



**DRAFT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Cullen & Deskford Community Council**

16 August 2022

At Cullen Community and Residential Centre

**Present**

Colin Burch (Chair)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Ernest Kopp (Planning)

Councillor Donald Gatt

Grahame Smith (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service)

Gordon McKandie and Sandra McKandie (Keirans Legacy)

**1. Welcome**

Colin Burch opened the meeting at 19.00

**2. Apologies**

Stewart Black (Vice Chair), Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor Tracy Colyer

**3. Outside Agencies Reports**

Sandra McKandie (Keirans Legacy) made a presentation to the meeting detailing the background to the trust, the trust's services including the provision of defibrillators and training, demonstrated the current defibrillator and discussed the provision and replacement of defibrillators in Cullen and Deskford, and fund raising.

Grahame Smith (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) reported there had be two fires reported, one with the Bauds Woods and one within Crannoch Woods, both, possibly, the result of wild camping and, given the tinder dry conditions at the time, both potentially devastating. The service has been working with Seafield and Strathspey Estates putting up notices – and the estates have running patrols. In case the fire was left smouldering away. If any member of the public comes across a smouldering fire, they should contact the Fire & Rescue Service via 999. Home fire safety visits are restarting. There was a presence at the Seaschool Harbour Gala and did some CPR training. The Brownies will be having a station visit and will also get CPR training. Two people had interviews for recruitment recently, though more are needed.

No Police Scotland Presence but CDCC had received feedback via the Police Service of Scotland  
Buckie & Keith CPT report

#### **4. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2022 were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Phil Lovegrove and seconded by Ernest Kopp.

#### **5. Chair's Report**

The chair's report is subsumed within current business.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

Admin account has £749.43. We had a credit for some ink cartridges that wouldn't work after an HP printer firmware update. ICO direct debit was taken for the next year's registration.

Fundraising account has £9898.73. We've received money from TKCA that they had received for us for a couple of items.

Outgoings have been £400 for flowers, £380 for VAT contribution for printer and £71.95 for compost for flowers

Funding received from Moray West wind farms was £4,800, with the breakdown:

- Cullen beach award certification - £800
- Cullen Connected printer - £2,500
- Cullen E-bus shelter - £1,500

#### **7. Secretary's report**

Facebook posts:

- Draft minutes of July
- Query about bin in carpark outside Old Kirk (see AOB)

#### **8. Councillors' reports**

Donald Gatt reported most of his activities have been run of mill stuff and detailed committee meetings taking place.

#### **9. Resilience planning**

Email from SSEN, 'your project has been granted a partial award and we'll email a formal offer letter shortly for you to sign and return.'

#### **10. Planning Officer's Report**

22/00945/AP and 22/00946/LBC

Alteration and extension to dwellinghouse at 30 Castle Terrace Cullen

22/01334/PRELIC

McKays Mini Mart Cullen – Application for (Off) Premises Licence

(Colin Burch to respond to Moray Council that the CDCC has no concerns)

#### **11. Current Business**

- a) Defibrillators / Kieran's Legacy  
Defibrillator pads needing replaced end of month. Working with Kieran's legacy re replacement of whole defibrillators at Deskford hall & Cullen Square.
- b) Logie Park play area

Sarah Campbell (Moray Council) e-mailed on 11 August:

I recently received confirmation from Proludic, the successful play equipment provider, that the installation of the new Logie Park will commence in October. Actual start date yet to be confirmed but once I have received notification of this, I will let you all know.

With the provisional October date in mind, I will shortly arrange works for the removal of the existing equipment. Again, once I have clarification of dates for removal to commence, I will be back in touch"

- c) Motor home / camper van facilities at Port Long  
Donald Gatt had been contacted by Stewart Black about concerns over the project where inflation hitting the costs could be putting the project in jeopardy. Donald Gatt is to contact Will Burnish (Senior Engineer, Moray Council) to clarify.
- d) Cullen Town Flowers  
Town flowers were planted out earlier in the month. Two Cullen volunteers offered to water the flowers at the Medici-lea and upper Seafield St. It was agreed there needs to be a discussion how Cullen's town flowers can best be implemented.
- e) Millennium Wood  
No news
- f) E-bus shelter  
No further information, nor correspondence from Yvonne Joss.
- g) Tourist Forum  
Remove from agenda
- h) Benches - database  
It is possible to use a phone to geotag bench locations and use that information as the basis for a database
- i) Mercet Cross  
No information
- j) Overhanging hedges  
Concerns by a Cullen resident of overhanging hedges were passed to Mark Atherton, Roads Asset Manager, Moray Council. This has been partially dealt with, and person who made initial concerns is happy with the response in-so-far as what has been done. It is noted that the hedge is still overhanging the pavement, though by a reduced amount. Main concern is that child pushchairs, etc are pushed towards the main road. Suggest that we keep an eye on the situation.
- k) 20mph speed limit / speeding subgroup  
The questionnaire handed out at the Sea School harbour gala produced a lot of responses about speeding. The Scottish Government has plans to introduce a safer speed limit of 20mph on appropriate roads in built up areas by 2025. A motion was recently presented to Moray Council: "Council notes that 20 mph zones in built-up areas contribute to reducing noise pollution and CO2 emissions. Council further notes that 20 mph zones significantly reduce the number of casualties on the road." Donald Gatt noted that replacing all the 30mph signs with 20mph ones would cost a lot of money. Bruce Edelsten noted that if this a Scottish Government initiative, the proposal would be centrally funded. Ernest Kopp is keeping an eye on this.
- l) Cullen Square – one way system  
The questionnaire also highlighted concerns about motorists ignoring the west square's one-way system. However, a road traffic survey carried out over three days in July failed to register any transgressions. Donald Gatt responded that if anyone observes any transgressions, they should photograph it and contact the police.
- m) CullenConnected – advert

- n) Harbour Gala – questionnaire  
The questionnaire was included with the August edition of the Cullen Connected and made available at the Harbour Gala. 22 responses received so far. Colin will more fully collate the responses, however base points: speeding, Cullen Square traffic movements, potholes, dog poo, bins not emptied enough and youth provision. There are a significant number of people who do not know what about the Community Benefit from developments (e.g., windfarms).
- o) Short Life Steering Group  
An Alcohol Licencing Toolkit Workshop which Ernest Kopp has offered to attend on behalf of CDCC
- p) Moray Food Plus presentation June 2022  
The CDCC is waiting for a response to an application to the TESCO blue button scheme for funding of a foodbank in Cullen. Colin Burch reported the Co-op are looking for an outlet for surplus, near end-of-life products. Hopefully CDCC can formulate a plan to best utilise those. Also, Colin suggested CDCC could become involved in supporting people over the winter months. It was agreed that Colin should make initial contact with Moray Council's Citizen's Advice Services. Also see <https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-welfare-fund>
- q) New Members  
Colin reported there is the potential of a new member joining CDCC

## 12. AOCB

- a. Bin at Old Kirk  
Mairi Meiklejohn, Seafeld Estates, enquired about an overflowing bin in Old Kirk car park, which neither Seafeld Estates nor Moray Council had installed. A post on Facebook asking for information did not elicit any useful information. Phil noted the bin seemed to back in use and offered to keep an eye on it. Agreed to thank Mairi for raising the issue.
- b. Harbour Advisory Committee  
The next meeting of the Cullen Harbour Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 at 6pm Cullen Community & Residential Centre. Heather Cameron will be attending on behalf of CDCC.
- c. Water supply to Lintmill over the weekend 16/17 July  
CDCC received email confirmation of actions being taken by Scottish Water, though, as the action was taking place in one of Stewart Riddoch's fields, CDCC was aware and had posted information on Facebook
- d. Aultmore Windfarm  
On Friday 12 August Colin Burch and Bruce Edelsten briefly met Ruth Liddcoat, PR consultancy for Vattenfall's Aultmore Windfarm project for a catch up. A useful and interesting meeting (if interested in cycling and walking), the main point received that, while some of the points previously made about public access were useful, they would gain more traction if also made by appropriate pressure groups.
- e. Crash barrier by Cullen Bay Hotel  
This was first damaged on 16<sup>th</sup> May and has been damaged again since then. CDCC is concerned that it has not been fixed. Donald Gatt to pursue.
- f. Fund raising  
Once CDCC has confirmation from Keirans Legacy about provision of a defibrillator, CDCC will need to organise a fund-raising event
- g. Training  
Phil reported he was attending treasurer training organised by Debra Duke

- h. Visit by Douglas Ross to Cullen Community Centre on 17 Aug 2022  
Colin intends attending the surgery to enquire where the visit had been advertised as the CDCC had not been notified. And ask whether he wants CDCC agendas and minutes.

**13. Date of next scheduled meeting**

20 August 2022 at Deskford Community Hall

Meeting closed at 21.12

**Distribution**

First draft is circulated for comment to community councillors, as are revised drafts until no more comments are received.

The final draft will be presented for approval at the next prescribed meeting of the Community Council then, within 14 days of approval, circulated to other appropriate parties (Moray Council councillors), the Moray Council Community Council Liaison Officer, and posted on Facebook.



## Collated responses

August 2022

Total responses:- **29**

Are you a Cullen:

Resident 21

Visitor 6

Other (please say what): 2 Caravan owners @Holiday park; visiting relations

Q1 **Are you aware of the Cullen & Deskford Community Council (CDCC)?**

YES 25

NO 3 No response 1

If YES, can you give a bit of an explanation as to what a Community Council is / does / are involved with (just a few words will do)?

- Go-between the public & various services in the area
- Attending to local matters & helping people with their concerns
- Liaising with other networks which could help our community as is setting up well-being groups in our community
- Looks after the wellbeing of Cullen
- Community Council is a statutory body set up & run by local residents to act on behalf of the area
- Group of local volunteers concerned with improving & supporting the local community
- Helps on numerous things to do with the local community & area
- It is basically a liaison between council & residents & local groups
- Looking after Community interests & environment
- Develop facilities for benefit of locals & visitors
- Looking after the Community's needs
- The Community Council is there to ????? the community and is an enterprise which has taken over several responsibilities for buildings and activities the Moray Council used to do
- Looks after Community matters
- They do nothing constructive. Waste money
- Local matters which affect or will effect on the local community
- Liaison between Community & Moray Council in matters affecting community at large
- Trying to resolve issues in the community brought to their attention by members of the public

Continued:

Q2 **What do you think about the following?**

	Excellent	Good	Okay	Poor	No response
Cullen Town Flowers	11	11	4	3	0
Litter bins	5	10	2	11	1
Children's Playpark facilities	1	5	7	10	6
Youth Provision	1	3	6	9	10
Provision for older people	4	10	6	3	6
Local resident's facilities	2	9	8	3	7
Visitor's facilities	5	10	8	4	2
Defibrillator provision	8	8	6	2	5
Recycling provision	4	10	6	5	4
Road layout in Cullen Square	7	5	11	5	1

Please expand further here if required:

- More doggie poo bins along the Port Long caravan site path. More car charging points
- Unable to answer all points as only just arrived, but so far everything we see is good and positive
- The problem with litter bins is an ongoing problem at the beach– more bins & public education; My interest as a volunteer gardener is the lack of communication this year about the Cullen town flowers. Any enquiry has been met by 'they haven't been delivered'. Volunteers could have helped by planting out the tubs earlier with donations. Why were they not delivered? Was the order not put in? What is the state of funds? What will be done to ensure there are flowers next year? If not, how can we grow some from seed or get local donations (last year there were maybe too many plants bought)? Fellow community volunteers are interested in this.
- Bins need to be emptied more often; very little Youth provision, especially teenagers.
- The direction that drivers are supposed to take is not very clear in Cullen Square. I frequently see drivers on the wrong side of the road on the Grant Street side of the Square. **update:** for the first time today, I noticed 'one way' and 'no entry' signs at the junction. Not sure if they have only recently been erected, but hopefully they will make a difference.
- Still notice several cars enter the Square by Rockpool, and not at craft shop. 3 points!!
- I think the Cullen Volunteer group do a fantastic job around our community. I often feel the council dodge their responsibilities toward this end of Moray e.g. Youth programmes, etc. Road maintenance poor
- Sign posting is poor in Cullen Square. The bollard from Grant Street seems to be misunderstood, sign posting for entry into square is poor and a bit small. A lot of near

Please continue overleaf

Continued:

- misses of accidents have occurred in the Square during our time in the locale [edited due to possible identification of respondent]. We did contact Moray District Council in the past, but were fobbed off. Another difficult area is where the cars enter York Place from Seafield Street coming down. The long sloping corner see's drivers entering York Place too quickly and pedestrians have had to run
- The Cullen Children's playpark is a disgrace. How did it get in this state? What is there for kids in Cullen during holidays! There is a cycle track advertised on the town map, it is no longer in existence. Streets are covered in weeds. Hardly a welcome sight for visitors. Too many bric-a-brac shops!
- Why is our doctor's surgery only open in the morning. People are struggling for appointments or have to travel to Buckie. There is no direct service to the doctors, this is an absolute disgrace!
- More explanation about recycling
- We are visiting in a motorhome and appreciate the parking provided. We would happily pay for additional facilities e.g. grey water and toilet emptying and fresh water access
- I think we need to do something urgently for play facilities as they are getting really dilapidated. Most of the major supermarkets fund equipment upgrades. Tesco puts trail/gym type equipment in parks.
- I know the playpark will be done. Youth provision – The seaschool is great but you need money to access it. No Youth Club. The only recycling point is small and the square on the toilet side needs to be one way to ease congestion.
- [bins] Okay off-season but poor at height of summer, need more picnic areas: beach/harbour/medicky. Could use plastic & cans bins @ recycling centre. Some second home owners & some holiday cottage owners put all their rubbish in general small street bins – so they are almost at capacity even before walkers & other visitors arrive for the day.
- [town flowers] Ask for individuals/groups to sponsor or donate a tub/basket. [local residents facilities] More dog bins in town centre streets. [visitors facilities] Better waste disposal facilities for campervans. [Road layout in Cullen Square] Better signage to emphasise one-way system.
- Litter a constant problem – need more bins. Dog bins need replaced and more required & emptied regularly. Facilities not existing – very poor
- [children's playpark facilities] A disgrace
- [litter bins] We need more signs to say take home or to another bin if full. I think we need a pedestrian crossing in Cullen – it can be very difficult for older people or young families with toddlers & pushchairs. Also a mirror on road by Seafield Lodge (home by viaduct opp. Royal Oak) as people walk along river or down from Castlehill and it is very dangerous to get across the road.

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Q3 **Do you think there is a speeding issue in CDCC area?**

YES 19  
NO 9 No response 1

If YES, where are your concerns regarding this?

- Do not know, but I am told there is?
- Lorries drive too fast
- Speeding on small streets
- York Place is a rat run for cars

Continued:

- South & North Castle Street Cullen
- A98 out of Cullen near the library. Seafield Place
- Traffic approaching from Portsoy. Worry about proposed new housing going in there and traffic implications
- All over. Old school side and Buckie side. Make 20mph MAX
- Drivers frequently drive far too fast through Cullen
- Seatown – not a race track. 20's plenty
- As a person with a mobility issue, it can be scary crossing the road, especially at the bus stop
- Seafield Street – should be 20mph from top of hill to other side of viaduct
- Particularly in North Castle Street, use it for racing & speeding. Someone will get killed or injured
- Everywhere
- Cathay Terrace – consider traffic calming bumps. A98 crossing at Judy's Lane.
- Lintmill towards Cullen after bridge
- Seatown and main road from Western entrance to Eastern exit needs to be 20mph to slow down traffic : Make safe for elderly @ children crossing
- At the top of the village, 30 signs are disregarded

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Q4 **Do you know what 'Community benefit' from developments is?**

YES 8  
NO 19 No response 2

If YES, what do you feel would be of advantage from Community benefit if it was available in our area?

- The only advantage is a financial one for the developers
- Come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems & issues
- Providing sanitary facilities and charging rates for holiday homes in Portlong Road, Cullen
- Very impressed with development of Castlehill and paths
- Upgrade of play equipment. Refurbishment of the library, youth provision & town website which shows all the new ????? of the main drag, shops.
- The Cullen volunteer group are the people who look after Cullen. Mostly been commercial input. Seafield Arms & other improvements to Square.
- Money for Youth Services
- Improvements in parking provision at new Nursery/Cullen Primary school. Extension of 30mph zone to beyond Keith junction. Rumble strips on road.
- Could be used to provide for emptying more bins in Summer – cleaner area. Notices (on picnic tables) to remind people to be responsible with waste.

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Q5 **Is there anything you feel that your Community Council should be aware of in our area?**

- There is not enough dog poo bins in Cullen. People are not cleaning up dog mess! Why don't you charge holiday home dormobiles, etc. A fee to camp in Cullen, we are losing out on thousands of pounds each year here – other sites in Moray do it, why not in Cullen!
- Need an AGM

Continued:

- Pot holes are a major issue. Why do the Council insist on filling them with loose chippings & tar. All that does is damage your cars paintwork. We have too many holiday homes, young folk can't afford them.
- The trash bins in Cullen near the campervans
- Toilet & ice cream facilities at harbour – excellent
- Pot holes. Bad one in middle of Cathay Terrace
- Traffic, pot holes in most streets. More dog poo bins & emptied regularly. Local GP surgery – having to go to Buckie for appointment's, difficult for older folk with no transport
- I feel a 20mph speed limit throughout Cullen would be beneficial, making our town safer for everyone, especially children, the elderly or people like myself who have mobility issues
- 2 streetlights down Seatown Brae at bottom have been out since April
- Overhanging bushes & trees which cover & hide signage. Dog poo bins would be good & more litter bins
- They should open their eyes to how poor things are
- No facilities for young people & children. Also lanes dividing Cullen need to be cleaned – cans, dog-poo, etc. in lanes.
- Parking in Seatown – severely congested in summer. Tourists in huge cars parking inappropriately at B&B and second homes blocking access at times. B&B owners putting 'PRIVATE PARKING' notices in their windows in Seatown (and also on fence at Royal Oak) for their own patrons

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**Q6 Do you know where to find the Cullen & Deskford Community Council meeting's Minutes to keep in touch with what's happening in your area?**

YES 11

NO 17 No response 1

Do you think they should be available anywhere particular?

- On Facebook
- Perhaps in the library for folk with no access to computers, etc.
- Don't know
- Library
- Quarterly newsletter
- From what I am aware they are a waste of time – nothing is done
- Printed copy available to read in post office
- Perhaps a few copies in local shop windows / café's for those not online

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If CDCC feel the need to contact you in the event of a query regards the above, would you be okay with that?

If so, please leave your name & contact details here:

- 13 persons left contact details in case of further query / clarification required
-