

**Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Meeting on Thursday 17th September 2009
7.30 p.m. in Deskford Jubilee Hall**

M I N U T E S

Present: Professor Ashley Mowat, Chair
Mrs Joyce Henderson, Treasurer
Mrs Monica Wells, Joint Secretary
Mrs Zillah Jamieson, Joint Secretary

In Attendance: PC Iain Dormand

Apologies: Mr Thomas Johnston, Vice-Chair
Mr Malcolm Watt
Miss Melissa Wood
Cllr Gary Coull
Cllr Stewart Cree
Cllr Ron Shepherd

1. Welcome And Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the 20th meeting of the Cullen & Deskford Community Council.

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Minutes Of Previous Meeting (20th August 2009)

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

3. Reports

3.1 Police:

Police: no specific matters were raised by the Police.

Mobile police surgery/use of police office: The Joint Secretary confirmed having written to Sergeant Harris (31st August 2009) to enquire as to police surgery dates in Cullen - having read that future dates for the mobile surgery had been set in other towns/villages of Moray. PC Iain Dormand confirmed a surgery date in the police office on Sunday 11th October from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and expressed the hope that further dates will be forthcoming via PC Page. The Joint Secretary undertook to publicise this date; PC Iain Dormand undertook to put up a notice in the Police Office. The Joint Secretary undertook to chase for further dates should no further dates be advised within one week of the meeting.

Action: Zillah Jamieson/PC Iain Dormand

The Joint Secretary undertook to advise the police of future meeting arrangements.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

Near Misses in Glebe Park Crescent/Under-age drivers of cars and motorcycle/Suspicious activity in the Auld Kirk car park: these issues were all raised as causing concern locally. PC Iain Dormand confirmed that 3 youths had been detained for underage driving, and took note of the other concerns.

Thanks: on behalf of the outgoing Community Council members, the Chair expressed thanks to the police for their regular attendance and constructive contribution to meetings over the last two years; this was very much appreciated by all concerned.

Pedestrian Island, Seafield Street: The Joint Secretary confirmed having written to Elaine Penny (31st August 2009), copied to Gordon Holland, Keith Stratton, Alastair Keddie, Sergeant Chris Harris, Councillors Coull, Cree and Shepherd, as follows:-

"Since our helpful meeting with you and your colleagues, the Cullen and Deskford Community Council has had the opportunity to observe the crossing's practicality, as well as its safety; and the topic was again on the agenda for our meeting on the 20th of August 2009. The following views were unanimous:

A safe crossing is an absolute necessity; as it currently stands the crossing is dangerous on three counts.

- The proximity of parked vehicles on both sides of the carriageway obscures vision for both pedestrians and drivers.
- Even when some larger vehicles are legally parked, their bulk can make it impossible for lorries to pass the central reservation safely, and not infrequently they have to pass on the wrong side of the road. As the bend at the south end of Seafield Street obscures vision for traffic travelling north, this latter manoeuvre is potentially dangerous.
- As a consequence of the above, and as previously predicted, large vehicles are now using the Castle Street/York Place "rat run". Moreover, despite previous reassurances to the contrary, combine harvesters are now regularly using this route to avoid Seafield Street. Their preferred route includes the very steep North Castle Street and its busy junction with Grant Street, where the double yellow line parking restrictions are frequently flouted and are clearly not easily policed. This also is a predictable accident site.

After extensive discussion it was agreed that the only safe and practical solution was to adapt the current crossing into a light controlled provision with removal of the extended pavements and restoration of the carriageway to allow all vehicles safe passage. It is accepted that any improvement will include parking restriction at this site.

We have scrutinised the regulations you kindly provided on the provision of lit crossings and, whilst we accept that the formula $PV(\text{squared})$ might preclude such a crossing, it is clear that there are other local factors which would be in its favour. Seafield Street is the route of the busy A98 which bisects our community. Seafield Street also contains a concentration of shops which also serve those outwith our local community. It would appear that Moray Council, in common with other Regional Councils, does have room for discretion in this matter and we would respectfully suggest that it exercises this power for the safety of our community.

We hope that you will be able to give this matter further consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you."

A response was received from Elaine Penny (14th September 2009) as follows:-

"Thank you for your email below and for your comments. I have noted your three points and although I would agree with your first statement, I have no evidence to suggest that what you say in 2 and 3 is correct, indeed I have anecdotal evidence which contradicts these anecdotal statements.

I must disagree with your statement "that the only safe and practical solution was to adapt the current crossing into a light controlled provision". My colleagues, Andy Duff and Kevin Price and I, who met with yourself and Professor Mowat each have extensive experience of traffic and road safety matters. It is our joint and considered opinion that not only will the PV^2 criteria not be met, but that the other 'local factors' which you refer to would not offer enough weight to alter the decision in favour of an alternative crossing type being provided.

Notwithstanding the lack of supporting evidence for points 2 and 3, I believe that the proposed solution which we put before you will resolve all three of your concerns. I therefore propose to carry out work to extend the existing build outs by 10 metres in length on each of the four corners as discussed with you and Professor Mowat on site.

I trust you understand why this decision is being made and will appreciate that while we have fully considered your comments, our professional opinion is that a signalised crossing is not justified."

Following lengthy discussion during which grave concerns were raised yet again, it was agreed to respond to Elaine Penny as follows:-

- express indignation that she had chosen to call into question the evidence of people in the town who had actually witnessed events as highlighted above; this is not anecdote, these are facts
- express concern re the number of near misses being witnessed (especially by retailers) at the Grant Street/North Castle Street intersection
- the PV^2 formula has not actually been calculated by the Moray Council, and it remains the case that Seafield Street bisects the town and contains a large concentration of retail outlets
- give Rothienorman as the example of a successful lit crossing with similar conditions.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

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

Neighbourhood Watch Deskford Scheme: no update available from the Deskford members.

ACTION: Deskford members

3.2. Local Councillors

No Councillors were present.

3.3 Treasurer

The Treasurer reported a bank balance of £3,015.63, with spendable funds of £1,763.12 (minus payments for the election leaflets - £98, Cullen & District Calendars - £140, and administrative expenses - £14.91).

Textile Recycling: no further cheques had been forthcoming.

Outings for elderly/less mobile people: outstanding action point for next session of the Community Council.

OUTSTANDING ACTION

Contribution to website: outstanding action point for next session of the Community Council.

OUTSTANDING ACTION

Contribution to Cullen District Calendar: a further reprint of 70 was ordered (9th September 2009), with delivery during w/c 14th September. This reprint was based on confirmed orders from Cullen shops. Provided all 220 sell, the total surplus generated would amount to £272.10 (costs of £440, and potential income of £712.10).

Contribution to Cullen Beacon campaign: the meeting verified the decision taking at the last meeting to contribute £500 to the restoration campaign.

3.4 Funding Update/Incoming Information

The Joint Secretary confirmed having advised members (30th August 2009) of a new source of funding - the Children's Play Fund.

On 12 August Inspiring Scotland and the Scottish Government announced a new £4m fund designed to improve children's play in Scotland. "Go Play", which will run over two years, aims to help improve facilities and services in areas where children have the least opportunity to play. It will fund initiatives including creative approaches to play using Scotland's natural environment and play workers working within the community.

New Philanthropy Capital produced the fund's baseline report which explored the issue around play and helped to develop the parameter for investment. This will be published when the fund is launched - understood to be around 18 September 2009.

The fund will be managed by Inspiring Scotland. Voluntary groups will be able to submit funding bids from mid-September. This is the first ever Play Fund in Scotland aimed at improving children and young people's quality of life through play. Making time for play must become a modern day priority alongside developing community-friendly play spaces - info taken from Government news release.

It was agreed to pass this information to the Cullen Play Centre.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

3.5 Events Diary

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 is booked, and further discussions will be 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 that an elections leaflet had been produced and delivered to all households in the Cullen and Deskford areas during the 2nd week in September. The cost was £98.00. The Joint Secretary's thanks were expressed to Alison Johnson, Elections Officer, the Moray Council for her help in this process, and to MMS Almac for their promptness in producing the leaflets.

LEADER Funding: the Treasurer confirmed having sent to Alastair Kennedy (31st August 2009) the requested copy of the bank statement indicating the deposit of the £500 funding. A progress report is awaited.

5. Community Plan

5.1 Reduction in Public Facilities in Cullen

Public Notice ref most recent developments: this remains an outstanding action; attempts are being made to establish the most appropriate wording for the notice.

Communication from Mark Palmer, Chief Financial Officer (14th September 2009) indicated:-

"The formal position is that the financial plan approved by the council on 12 February 2009 includes the following financial saving:

"Rationalisation of council facilities in Cullen as appropriate and agreed - based on the asset management efficiency theme. £4,000" This is a saving of £4,000 in the current year.

In a previous email I advised you "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 that 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." The Administration Group have since indicated that any rationalisation of facilities should consider all Moray communities. This does not represent a formal decision of the council, but as the Administration Group is, effectively, responsible for preparing a budget for consideration by the council, I take the lead from this group in coordinating the council's financial plan.

A review of facilities for all Moray communities is a bigger task than a review of a single community and I cannot give an indication of the timing for such a review.

The current position regarding future financial plans is that the Administration Group is due to finalise its list of potential budget savings by the end of October for consultation during November and early December. The consultation arrangements will be publicised and will be available in local libraries and on the Council's internet site.

At this stage I would indicate that it is highly unlikely that the saving of £4,000 will be achieved in the current year and that it is unclear whether a rationalisation of facilities in communities will or will not be included on the list of potential savings for consultation.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you."

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

Designated land adjacent to the Community Centre: The Joint Secretary confirmed receipt of an e-mail from Mark Cross, Principal Planning Officer (21st August 2009) re the designated land adjacent to the Community Centre, as follows:-

"I have been sent a copy of your e mail of 15 August regarding the above. This is the first of me being aware of your enquiry, and I have no knowledge of your original letter to the Chief Executive. I would apologise for the delay in you getting a response and would reply as follows.

The site was identified as an area of Council owned land which was surplus to requirements and may have development potential. It had been discussed as a possible location for a new health centre for NHS Grampian. Accordingly it was designated as an Opportunity Site when the Local Plan was Reviewed.

No comments or objections to this were received at any stage of the Local Plan process, which was subject to significant consultation, and the designation was confirmed when the Plan was adopted in Dec 2008.

The Local Plan is a Statutory Document, and it is not possible to make changes to it without going through a formal process. This will not now take place until the Review of the 2008 Plan which will not commence until 2011 at the earliest. At that stage, the Community would be able to make representations about whether the site should be designated, but there is no such option at present.

Of course, should a planning application be submitted in the interim, you would be fully entitled to submit comments on the proposals being put forward. I trust this information is of some assistance, and would again apologise for the time taken to provide it."

It was agreed to display this information on the Town Hall Noticeboard, and in the Post Office and Library.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

5.2 Harbour Committee Report:

Malcolm Watt had provided an e-mail update for the meeting as follows. The Chair and Malcolm Watt had now identified and marked the exact location of the entire length of the heavy chain laid earlier in the year by the Moray Council. 12 shorter lengths of smaller chain will be collected from a colleague in the 3 Harbours Committee, and 12 buoys from another colleague in the same committee. It is hoped to have 4 - 6 of these in situ within the next two weeks, with the balance held for use as necessary. A supplier of pulleys had also been identified.

No contact had been made with Keith Stratton regarding the repositioning of handrails etc, pending feedback from the Moray Council regarding the beacon; this is still awaited.

5.3 Town Hall Report:

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

ACTION: Joyce Henderson

Fire/Safety Report: A response is awaited.

Property Review: no progress to report; see reference under Agenda Item 5.1.

Reading Room: no progress to report.

5.4 Cullen Common Good Fund

Nothing further to report at this time.

5.5 The Lawtie Trust

The Chair confirmed having received a response from the Chief Executive of NHS Grampian indicating that he had passed the Chair's letter to the person in charge of endowments/legal issues and promised a prompt response. A respite centre/hospice remained an option.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

5.6 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

5.7 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 of Local Talent (primary and secondary school pupils); all arrangements well in hand
31st October	Christmas Fair - Christmas Lights Group (Town Hall) - all arrangements well in hand; 10 until 4; all proceeds to be donated to MS support
28th November	Musical event - Whiskers Galore - Bowling Club (to incorporate the bottle competition outstanding from the Burns Supper - all funds to the RNLI); stovies organised; Joint Secretary to establish whether there will be a charge from the Bowling Club

30th November	Beacon to be lit on the Bin Hill - courtesy of Seafield Estate/possible bonfire on foreshore; arrangements in hand; Golf Club and provision of soup organised subject to approval from the Moray Council for bonfire
5th December	Christmas Lights Switch-on

5.8 Cullen District Calendar

See reference under Section 3.3.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

5.9 Cullen Website

Funding applications are currently being investigated.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

5.10 Cullen Community Garden

Nothing further to report.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

5.11 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.

Crannoch Hill Path: The Joint Secretary confirmed having written to Gordon Holland, copied to Ian Douglas (11th September 2009) as follows:-

"I am writing to you on behalf of the Cullen & Deskford Community Council re the lack of footpath from the end of the pavement going south out of Cullen, along the A98, to the point where the Crannoch Hill path commences.

This topic was discussed during your meeting with Professor Ashley Mowat and Mr Malcolm Watt on 30th January 2009, at which point it was noted that this requirement had been added to a long list of works requiring funding, but there was no budget available. It was agreed at the meeting that the Moray Council would provide estimated costs for completing the footpath, and the Community Council would investigate means of funding the work and materials.

To date, we have not received the cost estimate from yourself. We had hoped to have found a solution to the labour element by utilising the services of the Criminal Justice Services Unit; however, we understand that, as a result of Health and Safety restrictions and other factors, the individuals concerned would not be able to work at that particular part of a very busy main road.

We are keen to pursue this, given 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 was cut quite recently. Without costs, however, it is difficult for us to know how much funding we may need to find."

A response is awaited.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

6. Planning

6.1 Cullen Harbour Lighthouse

The Joint Secretary confirmed having written to Keith Stratton (1st September 2009) as follows:-

"I would refer to your letter dated 6th August 2009 regarding the restoration/ replacement of the Cullen Harbour Beacon.

Your letter was fully discussed at the last meeting of the Cullen & Deskford Community Council, as a result of which it was agreed that we should progress with the Varis quotation for a replacement galvanised beacon at a cost of between £10,000 to £12,000, including demolition and disposal of the original.

In accepting this, we would like you to clarify a number of points:-

- Could you please clarify the actual cost involved; we do not understand why you are not in a position to give us a definitive amount, rather than the range quoted above; it would be very useful if you could provide us a copy of the Varis quotation; you will appreciate that this is particularly important given that we will be publicising the need for funding, and it would be preferable to be explicit about the actual size of the task in hand.
- Could you please confirm that the Moray Council will contribute £3,000 towards the overall cost (being the sum set aside previously for demolition and disposal); this is implicit in your letter of 6th August.
- Have you secured Historic Scotland approval of this course of action?
- Are you aware of any Historic Scotland funding which could contribute to the overall cost?
- In relation to the practicalities of moving forward, you will appreciate that a significant amount of fundraising is required to meet the difference between those funds we know about already (including the Moray Council contribution) and those required to complete the task; I understand that Malcolm Watt raised the underwriting issue informally with you; do you think that the Moray Council might be willing to underwrite the costs so that work can be commenced as soon as possible; or will all the funding have to be in place prior to work commencing?

We look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, please accept the thanks of the Community Council in reaching a positive outcome to this important project for an iconic Cullen landmark."

A response is awaited.

Once a response has been received and the points clarified, a letter will be written to Historic Scotland to confirm that they support this plan and to enquire as to funding available from Historic Scotland for this purpose. In addition, a press campaign will be launched as part of the fundraising exercise.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

Press coverage had appeared in the Evening Express and Press & Journal, jumping the gun somewhat.

6.2 Cullen Medical Centre

The Joint Secretary confirmed having written to Richard Smith, Planning Officer (11th September 2009) as follows: "In confirmation of our telephone discussion, I would like to record the views expressed at the last meeting of the Cullen & Deskford Community Council. Whilst supporting the building of a new medical centre and the additional facilities this will provide our community, we would like to seek reassurance that due attention will be paid to the potential problems resulting from increased traffic on the already problematic Seaford Road."

Following the concerns expressed at the last meeting re the article in the Banffshire Journal, which indicated that the Medical Centre in Cullen was under threat, the Chair wrote to Cllr Shepherd (21st August 2009) requesting the evidence to substantiate such an anxiety - whether coming from within Moray Council or Grampian Health Board. Cllr Shepherd's response (21st August 2009) indicated that "the statement in the Scot was my own personal fears and many of my constituents. It did not come from The Moray Council or the G.H.B. That is why it was very important that a piece of land was identified for the new Medical Centre."

It is reassuring to know that the reported threat to medical services in Cullen was purely speculative, and did not represent the official views of either Moray Council or Grampian Health Board, or indeed any of the Cullen practice group. However, this level of scaremongering seems unnecessary at a time when other public facilities in Cullen are under threat.

Transport to the New Surgery: Feedback from the Practice Manager indicates that provision has been made for a bus stop to be situated immediately outside the new premises, and the bus company has also been notified. Due to extended opening hours of the new premises and the consequent spread of patients' arrival times, it is unlikely that there will be sufficient demand for rerouting of the bus through the Seatown due to lack of numbers at any given time. However, it was mentioned that the taxi card scheme has previously been used in Buckie with limited success, but that BABS dial-a-bus remains the preferred option locally, details of which were contained in previous minutes.

6.3 Weekly List

In the Weekly List dated 21st August, the following application appeared:-

- Dormer conversion at front and rear at 19 Lower Blantyre Street, Cullen.

This was not deemed to be of community interest.

6.4 National Planning Framework

The Joint Secretary confirmed having advised members (30th August 2009) that the Second National Planning Framework (NPF2) was published on June 25 2009 and is a key part of the modernised Planning System in Scotland, guiding long term development to 2030. An electronic version of NPF2 can be accessed on the Government's website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/themes/npf>. Alternatively, the National Planning Framework Team can be contacted on 08457 741 741 or 0131 244 7610.

7. Points for Noting/Information

7.1 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.

7.2 Correspondence

www.morayways.org.uk: The Joint Secretary confirmed receipt of a communication from the Moray Access Manager highlighting this website which features information on a diverse range of path experiences, including health walks and lowland paths through to more strenuous hill paths. Maps for many of the featured paths can be printed off and used.

Bus Shelter North Side Castle Terrace Seatown: The Chair confirmed having written to Gordon Holland, the Moray Council, copied to Cllr Shepherd (28th August 2009) querying the lack of a bus shelter on the north side of Castle Terrace, Seatown (there is a bus shelter on the other side of the road for those travelling west). With a large number of elderly residents in the Seatown, most of whom do not have a car, they are therefore dependent on the bus service to get up to the shops, post office, pharmacy and medical centre.

A response was received from Peter Findlay, Public Transport Manager (28th August 2009) as follows:- " I refer to your enquiry regarding the possible installation of a bus shelter at Castle Terrace, Cullen.

Over the last few years The Moray Council was allocated money for public transport infrastructure improvements through HITRANS, the Regional Transport Partnership for the Highlands and Moray. The funding was ring fenced for public transport projects and here in Moray it was used to provide new shelters and other infrastructure improvements.

As part of the concordat agreement between the Scottish Government and local authorities funding to the Regional Transport Partnerships ended, with Council's allocated additional lump sum funding. As far as Moray is concerned our current public transport budget allocation maintains only the network of subsidised services with no additional funding for infrastructure. I therefore regret we are unable at this time to provide an additional shelter at Cullen. Should the financial position change in the future we will consider this location for an additional shelter."

The Chair responded that the Cullen & Deskford Community Council wished to pursue this issue on behalf the elderly community in the Seatown of Cullen. In response to his queries, Peter Findlay responded (31st August 2009): "When HITRANS money was available the priority was to replace time expired and damaged shelters. Cullen benefited from this funding with four new shelters, two shelter CCTV systems, one info column with electronic timetable display. A refurbished shelter was previously erected at the west bound stop on Castle Terrace. This gives Cullen 5 shelters for 6 stops, a far higher proportion than most other communities. The cost of a new cantilever shelter would be around £4,000 plus installation costs assuming sufficient pavement width is available at the east bound stop on Castle Terrace. I can confirm that the local members were involved and supportive in the allocation process for all four new shelters. I would also add that yours is the first request for a shelter at this location. I can only reiterate that should the financial position change in the future we will consider this location for an additional shelter."

The Chair responded (31st August 2009: "The fact that Cullen has 5 bus shelters does not detract from the need for an additional shelter at Castle Terrace. The case needs to be assessed on priority, as with all public spending. The subsidised bus service for them is a god send, allowing them to take the bus "uptown" with most able to make the return journey on foot. That these traditionally non-demanding residents have not complained of having sometimes to stand in torrential rain waiting for a bus does not surprise me and reflects very positively on them. Hopefully some source of funding can be found for their benefit."

An outcome is awaited.

7.3 Publicity

An End-of-Term Retrospective was published in the Banffshire Advertiser (8th September 2009) as part of the Advertiser's focus on the forthcoming Community Council elections.

7.4 Suggestion Boxes

Nothing to report.

7.5 Confirmation of other actions taken

Community Engagement Fund Consultation: The Joint Secretary confirmed having submitted the consultation questionnaire as previously agreed (26th August 2009).

Renewal of membership of ASCC: The Joint Secretary confirmed having renewed the membership (30th August 2009).

7.6 Consultation on High Hedges and Other Nuisance Vegetation

The Joint Secretary confirmed having advised members (30th August 2009) that the Scottish Government published the above consultation on 14th August 2009. This consultation is being published in order to build a consensus around the most appropriate course of action. The Scottish Government is keen to hear the views of as many people as possible on this issue and would encourage anyone with an interest to respond. This can be done in writing, by e-mail or online at www.Scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/current where a downloadable copy of the consultation document can also be found. Printed or handwritten forms and/or any supplementary information should be sent to the Community Safety Unit, High Hedges Consultation, the Scottish Government, 1W St Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG. The consultation will close at 5 p.m. on Friday 13th November 2009.

7.7 Committees/Subgroups: Following discussion between the Chair and Joint Secretary, it was agreed to defer this action until the beginning of the next term.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

8. A.O.C.B.

8.1 End of Term Arrangements: in line with the election process and timetable, as the *Declaration of the Statement of Uncontested Community Councils* and the *Notice of Poll* will be **published on Friday 25th September 2009**, as of this date the Community Council and its office bearers and members *for 2005-2009* will cease to officially exist.

After 25th September as new members, candidates and ballots will have been announced, no further meetings of the 2005-2009 Community Council are to take place as a short break will occur until at least 5th October, being the start of the new term.

Thereafter the next meeting of the re-established Community Council will be the Inaugural Meeting of the 2009-2013 Community Council. This meeting will be called after 5th October and chaired initially by a representative of The Moray Council until new Office Bearers are elected. The dates of the Inaugural meetings cannot be formally set until it is known whether a ballot is to occur within a CC area or sub-division.

Secretaries should make arrangements over the coming weeks to have their paperwork and all relevant files and electronic communications ready to transfer to the new Office bearers of the next term of Community Council. Should, for any reason the Community Council not reform, then arrangements will be made with the 2005-2009 Office bearers to have this information transferred to the Local Authority for storage.

8.2 Coastal Erosion

The Joint Secretary confirmed having advised members (30th August 2009) of a request from a Mr Wishart, private contractor, as follows:-

I recently sent the request below to the respective Moray/Aberdeenshire Councils and that in turn was forwarded to rangers for the coastal areas concerned. However, the rangers did not feel that they were covering the areas often enough to be in a position to provide the sort of feedback I was asking for, although they have offered to notify me if they see anything when they are at coastal locations. The general view was that community councils were best placed to meet this request but the website contact details are not available for the listed locations between Burghead and Macduff. Are you able to provide contact details or to forward this message?

"I was given your contact e-mails by Kathryn Logan at MFP in response to my request for assistance in respect of monitoring coastal erosion. I am the asset manager for Catchment Moray Ltd the PFI contractor for sewage services from Inverness to Macduff (Tarlair). Our assets are generally low lying and many are within the inter-tidal zone. We have works at Inverness, Lossiemouth, Buckie and Macduff with networks that cover the urban areas but specifically Burghead to Oakenhead Wood (Lossiemouth), Portgordon West to Cullen harbour and Whitehills to Tarlair.

My aim is to obtain information on any significant event/impact on the shoreline, for example collapse of cliffs, movement of beach/pebble deposits/footpaths, damage to property/sea defences and any associated contemporary information such as actual observed water or wave levels and wind effects (spray carry)

For example we have had fish land in our Tarlair works during severe storms and observed a 25m movement of shingle at Portgordon East in one storm event.

It may be that you are involved with groups who regularly walk the coastal routes or visit certain locations and would be in a position to pass on observations, or you may know of those who could.

I would appreciate any thought that you may have on this subject."

It is proposed that this contact should be kept in mind in the event of any future incidents of coastal erosion (especially at the golf course).

8.3 Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 - Scheme of Assistance

The Joint Secretary confirmed having received a communication (dated 28th August 2009) indicating that the Scottish Government has undertaken a comprehensive review of housing policy in regard to the condition of private sector housing. This has led to the introduction of a Scheme of Assistance to replace the existing Private Sector Housing Grant Scheme. Each local authority has been required to produce a scheme that reflects both national and local priorities that will promote a cultural change in attitudes to housing quality.

The "Scheme of Assistance for Home Owners and Tenants in Moray" is now available for public consultation on the Moray Council website. The website address is: www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_41165.html.

8.4 Road and Traffic Problems

The Joint Secretary confirmed having received a communication from Cllr Coull indicating the following:-

Auld Kirk Road: danger associated with excavated ditch and excavated sub-station: dog bin not emptied: On inspection, it appears that an electricity utility contractor has now reinstated this area, and the Moray Council consider it safe. The issue of the dog bin was to be passed to colleagues in the Waste Management Section.

Open Sewer at Bottom of Lane beside the old church in Seafield Street: this matter has been referred to the Transportation Section to follow up with the developer/utility contractors.

State of Glebe Park Crescent - requiring resurfacing: this road is already identified in the reserve resurfacing list and will be considered for inclusion in future years' programmes, depending on available budget and competing priorities.

State of York Place, with significant puddles during wet weather: the drainage problems relate mainly to the shape of the road surface and, as per above, this road is also identified in the reserve resurfacing list and will be considered for inclusion in future years' programmes, depending on available budget and competing priorities.

State of repair of tarmac at the lower end of Reidhaven Street: remedial surface repairs have been completed.

8.5 New Dental Practice in Buckie

The Chair attended the official opening of the centre. Given that the centre has already been open for one year and there are 3000 patients on their list, there is no opportunity for additional patients to register. The Chair spoke with the Grampian Dental Officer re the disgraceful dentistry situation in Moray. The Joint Secretary is to write to the Cullen Medical Centre enquiring as to whether thought has been given to incorporating a dental clinic in the new medical centre.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

See reference under 8.1.

In preparation for the next session, it had been hoped to consult with the 3 Local Councillors regarding the most appropriate date for future Community Council meetings, recognising the Councillors' workload and range of commitments. This was not possible due to their non-attendance.

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked everyone for their contribution and time over the previous two years, and looked forward to a further successful term of office.

APPENDIX 1**EVENTS DIARY**

Date	Event	Location
26th September	Concert (Great Wall of China Walk)	Cullen Town Hall
10th October 10.00 - 12.00	Soup and Sweet	Cullen Bowling and Tennis Club
10th October	Charity Supper Dance, Deskford & District Community Association	Deskford Community Main Hall
31st October	Harvest Home & Hallowe'en Celebration	Deskford Community Main Hall
31st October	Christmas Fair - Christmas Lights Group	Cullen Town Hall
11th November	Great Wall of China Walk - A presentation	Cullen Town Hall
14th November 10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning - Cullen Methodist Church	Cullen Town Hall
28th November	Whiskers Galore	Cullen Bowling and Tennis Club
30th November	St Andrews Celebration (provisional)	Cullen Golf Club
5th December	Christmas Lights Switch-On	Cullen Town Hall
January 2010 Date TBC	Burns Supper (Deskford & District Community Association)	Deskford Community Main Hall