

**Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Meeting on Thursday 20th August 2009
7.30 p.m. in Memorial Hall, Cullen Town Hall**

M I N U T E S

- Present:** Professor Ashley Mowat, Chair
Mr Thomas Johnston, Vice-Chair
Mrs Joyce Henderson, Treasurer
Mr Malcolm Watt
- In Attendance:** Cllr Stewart Cree
PC Leach
PC Bentley
- Apologies:** Mrs Zillah Jamieson, Joint Secretary
Mrs Monica Wells, Joint Secretary
Mr Sandy Christie
Cllr Gary Coull
Cllr Ron Shepherd

1. Welcome And Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the 19th meeting of the Cullen & Deskford Community Council.

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Minutes Of Previous Meeting (16th July 2009)

No amendments were made. The Minutes were approved as a true record.

The following was noted in relation to Agenda Item 8.5 from the previous minutes: Road and Traffic Problems:-

- Auld Kirk Road: action taken
- Open sewer in Seafield Street lane/repeated dog fouling on the beach/state of Glebe Park Crescent, York Place and Reidhaven Street: Cllr Coull confirmed (19th August 2009) that he had not received a response from Roads Department re these issues.

ACTION: Cllr Gary Coull

In relation to construction traffic in Glebe Park Crescent, Cllr Coull had forwarded an e-mail from Planning Department (19th August 2009) indicating: "Looking at the conditions of the consent, there was no restriction to construction traffic, and generally building sites will always result in some disruption to the locality in which they are set. Ultimately all vehicular access will need to be from Seafield Road, so traffic use on Glebe Park Crescent should be a temporary thing. The only recourse would be if the construction traffic was causing a statutory nuisance (under Environmental Health legislation), but this may be unlikely if they are working normal hours and conducting themselves in a reasonable manner."

3. Reports

3.1 Police:

Mobile police surgery/use of police office: The Joint Secretary confirmed having written to Inspector Spark, Sergeants Harris and Nicol (3rd August 2009) requesting further dates for police surgeries in either the mobile office or police office. She undertook to publicise the dates in the Cullen Library, Cullen Post Office, Cullen Town Hall Noticeboard and two Deskford Halls. Inspector Spark's response (3rd August 2009) indicated that they would be continuing the surgeries; unfortunately, due to sudden changes in staffing in his area, the provisional arrangements that Sergeant McCullie made were not followed through. PC Ian Dormand was on firearms duties during August. Sergeant Harris confirmed (telephone call with Joint Secretary 19th August 2009) that he will sort out some dates for the rest of the year and advise accordingly. Inspector Spark anticipates that they will make most use of the police office, as opposed to the mobile office. Dates are awaited from Sergeant Harris.

Action: Zillah Jamieson

The police representatives raised the matters of car vandalism and an associated assault in Logie Drive which started in Cullen Square, plus two reports of attempted lead theft for which investigations are ongoing. A report of indecency is also being investigated.

PC Leach confirmed that regular harbour patrols are still being carried out when police vehicles are in Cullen, and it is also part of PC Dormand's beat.

Both PCs stressed the need for people to ensure that their property is properly locked, as there has been a recent spate of opportunist thefts in Moray.

Pedestrian Island, Seafield Street: The Chair confirmed having received from Elaine Penny (17th July 2009) a document regarding the assessment of pedestrian crossings, together with an older document describing how to use the numerical assessment and some pages out of a reference book (Roads and Traffic in Urban Areas) which also describes the process. She also sent a plan of the proposed extension to the build-outs for his information. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would write to Elaine Penny (copied to Sergeant Harris - at his request) indicating that the ideal crossing from the community council's point of view is a light controlled crossing minus either the island in the middle or the built out pavements adjacent.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

The Joint Secretary confirmed having read the documentation associated with the public meeting held in 2002 to highlight traffic and parking concerns in Cullen. The key concerns raised and ideas put forward included:-

- Traffic speeding past the filling station site - in both directions (still valid)
- York Place, North and South Castle Streets being used as a rat run (still valid and worsened recently)
- Measures to control speeding required, given (at the time) filling station traffic, school crossing and community centre traffic (flashing signal installed)
- Junction of Seafield Place/Seafield Street on the west side - Manse Brae to become one-way (actioned)

- Move the bus stop to the market cross (actioned)
- Crossing in the square (not actioned)
- Pedestrian crossing at bottom of North Castle Street across Bayview Road (actioned)
- Square to become one way on each side of Market Cross (actioned)
- Difficult crossing opposite the brae leading to the Seatown - speed of cars coming round bend (still a problem)
- Traffic lights at York Place (not actioned)
- Put junction on York Place/South Castle Street to slow traffic (not actioned)
- New speed limit needs to be policed (not actioned)
- Calming measures at South Castle Street (not actioned).

Neighbourhood Watch: The Chair spoke with Bob Phimister previously, who promised to look out any residual information on his PC and pass this on to us, Ted having disposed of the details in preparation for his move. A further approach will be made.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

Neighbourhood Watch Deskford Scheme: no update received.

ACTION: Tom Johnston/Sandy Christie/Monica Wells

3.2 Local Councillors

No items other than those on the agenda were raised.

3.3 Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that the current balance stands at £2530.63, but after commitments (payments due) there is a useable balance of £1628.12.

Textile Recycling: The Treasurer confirmed that no further payments had been received.

Outings for elderly/less mobile people (including Deskford Flower Show):

According to their website, BABS-Dial a Bus is a Community Care project of the Focus Foundation, a Christian ministry. The Buckie based service links users along a 20-mile rural stretch of coast in North East Scotland, enabling anyone who might otherwise be housebound to enjoy shopping and social trips thus improving quality of life. Trained drivers and passenger assistants collect passengers from their own homes and take them back again. Membership is free and open to anyone who would be eligible for a Concession Travel Card on the grounds of disability or seniority of age and who finds it difficult to use public transport. The organisation depends mainly on sponsors or private donations for funding. Cullen Pensioners are quoted as a sponsor in 2007. The organisation does take commissions for outings - maximum capacity is 14; costs depend on mileage and time requirements. The contact telephone number is 01542 835800. The decision was taken to hold over any further action on this until the next session of the Community Council (after October).

Contribution to website: to be discussed.

Contribution to Cullen District Calendar: a further reprint of 50 calendars (as agreed at the last meeting at a cost £100) was placed in local shops, leaving nil stock. To date, payments have been received for 84 sold calendars (£286.10), with 75 placed in local shops and orders received for a further 20. The Chair confirmed that demand currently exceeds supply, but that a stocktake of what is lying in the different locations is imminent, prior to placing further reprint orders. It was agreed that the Chair and Joint Secretary should proceed thereafter as necessary.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

Contribution to Cullen Beacon campaign: please see appropriate reference under Agenda Item 7.1.

3.4 Funding Update/Incoming Information

No update available.

3.5 Events Diary

An up-to-date Events Diary is attached as Appendix 1.

Great Wall of China Walk: the date has now been confirmed as Wednesday 11th November 2009. The Main Hall in the Town Hall will be booked, and further discussions held in September with a view to commencing promotion of the event in October.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

4. Community Council Pilot Project

The Joint Secretary confirmed having received a letter (23rd July 2009) from the Scottish Government offering a one-off grant of £500 to enable our participation in the pilot project; she confirmed having accepted this offer (1st August 2009). All members were advised (3rd August 2009). Funds were to be credited to our bank account no later than 17th August 2009 (notification handed to Treasurer). Following discussion, it was agreed that a professionally printed handout summarising successes to date, aspirations for the future and enlisting greater support and involvement by the community should be produced, to be hand delivered by council members. It was suggested that two quotes should be sought, possibly from Keith and Buckie.

ACTION: All

The Joint Secretary confirmed having received a copy of the Notice of Election for Moray Community Councils, a version of which will be in the local papers in the coming days and be displayed in council buildings, where appropriate. The Joint Secretary also has 9 nomination forms and accompanying guidance notes which are also available on the internet at www.moray.gov.uk/communitycouncils. The deadline for submitting nominations is 4 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd September 2009.

The public contact numbers for the Elections Office at the Moray Council is 01343 563334 or email election.enquiries@moray.gov.uk.

Following e-mail consultation with all members, the Joint Secretary confirmed having written to Alastair Kennedy, Chair of the Joint Community Councils, (11th August 2009) indicating that:-

- the Community Council was **not** interested in contributing £100 towards a Moray-wide publicity campaign as we felt that the money could be better spent in promoting each individual Community Council - focussing on the specific activities undertaken by each community council in their own area
- the Community Council was happy to support Alastair's efforts in attracting LEADER funding; given the timescales, it is obvious that this funding would not be available in the lead-up to the elections, and therefore any funds acquired would require to be spent on promoting Community Councils during their next term of office. A support e-mail was sent to Alastair Kennedy as he requested (19th August 2009).

5. Community Engagement fund:

Following the discussion at the last meeting, at which point it was agreed to opt for Option 1 as our preferred method of funding, an e-mail from Alastair Kennedy, Chair of the Joint Community Councils (4th August 2009), indicated the following:- "You may recall that there were 2 strands to the consultation on the support of Community Groups, one was about support and the other was funding. Despite an apparent agreement (which is still the understanding of myself, MVSO and The Moray Forum) that without knowing what support was available it was pointless to comment on funding. I have since been informed that the funding consultation is still live. I would also point out that at least some of the pro capita figures are improperly calculated. Even taking the easiest figure of £1,000 to each group this figure is dependent on the same amount of groups being in existence following the CC elections (we currently have 5 inactive Community Councils - should any of these form funding would be reduced to include these groups). I am concerned that comments may be missed due to this uncertainty so if your CC decides to make comment I would urge caution in translating the figures provided. I am trying to contact the appropriate Officer to confirm the status of this Consultation but he is on annual leave at the moment. I will advise you of progress in early course."

Following discussion, it was agreed that our response should remain with Option 1.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

6. Community Plan

6.1 Reduction in Public Facilities in Cullen

The Joint Secretary confirmed having received a response from Mr Mark Palmer, Chief Financial Officer (20th July 2009), as follows:-

"I can confirm that a large volume of information papers has been provided to Administration Group Council Members to assist with a detailed review of the council's budget. This information includes a report on council properties in Cullen which has yet to be given consideration. The Administration Group is making steady progress on the review and it has been recommended to them that on completion of their review consultation on council priorities and therefore budget reductions in the years ahead be undertaken. It is not possible to advise on when such consultation might take place. However, I will ensure that you are advised of any consultation arrangements that are established to inform the council on future budget discussions and decisions."

Cllr Cree explained that, 4 weeks ago, the budget was reviewed and again challenged by him on our behalf. Following discussions with the deputy convenor, it would appear that no further action is likely until the rest of the area review is completed. A communication will be devised and displayed on noticeboards and in the Cullen Library and Post Office.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

A response is still awaited from Bob Stewart, Director of Environmental Services, regarding the green space beside the Community Centre. The Joint Secretary confirmed having written again to Bob Stewart, Director of Environmental Services (15th August 2009) requesting a response to our query on the green space beside the Community Centre. An acknowledgement of this e-mail had now been received (19th August 2009), with an undertaking to investigate what has happened and report back.

6.2 Harbour Committee Report:

There was no report other than the discussion held on the latest developments with the Cullen Harbour Lighthouse (see Agenda Item 7.1).

6.3 Town Hall Report:

Town Hall Flag: Work is in hand to obtain two quotes for the new design of flag.

ACTION: Joyce Henderson

The Joint Secretary confirmed having received a cheque to the value of £159.28 from the Cullen Common Good Fund (letter dated 28th July 2009); this relates to the application made during the last financial year, but the payment has been made in error given that we do not yet have the costs for the new design of flag. This has been recognised by the Moray Council; it has been agreed that the Community Council should bank the cheque, and a reconciliation be undertaken once all costs are known. Receipts must be provided for all expenditure.

ACTION: Joyce Henderson

The Chair confirmed that the Chair of the Town Hall Committee had written to the Chief Executive of the Moray Council indicating lack of action on the Town Hall. A response is awaited.

The Chair confirmed having received a copy of a letter from the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group to the Chief Executive of the Moray Council, complaining regarding the lack of response to their request for use of the Memorial Hall during the summer of 2010. A response is awaited.

Fire/Safety Report: A response is awaited.

Property Review: no progress.

Reading Room: It is understood that the current occupant has been asked to vacate the premises and remove the snooker table as a matter of urgency.

6.4 Cullen Common Good Fund

Nothing further to report at this time.

6.5 The Lawtie Trust

The Chair is in continuing discussions with different organisations with a view to furthering the interests of the local community

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

6.6 Floodlighting of the Market Cross/War Memorial

Nothing further to report at this time. Funding applications will require to be investigated before any further progress can be made.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

6.7 Homecoming 2009

The current schedule of activities includes the following:-

Date	Event
23rd January	Burns Supper, Cullen Town Hall - successful evening - with the bottle competition carried forward to a future event; funds raised for the RNLI amounted to £504; presentation took place 23rd July 2009; letter of thanks received from RNLI (4th August 2009)
16th February	Gents & Boys Haircutting Marathon - Scissors, The Square - funds raised for the Play Centre amounted to £100
15th to 21st June	Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group - Homecoming Week - various events (Primary School and Town Hall) - a very very successful week
17/18th June	Seniors Open - run by Seniors Section of Golf Club; Homecoming 2009 funds (£1,000) approved by the Moray Council; coverage in the Banffshire Advertiser of 16th June 2009; a successful event despite the weather on the first day; it is hoped to repeat the event in 2010; letter of thanks sent to Cullen Golf Club (3rd August 2009) acknowledging donation of £50
11th/12th July	Craft Weekend - in aid of RNLI and PoppyScotland (Town Hall)
26th July	Vintage Tractors and Cars: ground booked through Moray Council (The Link); public liability insurance arranged through Moray Council; risk assessment finalised; successful day despite weather; location popular with exhibitors; to be repeated next year; good press coverage in the Banffshire Journal (21st July), Banffshire Advertiser (21st and 28th July) and on Moray Firth Radio
31st July/1st and 2nd August	Art Group event
8th/9th August	Craft Fair - Christmas Lights Group (Town Hall)

18th September	Musical Evening (to incorporate the bottle competition outstanding from the Burns Supper - all funds from the bottle competition to the RNLI)
31st October	Christmas Fair - Christmas Lights Group (Town Hall)
28th November	Musical event, possibly Whiskers Galore
30th November	Beacon to be lit on the Bin Hill - courtesy of Seafield Estate
November/December	Christmas Lights Switch-on

6.8 Cullen District Calendar

See reference under Section 3.3.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

6.9 Cullen Website

The Joint Secretary confirmed that a meeting had been held with Hedley Enterprises (based in Portknockie) as a result of which a further progress report was issued to all members of both the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative and the Community Council. Following consultation with all members of both organisations, the following consensus was reached.

The consensus relates to Plan A - which is to pursue the "ideal" website - a customised website developed to our specification by an external party, provided we can obtain funding.

- the preferred supplier is now Hedley Enterprises
- the remaining 3 suppliers will be advised that they have been unsuccessful; this was felt to be urgent, out of courtesy to the three organisations (now advised)
- Hedley Enterprises will be advised that they are the preferred supplier, subject to obtaining external funding for the development (now advised)
- work on funding applications should be commenced as soon as possible.

If funding applications are unsuccessful, Plan B will be to explore a DIY or template-based option (brochure passed to the Chair).

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

6.10 Cullen Community Garden

The Criminal Justice Services Unit has effected a noticeable improvement, but it is still very much a work in progress given the scale of the task

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

6.11 Criminal Justice Services Projects

The following list of projects are being actively progressed:-

- Cullen Beach tidy-up: being undertaken regularly
- Viaduct - litter tidy-up: being undertaken regularly
- Deskford Community Centre: being undertaken regularly

- Cullen Community Garden: work in progress; Mike has indicated that they are struggling with the clearing of the Community Garden (due to other work coming in), but have got half done and started trying to make paths through the thistles; he intends to carry out further work, but may not get it as clear as he had hoped
- Crannoch Hill path: see note below.
- Coastal path to the east of Cullen: no action as yet
- Cullen Town Hall - internal painting: in abeyance in anticipation of Property Review and outcome of discussions with Nick Goodchild.

The Joint Secretary confirmed having placed a further request to Mike McRitchie (3rd August 2009) to add the two sandy areas at the Cullen Harbour to the tidy-up activities. Mike's response (14th August 2009) indicated that "there is to be a beach clean up in September which is to be co-ordinated throughout the North Criminal Justice area - the dates etc to be decided - so we may get that at that time."

Crannoch Hill Path: the last minutes indicated an action to write to Ian Douglas re the extension to this path. However, the February minutes indicated a response from the Moray Council as follows:- "This has been added to a list of potential schemes that will compete for funding if/when funding for footways becomes available." This seemed at variance with an e-mail from Gordon Holland dated 19th February indicating that he is going to provide estimated costs for this footpath. Following discussion, it was agreed to write to Gordon Holland, copied to Ian Douglas, indicating that this short piece of incomplete path is perhaps the most used by locals and visitors, and would not require major construction especially as the surrounding grass has just been cut by Moray Council.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

7. Planning

7.1 Cullen Harbour Lighthouse

The Joint Secretary confirmed having submitted a letter from the Chair to the Editor of the P. & J. (20th July 2009) welcoming the endeavours of the Angling Club to raise funds for this initiative, but also highlighting the significant amount of work that has already been put into this project, including discussions with the Moray Council and Historic Scotland, together with donations already received. As far as is known, the letter did not appear in the paper. A more accurate article appeared in the Banffshire Advertiser (21st July 2009).

The Joint Secretary confirmed having received a letter (6th August 2009) from Keith Stratton, Senior Engineer Roads, the Moray Council - attached as Appendix 2 - acknowledged by the Joint Secretary (11th August 2009). After discussion, it was agreed that we would accept the quote, with clarification sought on some grey areas. The Chair also suggested that Historic Scotland and other agencies, plus national and local press, be made aware of where we are with this at the same time.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

The Angling Club has now arranged an Angling Competition (6th September) and a Quiz Night (19th September) - all the proceeds of which will go to the fundraising campaign for the Lighthouse.

7.2 eConsultation on Planning Applications

The Joint Secretary confirmed having received an e-mail from Angus Burnie, Principal Planning Officer (7th August 2009), indicating the following:-

"With effect from 10 August 2009 it is proposed to issue formal consultations on planning and other related applications electronically. These will be forwarded to your email address as used in this email. The issue of eConsultations will replace paper-based consultation arrangements, meaning no paper application details will be issued/exchanged.

With eConsultation you will receive a covering email and a template with various information about the application and a link to the Council's website where documents on the application can be examined online. The template will also include a form for your response and an email address for the return of your response/comments."

7.3 Weekly List

In the Weekly List dated 31st July, the following applications appeared:-

- Alter and extend dwellinghouse at 11 Reidhaven Street, Cullen
- Internal alterations to new extension at 6 Campbell Street, Cullen
- Outline application for formation of development platform and establishing electricity converter station at Blackhillock, Keith.

These were not deemed to be of community interest.

In the Weekly List dated 7th August, the following application appeared:-

- Erection of new single storey medical centre at Seafeld Road, Cullen.

The plan for the new medical centre was welcomed, but Cllr Cree's assurance was sought that he would support the necessary solutions to increased traffic problems on the already problematic Seafeld Road. It was agreed to write to the Planning Department seeking reassurance on this matter.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

Concern was expressed re the report in the Banffshire Journal that the Medical Centre in Cullen was at threat. The Chair undertook to write to Cllr Shepherd for clarification on this point which had never been raised before.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

8. Points for Noting/Information

8.1 Licensing Board Applications:

Licensing Board Applications are being monitored on a weekly basis by the Joint Secretary. There have been none since the last meeting.

8.2 Correspondence

None.

8.3 Publicity

None other than that indicated elsewhere in the Agenda.

8.4 Suggestion Boxes

Nothing to report.

8.5 Confirmation of other actions taken

Letter to P & J regarding potential closure of the Post Office: The Joint Secretary confirmed having submitted a letter from the Chair to the P & J (20th July 2009) confirming how essential the Post Office is in Cullen, that all efforts should be made to retain the service in Cullen and expressing the hope that any potential buyer will recognise the benefits of maintaining the post office service in the premises, whilst developing the property for additional use. As far as is known, the letter did not appear in the paper. A more balanced article appeared in the Banffshire Advertiser (21st July 2009).

As a result of a phone call between the Joint Secretary and a reporter in Elgin, the Postmaster received a telephone call of apology re the inaccuracies in the first article, and a further article was printed.

Supplementary Planning Guidance: Developer Requirements for Housing: The Joint Secretary confirmed having displayed the details in the Cullen Library.

Proposed Revisions to the Moray Council Community Council Scheme 2009-2013: The Joint Secretary confirmed having responded (3rd August 2009) as agreed at the last meeting. The Joint Secretary confirmed having received a communication from the Elections Officer (7th August) enclosing a final copy of the Moray Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, together with a commentary showing the key amendments from the proposed scheme and reasoning behind these changes where applicable. Every newly elected Community Council member will receive a copy of this Scheme and associated documents as part of their handbook, post election. Finalised maps will also be sent; there is little change to the boundaries as they were laid out in the proposed maps.

9. A.O.C.B.

9.1 Renewal of membership of ASCC: following discussion, it was agreed to renew our membership of the ASCC at a cost of £15.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

9.2 Committees/Subgroups: The Joint Secretary confirmed having received a communication from the ASCC (12th August 2009) regarding the protocol involved in setting up sub-groups of the Community Council, as follows:-

- A sub-group of a Community Council should be called a Committee; Councils have Committees, Committees have Sub-Committees, and so on.

- A Community Council can set up a committee with such a remit and structure as it wishes. To some extent this will depend on both the prescriptions in the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils (as published by the local authority) and on the Community Council's constitution. If either of these documents specify a particular structure or framework for Community Council Committees, it must be followed.
- It is necessary for any Committee to have a Convener. A Committee might co-opt non Community Councillors to serve on it, but they should not have voting rights on the Committee. It is necessary for the elected Community Councillors to be the only people on any Community Council structure with the right to decide on all business.
- The setting up of a Committee, including specifics on its remit, composition, and whether it will be delegated any decision making authority must be done at a full Community Council meeting. The minute of the meeting should give clear details on these points.
- It is also important for the Community Council to specify the manner in which the Committee will report back to the Community Council on its work.
- Committee meetings should be held in public in the same way as Community Council meetings must be.

It was agreed that we write formally to relevant groups e.g. the Town Hall Committee, requesting the names of committee members and office bearers, and inviting representatives to attend Community Council meetings to provide an update on progress.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

9.3 LEADER Funding: The Joint Secretary confirmed that she had been advised that, in certain circumstances, LEADER can fund small and micro-businesses. These businesses must be of benefit to the Community and have an involvement with the Community. It has been proposed by the LEADER Project Manager, David Watson, that Community Councils be the vehicle for assisting in the decision to grant or not grant funding by agreeing or disagreeing whether the applicant has a business beneficial to their local community. A proforma letter probably requiring a couple of boxes to be ticked (or otherwise) will suffice for this purpose. This will give Community Councils more recognition across Moray. This was welcomed by all those present.

9.4 New Dental Practice in Buckie: The plan for the official opening of the NHS Muirton Dental Practice by Richard Lochhead on Thursday 27th August was welcomed. The Chair will attend and hopes to find details of how the public can access this much needed NHS facility.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

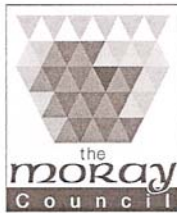
10. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 17th September in the Deskford Jubilee Hall at 7.30 p.m.

APPENDIX 1**EVENTS DIARY**

Date	Event	Location
22nd August	Deskford Flower Show	Deskford
12th September	Coffee Morning - Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group	Cullen Town Hall
18th September	Musical Concert	Cullen Town Hall
31st October	Christmas Fair - Christmas Lights Group	Cullen Town Hall
14th November	Coffee Morning - Cullen Methodist Church	Cullen Town Hall
28th November	Musical Event	Cullen Town Hall

APPENDIX 2



Transportation Service
Keith Stratton
SENIOR ENGINEER (ROADS)
The Moray Council, Academy Street, Elgin, IV30 1LL

Telephone: 01343 562511
Fax: 01343 545628

Gordon Holland
Transportation Manager

E-mail: keith.stratton@moray.gov.uk
Website: www.moray.gov.uk

Our Ref: KRS/CEA - 650431
Your Ref:



06 August 2009

The Secretary
Cullen Community Council
Norwood
11 Seafield Place
CULLEN
AB56 4TE

Dear Sir

CULLEN HARBOUR BEACON

Following suggestions from Professor Mowat and Mr Watt, I reported to the meeting of Cullen, Findochty and Portknockie Harbour Advisory Committee that quotes for replacing the beacon with a GRP replica had been pursued from several companies.

The Balmoral Group have indicated that this is not their line of work and Gamrie Ltd had not responded despite numerous requests. Seaway marine offered to construct a GRC replica, however the cost was £45,000. A mass concrete version was estimated at £20,000, largely due to the cost of curved and tapering formwork. As an alternative, further quotes for construction of a steel replica were sought and Forsyths offered an option amounting to £16,000. Varis offered a painted beacon at a cost of £8,000. A painted structure would not last in such an exposed location and would inevitably create the same problems in the future. With maintenance funding being limited, that would not be acceptable. Consequently Varis was asked to investigate the cost of a galvanised metal beacon.



ISO 9001 : 2008
FS 33734

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Cullen Community Council

The size of structure which can be galvanised is restricted by the size of tank at the galvanisers and the beacon is too large for the only available one in the north east. As a result, they priced a beacon made up of sections, which would allow each part to be galvanised separately and then fixed together insitu. The overall cost, including demolition and disposal of the original is £10,000 - £12,000. This option would provide a lasting solution for a durable beacon.

As discussed at previous harbour meetings, the maintenance budget has been static since 1995 and so the limited funds available are being spent on essential structural repairs to piers and quays (frequently to repair undermining). Under these circumstances, Moray Council is unable to allocate further funds to this project.

Having said that, at the last Harbour Advisory Committee, it was suggested that the sum of £3,000 which had been set aside for demolition and disposal, could be combined with money raised by the Community Council to make up the difference required to fund a replacement. Can you confirm if the Community Council wish to take up this offer? (The quotation from Varis is valid for 90 days, however it does quantify the funding required.)

Estimating the remaining life of the old beacon is not an exact science, however, I am concerned about leaving it there for too long and I look forward to receiving your decision on this proposal.

Yours faithfully



Keith Stratton
SENIOR ENGINEER ROADS

cc: Councillor Shepherd



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