25/00824/APP

Address 9 Seafeld Place Cullen Buckie Moray AB56 4TE

Proposal Alter and extend dwellinghouse at

9. Councillor's reports

Donald Gatt reported: Things are gradually ramping up after the recess. Because of the Management Group Review there is a lot of recruitment going on, both internal and external. Over the years that have many bitty changes resulting in some managers with maybe twenty or thirty staff while others maybe managing only eight people. The plan is to even things up a bit. The committee system is picking up again – Planning, Corporate Committee papers are out. Constituent enquiries coming in. A96 at Keith meetings. Attended a Library User's Group meeting in Cullen – library proposals going in front of the Education Committee on 16 September with the proposals published a week beforehand.

Tracy Colyer added normal constituency stuff coming in, including the A96 at Keith, and committee meetings to attend.

10. Community Development Officer's report

Jill Sowden reported:

Getting quotes in for this year's program of internal works – this is proving to be difficult as some of the work is quite specialised. The proposed works include hot water cylinders for the dorms, thermal solar panels for hot water, air source heat pump to serve the main hall and destratification fans to redistribute the heat in the hall. Then the hall needs revamping: repainting insulated panels in the roof and acoustic panels hanging down from roof to improve the acoustics in the hall. CARES funding has to be spent by the end of February 2026 and other funding streams by end of March, and their time constraints could make the timing quite tight.

A date has been set for “Cullen: Helping and Thriving” (Cullen CHAT) for representatives of all the volunteer groups in Cullen of Thursday 2nd October 7pm

Motor Homes direction signage: We had to get signs because sat navs were directing people the wrong way such as down Campbell St. The signs have been accredited by Visit Scotland and Moray Council will be putting them on their existing traffic signs such as at the Medici.

Drafting the Local Community Plan: many of the actions from the Local Place Plan can be included but things like more community activities, community safety, mental health, nature club for kiddies and food production (see below – local place plan) etc., will be added before it goes out for consultation.

Friday 22nd August – Community Centre is hosting the TsiFood Community Growing Network – preceded by a visit to Cullen Allotments.

Attended a meeting with Sarah Cambell – Moray Council Play Parks – to discuss funding for playparks.

Three Kings Cullen Association – minutes
Minutes from 10 July 2025 meeting were received.

11. Deskford and District Community Association – minutes
Draft Minutes for the meeting held on 27 May 2025 were received.
Colin Taylor reported on activities at the Deskford Halls.

12. Current Business

a. Community Council Elections 2025

As yet, a date for dissolution of the current session has not been set. (Cllr Donald Gatt did a quick search whilst in the meeting and thinks it will be 27 October. Date to be confirmed).

Les Tarr has been developing posters and flyers to advertise the elections. Debra Duke provided Moray Council materials.

The Sea School Gala, and the Volunteer Fair both provided CDCC an opportunity to provide information to potential recruits.

There will also be publicity in the next edition of the Cullen Connected newsletter as well as a local poster campaign.

b. Community Council web site and e-mail See below for the most recent usage report

c. Community Engagement

- Sea School Harbour Gala

- A98 Crossing Place
The survey on the web site provided an ideal opportunity for community engagement – and feedback.
See <https://www.cullendeskford.org/2025/08/16/a98-crossing-survey-results/>
 - CullenConnected – next newsletter
The flyer and adverts mentioned above will be included in the next edition of CullenConnected which is due early September.
 - The weekly report from the website has a growing number of subscribers.
- d. Cullen and Deskford Local Place Plan
CDCC received a query about the suggested change of use of the Lawtie Land, changing the area not currently used by Cullen Allotments to food growing. After discussion with interested parties, this was confirmed. To date there has been no acknowledgement or further feedback regards the acceptance of this or any other aspect from Moray Council officials.
- e. Cullen Seatown – parking at Port Long Road by harbour
Fire and Rescue Services supplied photographic evidence of the problems caused by inconsiderate parking on Port Long Road by the bend to the lower end of Seafield St. Moray Council responded to CDCC concerns that there is a 4/5-year backlog on work to be done in respect of Traffic Orders (i.e. yellow lines etc). This information was posted on the CDCC web site. CDCC made some temporary advice notices in time for the Sea School Gala which might have reduced irresponsible parking on the day.
- f. Cullen Road Markings – double yellow lines and disabled parking bays
See above
- g. Islands on A98 going out of Cullen to Portsoy
Where, prior to resurfacing, the yellow direction indicators were removed leaving the islands unsigned and a hazard to road users. A good illustration of the lack of communications within the roads department and a good community response when a resident put parking cones on the islands to warn drivers of the unsigned obstructions. The road signage on the islands hasn't, at the time of the meeting, been reinstated. Colin will chase this up.
- h. Obstructions on highway on A98 through Cullen
This refers to tendency of some of the shop keepers to, it is assumed, reserve parking spaces but placing items on the road. A local leaflet drop to street-facing businesses was undertaken. This highlighted the fact that only official authorities have the legal right to put obstructions onto the public highway. Remove from agenda.
- i. Resilience Planning
No further developments on this
- j. Cullen Volunteer Group
No response from the Volunteer Group regards reimbursement of weedkiller for use at the Pet Cemetery. No longer viable to chase up. Remove from agenda
- k. Cullen Millennium Garden – holders for information leaflets
CDCC received a request for funding for waterproof leaflet holders. This was agreed. These are now in-place. Remove from agenda.

- l. Buckie High School – refurbishment
No further news. Remove from agenda
- m. Cullen Primary School – Defibrillator.
It is understood that this is now in-place. It is understood that there is a regular commitment for maintenance. Chair to clarify and assess the viability of assisting with that.
- n. Trees on east side of Cullen Allotments adjacent to B9018
Cullen Community Allotment Association (CCAA) leases its site in Cullen from the Lawtie Trust. It wishes to address a problem with the trees on the eastern boundary next to the B9018 road, but it is not obvious whose responsibility this is. The Lawtie Trust will have Trustees, and an employee of Moray Council says ‘The full council are the trustees’. Lorraine Paisey, Chief Financial Officer | Financial Services says ‘The mechanism for the trustees to make decisions is a report to council. In the first instance we need to establish who is responsible for the trees – this is not knowledge which I would expect members to have, and I will contact the Council’s Open Spaces service in the first instance to see if they know’.
- o. Cullen Recycling Centre
CDCC received an anonymous communication about the state of the recycling area off Port Long Road. Colin Burch and Donald Gatt contacted Moray Council. An on-site meeting took place on Monday 18 August attended by Colin Burch and Les Tarr who met MC officials along with Jill Sowden and Stan Slater from the Three Kings Cullen Association. Basic consensus is that the site is being used inappropriately by business users as well as the incorrect recycling of materials. Recycling materials that are not correctly separated (such as polystyrene and plastic being in the cardboard recycling) are classed as being contaminated. MC do not receive full rebate value if this is the case.

The Three Kings Cullen Association (TKCA), who operate the campervan site have agreed to site a bin within their area for the sole use of campervan users.

CDCC have agreed to undertake a public awareness of the correct / incorrect use of the recycling area. It is to be stressed that this IS NOT a rubbish site, it is only a recycling area. There will also be an article in the next edition of the Cullen Connected newsletter reiterating the site is for correct domestic recycling usage.
- p. Wheelchair access to Cullen beach
The Secretary was contacted to see if there had been any progress in providing access to Cullen Beach. CDCC is of the opinion that the proposal would be best carried forward by some other Cullen group, perhaps 3KCA, who could provide better continuity.
- q. Kronach Twinning Association
A zoom meeting is scheduled for Monday 8 September at 7pm.
- r. Joint Community Councils – meeting on 15 August
This was the last JCC meeting of the current Moray Community Councils tenure. There was an awareness session of the upcoming 20mph zones agenda. All of Cullen would be a 20mph zone, excepting areas on the A98 from Castle Terrace west and uphill from the lower end of the Community centre grounds (junction of Seafield Place). The proposals will be put to public consultation when ready.

Nominations for the Kings Award are open. Any suggestions for deserving candidates to the Lord Lieutenancy though this can be done via the CDCC if required.

A note for rural properties who are supplied by private water supplies. If the water supply is drying up due to weather, or any other conditions outwith local control, the Moray Council are obliged to supply the property with bottled water during the dry spell.

13. AOCB

- a) A thank you to the Cullen Volunteer Group and Ewan at Deskford for the raising of VJ Day flags on Friday 15 August.
- b) A thank you lunch for the Cullen Community lunch volunteers will be held at Gordon Castle on Wednesday 20 August. It is anticipated that managing the Community lunches will be undertaken by the group themselves in the future, with financial administration being undertaken by the TKCA.
- c) CDCC Minutes on the MC website needs to be updated to latest verified Minutes (last on the MC website are March 2025). Once those are uploaded, CDCC will make hard copies and place full session Minutes in the library as a record of the tenure.
- d) CDCC conducted a survey on possible sites for a pelican or other crossing on the A98 which got quite a good response which identified the junction at Seafeld Place as the favourite. Subsequently, CDCC received an email comment. Les Tarr talked the meeting through potential community engagement on the subject.
- e) Vehicle on A98 above island - the meeting discussed the obstruction the vehicle can, at times, pose to wide vehicles navigating the town centre. Colin Burch offered to contact the police to again clarify if the vehicle is 'legally' on the road.
- f) In the run up to the end of the current session CDCC members were requested to update any specific information on the Community Council handover document. This document will assist the next administration with accessing bank accounts, web and E-mail accounts, and any other relevant information that will need to be known by future Cullen & Deskford Community Council administrations.

14. Dates for the calendar

- Thursday 4 September: Harbour Users Group meeting
- Monday 8 September: Kronach Twinning meeting via Zoom
- In October: end of the current Community Council session

15. Dates of next meetings

16 September - Cullen Community Centre

21 October (potentially) - Cullen Community Centre for the inaugural meeting for the 2025 - 2029 Community Council session. (NB if, instead, the current session ends on 27 October, the meeting on the 21st will be the final CDCC meeting of the 2021 - 2025 session).

Meeting closed at 20.57