

**Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Meeting on Thursday 29th April 2010
7.00 p.m. in Memorial Hall, Cullen Town Hall**

M I N U T E S

Present: Ashley Mowat (Chair)
Joyce Henderson (Treasurer)
Zillah Jamieson (Secretary)
Emma Hay
Lyn MacDonald
Jim Mackay
Sasha Reid
Adrian Sandison

In Attendance: Alistair Farquhar
Cllr Gary Coull
PC Richard Russell
2 members of the community

Apologies: Malcolm Watt (Vice Chair)
John Robertson
Tabitha Smith
Cllr Stewart Cree
Cllr Ron Shepherd
PC Mairi Page

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the 6th meeting of the Cullen & Deskford Community Council (new term).

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (25th March 2010)

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

3. Reports

3.1 Police:

Police: PC Richard Russell reported that a number of individuals had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with the recent car vandalism in the Seatown. The Support Team is currently very active in reporting other individuals for vandalism offences. PC Russell expressed the police's gratitude for the help provided by the community in tracking down offenders. PC Russell reported that, since the last meeting, there had been 3 assaults (all detected) and 2 small thefts (enquiries on-going). He also confirmed that he intends to work at least one day of his shift rota in Cullen, but this is very much dependent on incidents elsewhere. The targeted dates are 5th, 9th, 15th, 21st and 28th May - but he would not wish these "advertised" in the normal way in the event that he is called away.

The Chair expressed the Community Council's thanks to PC Russell and his colleagues for their work in Cullen, and also for attending the Community Council meetings - not all Community Councils are in such a fortunate position.

Mobile police surgery: The Secretary confirmed that the next mobile police office surgery is booked for 16.00 to 18.00 on Tuesday 11th May 2010. The location may vary between Cullen Square, Seatown and Findlater Drive/Circle. The Secretary to promote the date.

Action: PC Russell/PC Mairi Page/Zillah Jamieson

Neighbourhood Watch (Cullen and Deskford): A public meeting was held on Wednesday 31st March 2010 in the Memorial Hall, Cullen Town Hall. A representative from Grampian Neighbourhood Watch Association was also in attendance. Unfortunately, apart from Zillah Jamieson, Adrian Sandison and Jim Mackay of the Community Council, there were no other attendees - so the meeting was abandoned. One e-mail of support from a business in the town, expressing a desire to become involved in the scheme, was passed on to PC Russell. There was no further discussion on this at the meeting; further updates would be provided at the next meeting from PC Russell, Adrian Sandison (re Seafield Place) and John Robertson (re Deskford).

ACTION: PC Russell/John Robertson/Adrian Sandison

Quad Bikes on Cullen Beach: the Secretary raised the issue of 2 quad bikes having been on Cullen Beach on Good Friday, creating noise and weaving their way in between walkers, families and children. PC Russell indicated that possible offences relating to this incident would include absence of permission to be on the beach, lack of insurance, licence or helmets. Such incidents however would require to be reported at the time so that action could be taken.

3.2 Local Councillors

No items were raised other than those already on the agenda. Cllr Coull confirmed that the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group was granted use of the Memorial Hall for the months of June, July and August, with the exception of the 3 days already booked for the Art Group Exhibition (running costs for the use of the Memorial Hall are being met by the Heritage Group).

3.3 Treasurer

Beacon account: The Treasurer reported that efforts to open a new bank account for the Beacon funds were being delayed as a result of the Bank losing the original paperwork. This would be progressed following the Vice-Chair's return. The Chair handed over further donations of £600 for the Beacon fund (including a cheque from the Seafield Estate for £500). The Chair undertook to write a letter of thanks to the Seafield Estate.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

Moray Council Grant: The Treasurer reported that the grant of £327.22 (covering the period up to September 2010) had been paid directly into the bank account.

Current Balance: The Treasurer confirmed the current balance as £5,705.95 (including the funds ring-fenced for Neighbourhood Watch and the Beacon funds, with the only current commitment being the contribution towards the development of the Cullen & Deskford website).

3.4 Events Diary: Events Diary attached as Appendix 1.

4. Young Members

Young Talent Evening: Sasha Reid and Emma Hay confirmed that they are going to contact Joe Mowat and Billy Findlay to establish if they could offer help to organise the Musical Concert. With their exams finishing on 7th June, they are targeting the 2nd/3rd week in June for the event. They agreed to organise a meeting to discuss arrangements. The Secretary undertook to send them details of how to book the Town Hall.

ACTION: Emma Hay/Sasha Reid/Zillah Jamieson

Publicity Campaign: Sasha Reid and Emma Hay confirmed that they had prepared a draft of their talk to the school assembly - promoting the Community Council in general and why joining as a young member is worthwhile.

11th Moray Great Bike Ride: Both Sasha Reid and Tabitha Smith (in absentia) confirmed volunteering their help on 4th July (see section 5.6).

ACTION: Sasha Reid/Tabitha Smith

The Secretary confirmed having contacted Catherine McKelvie who confirmed that she wishes to remain on the Community Council.

5. Community Plan

5.1 Harbour Committee Report:

List of requirements for the 3 Harbours: In the Vice-Chair's absence, the Chair reported that the 3 Harbours Committee had sent a letter to the First Minister expressing their anxieties re the Moray Council's failures over years to address the lack of spending on harbours, following the lack of response to a letter sent to the Moray Council in early February; this letter was also supported by other Community Councils in the area; a letter was also sent to Angus Robertson asking for his support; responses were awaited to both (although it was acknowledged that both the First Minister and Angus Robertson probably had other priorities!).

Despite an encouraging article in the P & J that the maintenance budgets for harbours were being re-considered, Cllr Shepherd had advised the Chair (26th April 2010) that the budgets will not be considered again until 2011, but that an eye will be kept on the situation over the next few months. The P & J article had also indicated that the potential costs were even greater than originally thought - more than £3 million.

Cllr Coull confirmed that the report to Committee was to be sent out to Local Area Fora, Community Councils and Harbour Committees to obtain local views on how harbour income could be maximised.

5.2 Town Hall Report:

Communications with Town Hall Committee: Cllr Cree had advised (via e-mail - 21st April 2010) that he had met with Nick Goodchild who advised that there is no "statutory" relationship between the Moray Council and the Town Hall Committee. The latter was formed at a time when there was a need for some body to represent the community in taking forward proposals for community ownership/control of the facilities. There was no formal agreement between the Town Hall Committee and the Moray Council; consequently, the Moray Council has no access to any financial records the Town Hall Committee might keep. He felt it sensible to have some form of joint discussion on the way forward, if only to agree who is taking the lead; he undertook to discuss this with his Ward colleagues to establish a way forward. The Chair confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with Nick Goodchild (Chair and Vice-Chair attending).

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Malcolm Watt

Town Hall Flag: The Treasurer undertook to make arrangements for the hoisting of the flag (including photo opportunity); the discrepancy in cost was also to be investigated.

ACTION: Joyce Henderson

5.3 Cullen Common Good Fund

Nothing further to report at this time.

5.4 The Lawtie Trust

Meeting with Trustees: Despite efforts to establish the current situation, there is no revised date for a meeting (the return of the Convenor is awaited).

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

Allotment Group: a site meeting had been undertaken by Moray Council officers and Cllr Shepherd (no-one from the Allotment Group was in attendance). As a result, the Group is about to lodge a planning application covering improved access for the allotments over 2 acres of the Lawtie Land. A fundraising event is being held to raise the money required for the planning application costs.

ACTION: Jim Mackay

5.5 Floodlighting of the Market Cross/War Memorial

The Chair is continuing his investigations into potential funding for this.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

5.6 Events 2010

Event	Date	Status
Senior Golf Tournament	16th/17th June 2010	Being organised by Golf Club; CC Secretary updated accommodation listing - complete
The 11th Moray Great Bike Ride	4th July 2010	See comments below
Young Talent Night	TBC	See notes under Section 4

Cars and Tractors Day	TBC	Secretary of Heritage Group committed to help organise event; based on other similar car events in the area and Heritage Group commitments, dates being considered include 11th July, 15th, 22nd and 29th August; awaiting return call from Dennis Bowie re suitability of above dates for tractor enthusiasts; availability of location requested from the Moray Council (8th April 2010 - acknowledged 9th April 2010, with promise to get back ASAP)
Beacon Fundraisers	TBC	Ideas suggested included:- Soup and Sweet - 29th May - 10.30 - 14.30 in Main Hall, Cullen Town Hall Ceilidh Event (Strathspey Fiddlers - cost of £150); potential dates 18th June and 2nd July Hall availability to be investigated
Community Burns Supper/Scottish Night	January/ February 2010	Arrangements to commence later in year

(Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative is looking to organise their Summer Festival on 16th/17th and 18th July 2010.)

The 11th Moray Great Bike Ride: the Secretary confirmed having contacted Nicola Davidson (8th April 2010) re the following (acknowledged by Nicola 9th April 2010):-

- **Map** of route requested - now received
- **Publicity:** confirmed our commitment to distribute posters etc
- **Starting the ride:** confirmation that we would like a member of Grampian Society for the Blind to start the race
- **Half-way point:** request for assistance in sourcing refreshments
- **Back-up Vehicle:** request for Nicola to organise this through Moray Council
- **Marshals:** confirmation of those marshals "volunteered" to date - Ashley Mowat, Malcolm Watt, Jim Mackay, Lyn MacDonald, Adrian Sandison, Simon Tucker, Graham Bell, Sasha Reid, Tabith Smith; Nicola Davidson had advised (29th April 2010) that only 6 marshals would be required along the route (given that most of it is on cycle path routes, not main roads) and that she has 3 volunteers to add
- **Insurance:** clarification of the insurance cover via the Moray Council for both competitors and marshals requested
- **Meeting with Nicola Davidson:** to be arranged

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

Other suggestions for events:

- **Theatre Production:** Alistair Farquhar provided details of the practicalities involved in bringing a theatrical production to Cullen; there would be no financial "risk" involved (with North East Arts Touring making up the difference between costs and takings); however, there would be an initial financial outlay in paying for the theatre company and the hall; Alistair undertook to look out for suitable opportunities and liaise as appropriate
- **Magical Forest Walks with decorated trees and treasure hunt:** The Secretary confirmed that the contact point for the 50+ Walking Group is Mary Brown
- **Community Ceilidh Record Attempt:** A news release (previously distributed) covered a call from the MS Society Scotland for communities to come together to make a world record as they launch their "Community Ceilidh Record Attempt". The charity is asking communities around the country to come together on 13th November 2010 to host a local ceilidh night to raise vital funds for the organisation, as well as make a world record for the most amount of people taking part in a Strip the Willow at any one time - at 11 p.m. The fundraising event should include a raffle, ceilidh and stovies. 13th November is the anniversary of Robert Louis Stevenson's birth. The MS Society Scotland is asking those interested to download information on the events from the website www.mssocietyscotland.org.uk and to contact their local Area Development Officer for further details. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

5.7 Cullen District Calendar

The Chair advised that the layout, theme and selection of photos for the 2011 Calendar was nearing completion; it was hoped to have calendars available by the end of May - yet to be discussed with the Desktop Publishing Unit in Buckie.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson/Lyn MacDonald

5.8 Cullen Website

The Secretary confirmed that considerable progress had been made since the last meeting, as follows:

- **LEADER application:** application for grant funding successful; all details re claims, timesheets and practicalities to be discussed at forthcoming meeting with LEADER Programme Manager
- **Co-operative Community Fund:** application submitted (11th April 2010); outcome awaited; initial indications are that a decision may not be forthcoming for at least four months
- **Project team meeting:** first meeting held (15th April 2010); www.discovercullen.com/.co.uk agreed as preferred name, with ilovecullen.com/.co.uk to be retained (and "pointing" at preferred name); both domains to be transferred to Hedley Enterprises soonest; logo currently being devised (this does not delay website development); website "look" to tie in with Cullen leaflet; broad outline of structure/sections agreed; further communications with community groups/businesses to be actioned as soon as possible

- **Supplier meeting:** first meeting held; domains transferred and splash page ("this website will appear shortly") has been set up; two e-mail addresses set up (community@discovercullen.com - routed to Zillah Jamieson, and visit@discovercullen.com - routed to Chair of Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative)
- **Collection of data:** proforma being devised for both community groups and businesses to verify current data and collect additional data
- **Launch of website:** press statement to be prepared re LEADER funding and availability of splash page; open evening event to be held to allow community groups and businesses to view the website before it goes live
- **Facebook:** members of the Community Council gave their approval for a Facebook page to be set up
- **Income/Expenditure:** following discussion, it was agreed that the Community Council would act as the on-going Treasury facility for any income and expenditure transactions required for the website project.

ACTION: Project Team/Zillah Jamieson

5.9 Cullen Dirt Bicycle Track

The Secretary confirmed having submitted a letter from the Community Council on behalf of the Cullen lads to the Estates Department, the Moray Council (12th April 2010), providing the broad outline of the requirements of the facility (an area probably about 3 times the size of the current playground, situated to the south of the playing field, making use of the natural contours of the ground to the east of the Nissan hut and playground facilities - with an attached map indicating location, comparative size and potential layout; the facility would comprise the construction of a series of dirt "mounds" differing in length and height dependent upon whether the "mounds" serve as take-off or landing areas, with potentially a small number of wooden structures, either at the start of the course or interspersed through its length; the area would be open, with no surrounding fence.)

Alex Burrell (Estates Department) had confirmed (26th April 2010) that he had received positive instruction from the Parks Department. As a consequence, and in order for him to report the matter to Committee, he requires to agree terms with the group. In addition, to move things along speedily, he is seeking the answers to the following questions:-

- who will be the legally responsible entity? (we need to create a formally constituted and legally responsible entity)
- do we have confirmation that the project does not require planning or building warrant?
- do we have funding in place for the project costs? (we need to investigate potential costs before we can formulate a fundraising campaign)
- who will maintain the grass around the track and who will maintain the track?
- have we investigated insurance cover track for track?

after which we can meet with Alex Burrell so that he can prepare the necessary documentation to take to Committee for final approval.

Alex Burrell has suggested a meeting to cover all relevant items, at the point in time when we have answers to the above questions.

It was agreed that a meeting should be held with the boys, interested parents and Fiona Herd to create the legal entity and discuss the points above. Adrian Sandison agreed to be the Community Council representative on this entity.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Zillah Jamieson

5.10 5-a-side Goal Posts for Deskford Community Centre

No update available - in the absence of John Robertson.

ACTION: John Robertson

5.11 Crannoch Hill Path

An e-mail from Gordon Holland (Transportation - 16th April 2010) indicated that there are strict requirements concerning the qualifications of those actually working on the public roads (including footways and verges). These are national requirements, needed to ensure the safety of those carrying out the work and also to protect all others using the road whilst works are in progress. A suitably qualified person/contractor will also have knowledge of the considerable amount of road signing that will be needed at this location. A plan and specification has to be approved by Gordon Holland (to be submitted to Elaine Penny - he suggests contacting her for advice first). In addition, he reiterated that county-style footways in the verge (i.e. those without a tarred surface) are prone to being overgrown with grass, and that the Moray Council cannot accept responsibility for future maintenance of this footway. The Secretary confirmed that clarification was being sought on the need for a road opening permit (charge is £92 for minor works).

The Chair contacted Gordon Holland (26th April 2010) to clarify that our request is for a more formal, but simple path from close to the junction of the B2019 to Lintmill of Cullen with the A98, to link up with the original part of the A98 that now is used by the many people walking to the Crannoch Wood. The existing pavement stops close to the B2019 junction, some 100yards short of the now excluded old section of the A98 which provides a convenient route for walkers to the wood. Interestingly, the kerb, without pavement, continues all the way to the now excluded old A98 section suggesting that at some stage it might have been intended to continue the pavement to that point. Although this is the most used route into the Crannoch wood by locals and visitors, for some reason it has been overlooked in the provision of the path developments around Cullen. The verge is very wide on this curving part of the A98 and pedestrians now walk the hundred yards or so through the grass verge to reach the old A98 section. There is currently the early signs of a muddy path close to the fence and well away from A98. The problem is that the grass grows rapidly and, when wet, people step onto the A98 with their backs to the traffic at a point where the Cullen speed restrictions cease.

The suggestion is that an informal easily identifiable path, perhaps no more than a couple of feet wide, is laid with something simple like "chuckies". This would remain visible and identifiable by virtue of its frequent usage and would lie close to the fence, well away from the A98. The creation of the path would not require any interference with A98 traffic as access for materials is easy from the old tar-macadamed excluded section of the A98.

The Chair confirmed he was in dialogue with Elaine Penny to arrange a site visit and would also contact Seivwright Bros.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

5.12 Lack of roadsweeper in Deskford/Deskford concerns re HGV traffic/Deskford concerns re fast traffic on the B-road: John Robertson has not yet had an opportunity to write to Gordon Holland as a result of his overseas assignment in Angola.

6. Planning

6.1 Cullen Harbour Lighthouse

Finalised quotation from supplier: the Chair confirmed that negotiations had been on-going with the Moray Council and Varis Engineering to accept the quotation, pay the deposit and work towards a final deadline of August/ September (the deadline for acceptance of the quote having now been extended to 7th May 2010.) Unfortunately, there are complications related to re-applying for the demolition order for the current beacon, achieving planning permission for the erection of the replica, and also obtaining relevant committee approval. The Moray Council remains totally committed to the project, however have to abide by certain EU procurement processes. Consideration was also given to a reduction in size to offset anticipated price rises; however it has been confirmed that the cost savings would be negligible, Historic Scotland would not approve a reduction, and the beacon may as a result not provide the navigational aid which is sought. It is essential that a definitive cost is established in order to be able to confirm the funding which requires to be raised.

ACTION: Malcolm Watt

Fundraising ideas: The Chair confirmed having contacted Kay Jackson of the Baxter Foundation in relation to raising further funds for this project. Kay was very helpful, although indicating that there is no funds available at present, but that situation may change by June. Kay suggested that the Chair write formally on the subject, and she provided assistance on how to formulate the letter. Also see notes under Sections 3.3 and 5.6.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Malcolm Watt

6.2 Green Space Adjacent to the Cullen Community Centre

The Secretary confirmed having written to the Moray Council (12th April 2010), requesting:-

- whether the Moray Council would consider a free transfer of the land, provided the community pays the legal costs of the transfer
- whether the Moray Council is in a position to provide an indicative cost of the leasing fee
- that the Moray Council keep us informed of developments with the land.

Stuart Beveridge (Estates Department) phoned the Secretary (15th April 2010) asking if the Community Council had specific plans for the land. There are currently no proposals to sell the land, however the Council is reviewing all its property holdings in Cullen - a public consultation will be held (date unknown - but hopefully sometime later this year). The Moray Council's formal response to our letter is contained in Appendix 2.

It was agreed that nothing further could be done on this topic until the Cullen Property Review was made known.

6.3 Former Petrol Filling Station Site - Appeal to the Reporter

An outcome is awaited.

6.4 Weekly List

The Weekly List of 26th March/9th April and 20th April 2010 listed the following applications:-

- Listed building consent for proposed alterations and extension at 7 South Castle Street, Cullen
- Erect timber garage replacing existing garage at 2 Campbell Street Cullen
- Demolition of existing extension and alter internal layout to suit at Gardeners Cottage, Lintmill
- Erection of 3 bedroom residential dwelling and detached garage on site at Drybridge.
- New house at site at Knockview Redmoss Drybridge.

These were not deemed to be of community interest.

6.5 Planning Breaches

A call is awaited from the Enforcement Team.

7. Items being Monitored/Awaiting Action

7.1 Cullen Burn Footbridge

The Chair confirmed receipt of a response from the Moray Council to his letter dated 28th January 2010 - attached as Appendix 3.

Comment is still awaited from our 3 locally Elected Councillors and Richard Lochhead MSP. Cllr Coull undertook to encourage dialogue between the Moray Council and the Seafield Estate.

ACTION: Cllr Coull

7.2 Footpath - Lintmill

Lintmill: Outcome of enquiry awaited.

7.3 Criminal Justice Services Projects

The on-going projects by the Criminal Justice Services Unit include Cullen Beach tidy-up; Viaduct - litter tidy-up; Cullen Community Garden; Deskford Community Centre - tidy-up.

Further suggestions welcome.

7.4 Cullen Grit Bin Locations

Outcome of request for 5 additional grit bins in Cullen awaited.

7.5 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.

7.6 Bus Shelter North Side Castle Terrace Seatown: this is being progressed.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

7.7 Landslides: The Chair confirmed having written to the 3 locally elected councillors (7th April 2010) on the subject of 3 separate landslides to the east of the Pet Cemetery, making passage along the coast road difficult for foot traffic. One of these (the largest) was claimed to contain sewage water, which may require the involvement of SEPA. He also reported that there had been a rock/soil fall at the Giant Steps on the coastal path at Logie Head; it was understood that, whilst there was no major structural damage to the steps, they would need digging out. He also highlighted that the coastal path is much used by walkers, especially during the summer months - with the Annual 6 Harbours Walk scheduled to take place on 2nd May - which would point towards some urgency in tackling the problems.

A response from Gordon Holland, Transportation Department (7th April 2010) indicated that he had passed the information on to Ian Douglas, Moray Council Access Manager as part of the route in question is a core path for which Ian Douglas has responsibility. He also indicated that Logie Head is actually in Aberdeenshire; the administrative boundary runs north-south about 300 metres to the west of Logie House. A response from Cllr Shepherd (8th April 2010) indicated that the Harbour Walk Committee had reported the landslides. He had spoken with Eleanor Munro of Aberdeenshire Council who is hoping that their Parks Department would clear the debris from the steps.

A response from Ian Douglas, Moray Council Access Manager (20th April 2010) indicated that "a visit to the site on 16th April revealed that any mud that was on the track had now been removed, and the route clear from obstruction, although I do not know who carried out the works. The position of the largest landslide (below the Caravan Park) is still much in evidence on the slope above. There is no visible evidence or smell of sewage although two sections of exposed pipes can be seen. Clearly, this is the remnant of some kind of drainage system although this may be historic, as I could not see any outfall opening on the concrete seawall below the path..... In the event of the issue recurring, I clarify that the Moray Council has no responsibility for maintaining the track or hillside above, which are in the ownership of Seafeld Estate. In your e-mail, you also make reference to the rock/earth fall at the Giant's Steps. This part of the path lies in Aberdeenshire." At Ian's suggestion, the Chair reported the sewage problem to SEPA (21st April 2010) and gained an assurance that this would be looked into early the following week. He also rang Aberdeenshire Council (21st April 2010) who confirmed that the matter of the Giant's Steps was in hand and the steps would be cleared before 2nd May.

The Secretary raised the issue of the path from the Salmon Bothy up to the Caravan Park which has been washed away in places and left very deep ruts. The Secretary undertook to contact Ian Douglas as it forms part of the core path.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

8. Points for Noting/Information

8.1 Correspondence: Nothing to report beyond the correspondence outlined in other agenda items.

8.2 Publicity: Publicity on the presentation of Certificates of Achievement at the last meeting featured in the Banffshire Advertiser of 30th March 2010.

8.3 Suggestion Boxes

Nothing to report.

8.4 Confirmation of other actions taken

Moray Way Association: The map has been printed and finalised copies are awaited.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

Safer Communities: The Secretary confirmed having invited Andy Jamieson and Adrian Moar to a meeting; they are not able to attend before June; their confirmation is awaited.

8.5 Consultations

Draft Telehealthcare Strategy document: a copy of the document was circulated to all members (10th April 2010); the Chair volunteered to respond by the due date of 14th May 2010, along the following lines. Telehealthcare and telemedicine are a necessity as part of the "catch up" on the transfer of medical care to the community, precipitated by all the changes in the NHS, including reduced availability of general practitioner services. Much of these are (understandably) financially driven with increasing need for unpaid carers for the support of the elderly and those with chronic debilitating medical problems. This is acknowledged in the document, and these developments are necessary to fill a void that will get bigger with the passage of time unless there is a fundamental change in attitudes amongst politicians and the general public. "A virtue out of necessity" seems apt. To set up and properly evaluate the scheme in Moray will take many more than the small number of individuals mentioned in the appendices. The laudable stated aims should be supported and the "implementers" encouraged.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

Community Engagement: the Secretary confirmed that she had received (14th April 2010) details of a revised proposal on how Community Councils and Area Fora are funded by the Moray Council. In response to the original consultation, the Cullen & Deskford Community Council had indicated their preference for the first option which would see the grant to each Community Council being set at £1,000 (a significant increase on the current figure which is based on population numbers). The Secretary confirmed that she had advised the Moray Council (24th April 2010) that we have no particular views on how the forthcoming consultation is carried out, but that we would intend to continue to support the first option which remains unchanged at £1,000 per Community Council. This response was acknowledged by John Ferguson (29th April 2010).

9. A.O.C.B.

9.1 Association of Scottish Community Councils - Renewal of Membership: Following discussion, it was agreed to renew membership at a cost of £15. It was agreed that there was no requirement for insurance cover through the ASCC as we are already covered through the insurance via the Moray Council.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

9.2 Letter of thanks from Adam Newlands: The Chair read out a letter of thanks from Adam Newlands in relation to his Certificate of Achievement.

9.3 Interpretation Panel: The Secretary advised that the Secretary of the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group has an interpretation panel (funded by the Moray Council) to be erected in Cullen; this panel is a Moray-wide information panel (with little reference to Cullen); following discussion, it was agreed that the most appropriate location for this would be on the Links side of the footbridge connecting the Links to the Seatown.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

9.4 Pedestrian Island Build-Out: The Secretary advised that she had received a phone call from a business owner in Seaford Street expressing his concern re the current work at the pedestrian island, and emphasising that he can no longer park any delivery vehicles close to his business. The Secretary undertook to provide all details of the previous dialogue with the Moray Council on this topic.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

9.5 House in Findlater Circle: concern had been expressed by a number of people in the community regarding the activities of the current residents of a house in Findlater Circle run by a Trust. Following discussion, it was agreed to write to pass on the concerns of the community.

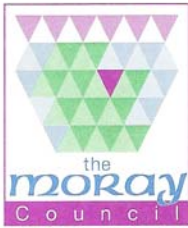
ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

27th May 2010 at 7 p.m. - Memorial Hall Cullen

EVENTS DIARY

Date	Event	Location
5th May	Sale of Work - Cullen Pensioners Club 18.30	
15th May	Tea - Cullen & Deskford Church	Hall Church
21st May	Run for Life Disco (organised by girls at Seaford Estate Office) 20.30 - 00.30	Cullen Bowling and Tennis Club
22nd May	Ziggy and Tony	Deskford Community Hall
26th May	Christmas Lights Coffee Morning - 10 - 12 noon	Cullen Town Hall
2nd June	Cullen Pensioners Club Summer Outing	
5th June	Coffee Morning/Pancakes and Scones (in aid of Cullen Community Allotment Society)	Cullen Bowling and Tennis Club
9th June	Pancake Tea 13.30 - 16.00 Cullen & Deskford Church	Hall Church
11th June	Quiz night	Deskford Community Hall
16th June	Coffee Morning 10.00 - 12.00	Cullen Bowling and Tennis Club
TBA	Two more theatre productions	Deskford Community Hall



Chief Executive's Office

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Our Ref: AK/ge/771008
Your Ref:

19 April 2010

Zillah J Jamieson
Secretary, Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Norwood
11 Seafield Place
Cullen
AB56 4TE

Dear Mrs Jamieson

Land Adjacent to Cullen Community Centre

I refer to your letter of 12 April 2010 and your telephone conversation with Stuart Beveridge (Senior Estates Surveyor) on 15 April 2010.

Although I appreciate your concerns about the potential loss of the area of open land adjacent to the Community Centre, as stated in my letter of 11 February 2010 it would be premature of the Council to take a decision on the future of this site in isolation, prior to determination of the Cullen Property Review Report. I anticipate that this report will be considered by the Council later this year and it is intended that any proposals would be subject to consultation with the local community.

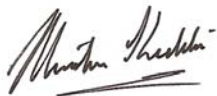
I understand that the Community Council does not at this stage have any definite proposals for the future use for the site and in considering an application to dispose of the property at less than best consideration the Council/Scottish Ministers would require details of specific proposals, including use and evidence of sustainability (incorporating detailed costings and current/future funding arrangements).

I made reference to a lease in my previous letter to explain that in certain circumstances, where the Council is minded to transfer ownership at less than best consideration and seeks to apply enforceable conditions, this can be best achieved by way of a lease. However I would re-iterate that in the circumstances I feel it would be premature at this stage to discuss terms for a sale or lease of the property to the Community Council or any other party.

Contd/I

I trust this information is of assistance, but please let me know if you need anything further.

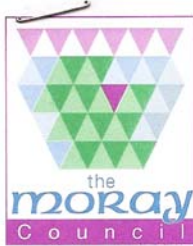
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alastair Keddie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Alastair Keddie

Copy to: Curs Cree, Shepherd & Gull
Stuart Beveridge, Estates

APPENDIX 3



Chief Executive's Office

Alastair Keddie

Chief Executive

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HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

15 April 2010

Prof N A G Mowat
Chair, Cullen and Deskford Community Council
York House
York Place
Cullen
AB56 4UW

Dear Professor Mowat

Footbridge over Cullen Burn, north of the A98 Road Bridge

I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter of 28 January 2010 regarding the repair and maintenance and possible replacement of the bridge over the Cullen Burn north of the A98 road bridge. I feel it would be useful to clarify the position in relation to ownership of the bridge. Our records confirm that it did not transfer to the Council and that whilst the Council own the land on the western side of the bridge the bridge itself and the eastern section remain the property of Seaford Estates. Consequently the footbridge does not appear on the Council asset portfolio and there is no provision for its maintenance or replacement.

I understand that the bridge forms a popular means of access from Cullen to local facilities and the coastal walkway, however, the ownership remains in private hands as does the responsibility for any repair or maintenance needed. Mr Fotheringham, the Council Senior Structural Engineer, has assessed the current condition of the bridge and whilst it is remains useable for pedestrians it is beyond economic repair. He estimates the cost of replacement somewhere in the region of £65,000. It is the case that if the owner were to request the Council to consider adoption of the structure, such a proposal would be refused based on the current poor condition of the asset.

Therefore in terms of a way forward the best that can be offered is that the Council will continue to monitor the condition of the bridge but if this continues to deteriorate, then the

Council may have to exercise its Power of Wellbeing and close the bridge in the interest of public safety.

I am sorry I am unable to provide a more positive response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alastair Keddie', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alastair Keddie