

**Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Meeting on Wednesday 27th February 2013
Cullen Community and Residential Centre**

M I N U T E S

- Present:** Ashley Mowat (Chair)
Malcolm Watt (Vice-Chair)
Zillah Jamieson (Secretary/Acting Treasurer)
John Aitken
- In Attendance:** Cllr Stewart Cree - left meeting after Agenda Item 7.5
PC Craig Rowan - left meeting after Agenda Item 3.1
Andrew Mackie - left meeting after Agenda Item 3.2
- Apologies:** John Robertson
Cllr Gary Coull
Cllr Ron Shepherd

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees to our 36th meeting of the new term.
Apologies were noted as above.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (30th January 2013)

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Reports

3.1 Police

Police: comments as raised by the Police.

The Local Policing Report is attached as Appendix 1. In addition to the items in the report, PC Rowan highlighted that there had been 12 incidents reported of individuals asking for advice. He also advised that the number 101 will replace the current 0845 number - a development welcomed by all those present as being much more memorable. He also emphasised that the public will not see any difference locally following the merger into one single force.

The Chair confirmed that he had spoken to Keith Stratton (27/02/13) regarding the need for better lighting and video surveillance at Cullen Harbour - as raised on earlier occasions. The response from Keith Stratton (27/02/13) indicated that advice received from the Lighting Section in 2012 was that lights would not illuminate the pontoon sufficiently and would shine at a shallow angle. With all the recently announced budget cuts in relation to harbours and associated activities e.g. dredging, it is unlikely that any substantial contribution can be made to this scheme. The need for cuts is expected to continue for a further 4 years, and it is therefore unlikely that there will be any improvement in the near future. Keith did not however acknowledge the possibility of a community contribution. The Chair undertook to forward the correspondence to Cllr Cree. It was agreed that lighting would act as a deterrent; however, the technology required for CCTV would render this both impractical and unaffordable, whilst not necessarily delivering the clarity required to identify perpetrators.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Cllr Cree

3.2 Community Warden

Andrew Mackie reported that 3 individuals had been reported to him as being offenders in relation to dog fouling, as a result of which 1 individual has received an official warning. He also highlighted that he was in the process of developing a quiz targeted at P6 and P7 pupils; the Community Council confirmed their willingness to make a small donation for a prize - possibly a £20 book voucher.

The Junior Warden scheme is likely to go ahead, with a trial run in Keith. P7 children will work alongside wardens, police and ambulance services for 4 days focussing on anti-social behaviour.

Andrew reported that he had assisted a car owner to retrieve his car stuck in the sand at the harbour, but was now investigating the removal of wood from a nearby bench which had been used on the track of the car.

Andrew confirmed that he would request the Bayview Court Warden again to write an official letter to the Community Council in relation to the dangers faced by residents in crossing the main road at the Court because of speeding traffic.

ACTION: Andrew Mackie

3.3 Local Councillors

No items were raised.

3.4 Treasurer

The Secretary confirmed that the last bank statement (31/12/12) indicated a balance of £3,203.50.

Taking into account expenditure items and income since the bank statement date, the balance stands at £3,374.37. This sum includes £250 ring-fenced for Neighbourhood Watch.

Total income from the calendar amounted to £2,150.40 (including sponsorship funds and sale of 378 calendars) against an expenditure to date of £1,824.57. Comparative figures for the 2012 calendar are sale of 714 calendars and surplus of circa £1,500. John Robertson delivered some calendars to the Lythe Care Home; delivery to the Wakefield Care Home and Bayview Court remains an outstanding action; it was also agreed to donate some further copies to sponsors.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson/Malcolm Watt

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Moray Council Budget Proposals

In response to the announcement that Cullen Library would close (13/02/13) and following a suggestion by Portknockie Community Council, supported by Findochty Community Council, the three community councils had decided to work together, with a view to building a robust defence of our respective facilities - particularly in light of alternatives being neither explored nor discussed with the communities.

The Chair requested information from Cllr Coull on the following: comparative library usage in Moray, the projected savings from closure of the three libraries, any associated costs and the reasons for not considering additional volunteer contribution. He also requested information on the cost of the "consultation" exercise and confirmation of the percentage uptake of the invitation to "consult".

A meeting with representatives of the Findochty and Portknockie Community Councils took place on Thursday 21st February 2013. Notes from the meeting are attached as Appendix 2, together with a letter from Alistair Campbell of Moray Council.

The Chair highlighted some of the key discussion points, including:

- The lack of consultation on closure of libraries given that libraries seemed to come out as a high priority in the consultation; in the Secondary Schools consultation (which is quoted by Allan Wright as being the place where the closure idea came from) libraries were rated as the highest priority; it was agreed that it is very hard to react until specific proposals are known
- The perception that the area east of Buckie - with a combined population of 4,000 - seems to be losing out, with announcements on libraries, harbours and buses; also, the decision on closing 3 libraries seemed to have been taken without full awareness of the implications and what if scenarios
- The consultation exercise is going to inform other decisions on cutbacks
- All Administration Councillors in the respective wards voted for the closure proposals
- The SNP proposed that the Administration revisit the budget, in particular looking at certain areas, including libraries, and revert before the end of March 2013; if approved, this would have given Councillors more time to discuss the proposals and also for the communities to look at how they can contribute, be that with ideas or volunteer contributions.

At the meeting on 21st February, it had been decided to invite the 6 Councillors across the 2 wards to speak to the 3 community councils re not only the communities' concerns, but also possible solutions with a view to mitigating long-term consequences.

Cllr Cree indicated that, having been criticised on the previous occasion for having commenced the exercise with budget cut proposals, the Council had opted this time to undertake the exercise with a blank sheet of paper; this was supported by a focus group exercise.

In response to an expression of bitter disappointment that Community Councils were not used to add value to the process, Cllr Cree indicated that this had been done through the Joint Community Council. In addition, he indicated that libraries featured neither in the "have to save them" nor "get rid of them" categories from the consultation. In addition, he indicated that a number of authorities have created trusts and also looked at opportunities for volunteers to run libraries.

Cllr Cree added that the library review had been structural, based on an area review tool from the Scottish Government, looking at centres of population,

arterial routes, shops, commerce etc - with a view to deciding where best to place services to meet the needs of the population.

Cllr Cree indicated his willingness to help in the establishment of factual information surrounding the review of libraries and bus services.

The Chair indicated that rural communities in Moray offer a number of distinct attractions for local residents; removal of facilities will result in a downward spiral. He asked if a strategy exists for this part of the county.

The Chair confirmed that an open letter would be sent to the 6 Councillors concerned inviting them to a meeting with representatives from the 3 Community Councils.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

5. Cullen & Deskford 2014 Calendar: discussion on progress.

The actions taken since the last meeting include:-

- posters amended, printed and distributed - to points from Buckie to Banff
- entry forms amended, printed and given to Cullen Corner Shop and Cullen Paper Shop who had kindly agreed to hold for entrants
- press release issued; coverage achieved in the P & J (23/02/13), Banffshire Journal (26/02/13) and Banffshire Advertiser (26/02/13); and the Northern Scot (28/02/13) - the day after the meeting
- competition details displayed on websites
- details of competition e-mailed to all newsletter subscribers and previous entrants
- details of competition e-mailed to previously identified camera clubs; details now appear on websites of Deeside and Dingwall Camera Clubs
- relevant documentation and files given to the Chair
- MMS Almac advised of the closing date; MMS Almac have confirmed that all necessary work has been undertaken to set up the format and appropriate dates for 2014, and they now await the photographs and variable information.

The closing date for entrants is 14th April 2013.

Entries to date include 19 photos from 7 individuals.

The Chair expressed thanks to the Secretary for all her hard work on the calendar over the last two years.

6. Planning

6.1 Aultmore Wind Farm

Cross-party Working Party: The Chair requested details (11/01/13) of the Chair of the relevant Moray Council committee and of what information was awaited. A response is awaited. The Chair undertook to forward the e-mail correspondence to Cllr Cree for action.

ACTION: John Robertson/John Aitken/Ashley Mowat/Gary Coull

John Aitken raised the concerns of the Deskford community regarding the proliferation of single turbine applications and confirmed that a letter had been written to the Chief Executive of the Moray Council.

7. A.O.C.B.

7.1. New Members: it is hoped that one new member will be able to attend the next meeting. John Aitken confirmed that he had mentioned the need to attract new members at the Deskford Association meeting.

7.2 Meeting Dates and Venues - 2013: The Secretary confirmed having written (06/02/13) to all 3 locally elected councillors offering revised dates for meetings (first, second and third Thursdays or any Tuesday in the month).

Gary Coull can do 2nd or 3rd Thursdays in the month - none of the other options. Stewart Cree finds that Thursdays are least committed; however his civic duties mean that he cannot guarantee any night. Ron Shepherd indicated that he had no preference.

It was agreed that meetings should be moved to the 3rd Thursday of each month, effective as soon as possible.

7.3 Certificates of Achievement: further consideration is to be given to names already identified.

7.4 Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund: The Chair confirmed that he had contacted Historic Scotland re the fund available for repairs/upkeep of war memorials (31/01/13); whilst Historic Scotland has the funds in place, there is as yet no system in place nor relevant application forms; our interest was noted; despite an assurance that we would hear more during February, no communication had been received.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

7.5 Cullen Burn Bridge: A Cullen resident has once again raised the issue of the condition of the Cullen Burn Bridge, and enquiring as to whether the Community Council can apply for a grant to either repair/replace the bridge from the CARS Scheme - given that it is in a conservation area and underneath the historic viaducts. The importance of the bridge was highlighted during the closure of the main road bridge; any replacement would ideally carry cars. The Chair responded (29/01/13) that Moray Council owns the bridge and is therefore responsible for inspection and maintenance; the ownership issue would render the bridge repair ineligible for grant purposes, and asked the concerned resident to advise of any potential sources of funding that will get round this problem. A response is awaited.

Cllr Cree left the meeting at this point; thanks were expressed to him for attending given the significant current pressures on his time.

7.6 Glebe Park Crescent - pavement blocked: It is understood that a fence from the building site has blown over in recent strong winds, resulting in the pavement being obstructed and the fencing lying flat with exposed nails. An approach by a concerned resident to Cllr Shepherd had remained unanswered (as at 11/02/13). It was agreed that the resident concerned should phone Health and Safety in Moray Council; and that the Community Council would become involved if this approach did not bear fruit.

7.7 Moray Safer Strategy/Community Warden Questionnaire: The Secretary confirmed having circulated the relevant documentation to all members. The Secretary undertook to complete the questionnaire based on unanimous agreement with all questions, with a covering e-mail to commend Andrew Mackie for his endeavours and commitment.

8. ITEMS FOR NOTING/DISCUSSION BY EXCEPTION

8.1 Cullen Medical Centre: Nothing further to report.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Malcolm Watt

8.2 Cullen Community and Residential Centre - potential Asset

Transfer: A consultant has now been appointed for the feasibility study/community consultation/business plan - subject to funding being obtained. Funding applications are in hand.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

8.3 Cullen Harbour Association Report: Nothing to report.

8.4 ITEMS AWAITING ACTION/CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN

AWAITING ACTION:

8.4.1 Lawtie Trust: The Chair reported on a letter dated 22nd February 2013 - attached as Appendix 3 - indicating that the Lawtie Trust will be included in the 2014 review of all major trusts. The Chair undertook to respond.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Malcolm Watt

8.4.2 Community Website: Investigation on traffic statistics from Google Analytics remains an outstanding action.

There are currently 96 subscribers to the Newsletter; newsletters are sent out regularly, with the prime objective of driving traffic to the website.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

8.4.3 Logie Head Path: The Secretary confirmed having written to Eleanor Munro of Aberdeenshire Council (06/11/12) raising the points discussed at the October meeting. A further approach is to be made.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

8.4.4 Cullen Town Hall Flag: the Secretary confirmed that she has now obtained the old flag from the Cullen Fire Brigade, and will proceed with the repair of the old flag and the purchase of new flags.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

8.4.5 Floral Welcomes to Cullen: The Secretary confirmed having written to Ken Kennedy (06/02/13 and again 20/02/13) as discussed at the last meeting, namely: on the approach from Buckie, to investigate an alternative siting to that recommended (to the left hand side of the wooden fence on the left of the exit from the car park), specifically the left hand verge to the right of the exit from the car park; also to request a quote for the banked display at the Cullen sign on the approach from Portsoy. Ken Kennedy's response (21/02/13) indicated that:-

- Approach from Buckie: The left hand verge is comparatively narrow and liable to be badly affected with salt spray from the road during the winter and not much will survive there; it may be possible to plant some bulbs but he would not like to guarantee their success
- Approach from Portsoy: The approach from the Portsoy side could be planted in heathers/sedge type grasses which would require little maintenance. Estimated cost for this would be in the region of £1,200 plus VAT depending on the varieties chosen. This would give a mounded bed with a face of about 9 metres square. If a friendly farmer/builder could provide some top soil, the cost would reduce; the community would then be responsible for all maintenance including the grass cutting on the mounded back.

Given the cost involved, it was decided not to proceed with this project.

8.4.6 Judy's Lane signage: It was noted that the signage is now in place.

CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

8.4.7 Moray Local Plan: The Chair confirmed that he had submitted comments (14/02/13 - acknowledged 22/02/13) - on-line - as discussed at the January meeting.

8.4.8 Community Council Scheme Review 2009-2013: The Secretary confirmed having submitted comments (06/02/13 - receipt acknowledged 07/02/13) in line with the discussion at the last meeting, namely that the scheme does not require amendment. However, it should be remembered at all times that community councillors are volunteers, whilst locally elected councillors are paid public servants. In a multi-member ward, we believe that at least one of the three (in our case) should be present at all meetings. We have experienced a disappointingly low attendance by our locally elected councillors in 2012.

8.4.9 Setting up of new charitable organisation: The Secretary confirmed having written (06/02/13) to Innes Community Council indicating that, whilst members were sympathetic to some of the anxieties expressed, they could not support this initiative as a solution to the challenges.

8.4.10 Tourist Office 2013: The Secretary reported that the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative had now been advised that historical precedent will apply, and therefore the Tourist Office will only be open for 3 months in 2013.

8.5 Planning - Weekly List

The following item appeared in the Weekly List dated 25th January 2013:

- Erect domestic garage with residential accommodation to augment previously approved house at Indulf House Cullen.

This was not considered to be of community interest.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

Following the decision under agenda item 7.2, the date of the next meeting will be confirmed as either 21st or 27th March 2013.

LOCAL POLICING REPORT
CULLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON 27 FEBRUARY 2013

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

Since the last meeting in January the following information can be provided.

Roads Policing

This period 2 motorists have been charged in connection with a variety of road traffic offences including drink driving, and failing to stop after a RTC. Enquires are ongoing.

Vandalism

There have been vandalism reported. Property damaged consists of damage to a motor vehicle. Enquiries are ongoing.

Disorder

There have been two reports of Threatening and Abusive Behaviour. Enquires are ongoing.

2. FEEDBACK ON POLICE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

N/a.

3. DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL PRIORITIES

Crimestoppers

If anyone has any information relating to controlled drugs or drug dealing, please call Grampian Police on 101. Alternatively, contact can be made with Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers allow information to be passed in relation to any crime or criminal activity anonymously. They can also be contacted via the website at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

4. ONGOING LOCAL/ FORCEWIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Change to Police Service Of Scotland

Work continues to progress the merging of Aberdeenshire and Moray Divisions into a single division under the Police Service of Scotland.

The Local Policing Team structure will be carried over into the new Force, so there will be no changes to Local Policing Team (LPT) structures for Day 1, and LPTs will continue to serve the same geographical areas.

The two Divisions are well placed to fit in with the national structure, which will have an increased emphasis on the multi-ward areas, which our Local Policing Teams already mirror.

New Police Office - Buckie

On 20 February 2013, the new Police Office at West Cathcart Street, Buckie will become operational. Members of the public will still telephone Police in the same way, but any personal attendance will be at the new office.

The Police Office in Buckie was officially opened today (Wed 27 Feb) by Chief Constable Colin McKerracher.

This communication is intended for the persons or organisation named and may be confidential in nature, legally privileged and protected in law. If you are not the intended recipient please advise us immediately and do not disclose, copy or distribute the contents to any person. Failure to comply with these instructions may constitute a criminal offence. Unless expressly stated to the contrary, the sender of this e-mail is not authorised by Grampian Police to make any representations in relation to, nor to negotiate or enter into, any agreement on behalf of Grampian Police. Grampian Police has made all reasonable efforts to check that any attached files is/are free of computer viruses but does not accept any responsibility for any damage, howsoever arising, as a result of their transmission to the recipient's computer. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure that all such attachments are free of viruses.

Present:	Cullen & Deskford Community Council:	Ashley Mowat (Chair) Malcolm Watt (Vice-Chair) Zillah Jamieson (Secretary) John Aitken
	Portknockie Community Council:	Fraser Weir (Chair)
	Findochty Community Council:	Ryan Main (Chair) John Oliver Gayle Calder Henry Marshall Martin Legge

Ashley Mowat commenced the meeting by running through some of the factual information available about both the costs and usage of all three libraries - contained in a letter from Alistair Campbell, Libraries and Museums Manager (attached as Appendix 1) and usage figures (attached as an Excel spreadsheet). Alistair Campbell's letter also contains comments on the effect of the closures on staff, Moray Council's statutory duties and volunteer implications.

It was also noted that all 4 Administration Councillors had voted for closure, and the SNP Councillors had voted for retention.

In the case of the Portknockie and Findochty libraries, a substantial amount of money (nearly £5 million over a 5-year period) had been spent on moving the libraries to their current locations in the respective schools; Moray Council will require to pay back £72,000 if the libraries are closed; it is unclear whether this amount has been taken into account in the quoted savings figures. Repayment of EU funding will also not bode well for further funding applications.

- Computer access for jobseekers (as these services move to on-line only availability)
- Online access to benefits system
- A valuable social hub for communities, particularly for the older population
- Retention of IT facilities is particularly critical in Portknockie (where PC usage is very high).

It was also agreed that reducing services is losing the essence of rural communities.

Further facts to be established are:-

- Footfall per hour (Cullen's opening hours are less than Findochty, but generate more usage in the time period)
- Percentage of users v. population
- The impact of the cuts in public transport, particularly in relation to the ageing population
- How many other local authorities are cutting libraries

2. Agreed Objective

It was agreed that a press statement/open letter should be produced as the first step in presenting a united front to Moray Council regarding the closure of the three libraries; it will also demonstrate to the local communities that the Community Councils are doing something to fight the decision.

It was also agreed that alternatives need to be explored.

It was also agreed that a stay of execution should be requested in order to allow time to come up with alternative proposals

3. Possible Options (not comprehensive)

- Reduction in opening hours
- Staggered opening so that 1 library is always open across the 3 communities
- Classroom assistants working in the libraries in Portknockie and Findochty
- Move the Cullen Library to the School

4. Cullen Community Centre Development Group

Zillah Jamieson outlined the work of the Development Group and the dialogue thus far with Cllr Cree. The key points of this included:-

- The Development Group is investigating the potential of asset transfer of the Cullen Community and Residential Centre; progress to date includes the constitution of the group, the opening of a bank account and the appointment of a consultant to undertake a Feasibility Study, Community Consultation and Outline Business Plan; funding applications are in process to cover this work
- Whilst strictly speaking not part of the asset transfer, because of its statutory nature, all discussions with Moray Councillors and Council Officers have highlighted the Library as a key component for the aspirations for community ownership, with the potential for a wider suite of library facilities at a fraction of the cost of the existing "traditional" library
- The Development Group had requested that a decision on the closure of Cullen Library be deferred until completion of the forthcoming feasibility study (including flexibility on the 12-month time limit on completing asset transfer projects - a time limit which is not realistic given the complexity of the Cullen project)
- Cllr Cree's responses (both before and after the 13th February Council meeting) included: "If there is a case to be made for phasing the library cuts, then I will do whatever I can to seek to provide you with the elbow room to make your alternative proposals. It would help greatly if these could be brought forward at the earliest stage..... I would however caution that any business case based on continuing funding by the Moray Council is unlikely to gain support as the proposal is a structural one rather than a review on a case by case basis."

"The 1-year time limit would not be rigorously enforced."

"My comments on library closure timescales were, by necessity, quite general. There is, as yet, no firm timetable set for the implementation of these measures as staff consultation and equality impact assessments will have to take place now that the proposals are made known."

"On-going support for community based libraries is not currently part of any budget proposals and the reduction in the Libraries budgets would seem to preclude this."

"Alistair Campbell's expertise will be founded in conventional library delivery and he may be less aware of the community library model."

Zillah Jamieson advised that representatives of the Development Group are scheduled to meet with Alistair Campbell on Monday 25th February 2013.

5. Consultation

The following points were raised regarding the consultation process undertaken by Moray Council:-

- It was impossible to have informed debate without the relevant facts
- The consultation process did not cover libraries
- What else was not covered by the consultation process?
- The consultation process pointed to the retention of libraries
- Moray Council need not be bound by the results of the consultation process; decisions are taken by the elected democracy
- The Councillors did not undertake any dialogue with local communities/Community Councils
- All Councillors should have been involved in proposal discussions - taking politics totally out of the equation
- There had been no input from the Cullen local councillor
- The budget proposals are marginalising all the rural communities, and the Moray Council's focus is on larger conurbations

6. The Way Forward

It was agreed to:-

- Issue a press statement/open letter - to be agreed by all 3 Community Councils, the key points to include:-
 - acceptance of the current dilemma
 - Moray Council has not provided information about alternatives looked at
 - the 3 communities should be given the opportunity to come up with proposals
 - comment on why we are unhappy with the consultation process
 - comment on the non-involvement of Community Councils
 - request an opportunity to put forward the communities' priorities, as their contribution to the £30 million savings target
 - request an explanation of the high level of reserves
- The press statement should be issued to local and national press, all 6 Councillors, the Minister for Local Government and local MSPs/MPs
- Ashley Mowat and Malcolm Watt to meet with Alistair Campbell, Libraries and Museums Manager on Monday 25th February 2013

- Request a meeting with all 6 Councillors (potential dates include 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th and 20th March)
- Depending on the outcome of this meeting, hold a public meeting which all 6 Councillors must attend.



Education and Social Care

Alistair Campbell

Libraries & Museums Manager

High Street, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1BX

Telephone: 01343 563398

Fax: 01343 563990

Councillor G Coull
The Moray Council
Members' Support
High Street
Elgin
IV30 1BX

E-mail: alistair.campbell@moray.gov.uk

Website: www.moray.gov.uk

Your reference:

Our reference: GAC/CG/

Sandy Riddell

Corporate Director (Education and Social Care)

19 February 2013

Dear Councillor Coull

Thank you for your enquiry of 19th February 2013 concerning the costs of providing Cullen, Portknockie and Findochty Libraries and the possibility of volunteer contribution.

The annual direct budgets for the libraries are as follows:

Cullen	£14,550 gross	£13,845 net
Portknockie	£7,303 gross	£7,103 net
Findochty	£6,603 gross	£6,423 net

These do not include the cost of new lending materials, computer licences and other costs, promotion, management supervision or central support costs.

The closure of the 7 libraries and withdrawal of 1 mobile will be accompanied by staff reductions at Libraries Support of £29,000, the removal of a Senior Librarian's post at £47,000 with oncost, the removal of a Community Librarian's post at £36,000 with oncost, and the removal of the Libraries and Museums Manager's post at £70,000 with oncost leaving Moray with 6 professional posts against the recommended 11.

The removal of 1 mobile library at a cost of £37,000 will mean that the remaining mobile library will not have the capacity to serve those communities losing their libraries.

In addition there will be a reduction in the book fund of £25,000 taking the provision to 50% of the recommended level.

The Council has a statutory duty to provide adequate library services for all residents of the area. Clarity of adequate is embedded by standards set through the Public Library Quality Improvement Matrix for Scotland. This translates to minimum provision being:

- A strategic network of libraries, easily accessed within reasonable travelling distance for all in the community and open at times communities can easily access them.
- Provision of reading material for all.
- Information services including information and heritage through physical collections and online services.
- Access to a range of learning opportunities, in particular those to get people online and using government services.
- Properly trained and supportive staff to support activities.

The level of provision agreed by the Council at its meeting of 13th February would be identified as the minimum level required to meet its statutory obligations.

Because of the statutory nature of the service, libraries run by communities or volunteers cannot be part of the statutory provision. This does not mean that volunteers are not already extensively used by the libraries service for added value activity such as storytelling, assisting with events, indexing local heritage material or visiting housebound readers, but they cannot be used for core duties.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you. Should you want me to meet with members of the community council to explain matters in more detail please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Alistair Campbell
Libraries & Museums Manager



Legal and Democratic Services

The Moray Council
Council Offices, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX
Telephone: 01343 543451
Fax: 01343 563221
DX: 520666, ELGIN

Contact: Rhona Gunn
Direct Dial: (01343) 563152
rhona.gunn@moray.gov.uk
www.moray.gov.uk

Professor Ashley Mowat
York House
York Place
CULLEN
AB56 4UW

Our Reference: RG/AMcE
Your Reference:

22 February 2013

Dear Professor Mowat

Cullen/Deskford Community Council meeting with Lawtie Trustees
Wednesday 9 January 2013

The Convenor has asked me to respond to your letter dated 10 January 2013 on his behalf. With regard to your concern that the Trust does not have local representation in the form of a Cullen and Lintmill resident, the Trust document specifies that one of the Trustees must be the elected Councillor of the Moray Council electoral ward of Cullen and so this was presumably recognised at that time as providing sufficient local representation. Any further change would require to be canvassed as part of a reorganisation and as you have noted, the reorganisation of the various trusts administered by the Council has already been the subject of a report to the Council in terms of which it was agreed that this process will be undertaken in order of priority by reference to agreed factors including the value of the trust fund. Whilst the trustees appreciate your desire to modernise the trust, this will be done by reference to the prioritisation previously agreed as this recognises the wider issues across Moray.

I confirm that the South Deskford properties no longer form part of the Lawtie Trust. In 1992 the Moray District Council compulsory purchased numbers 16 to 22 South Deskford Street and the Lawtie Trust received compensation of £56,000. The properties are now held on the Council's housing revenue account.

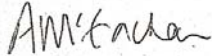
Meantime I would ask you to note that the Lawtie Trust has had a lot of attention in the last couple of years, and it is estimated that the Legal section alone has spent over 150 hours on the Trust. As a result it has recently become active in terms of disbursement. The Trustees have agreed to allow the Trust to run as it has been this past year until 2014, and I can assure you that this does not mean that no action will be taken. The Trustees and Legal services will promote the Trust further in order to encourage applicants and since the last meeting have ordered more publicity material and have updated the Council's website to make the application forms more easily accessible.

As I believe this draws a line under the issues which it was agreed the Legal section would progress at our recent meeting, I would ask that any further correspondence regarding the

trust is directed through the trustees rather than being sent directly to the Legal section. This will allow the trustees and the Legal section to determine an appropriate response which recognises that, as with all services across the Council, legal resources are finite and must be applied according to priority. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has advised that time dedicated to the Lawtie Trust will require to be strictly controlled moving forward as other trusts and indeed other areas of legal work must now be given precedence.

Thank you for your interest in the Lawtie Trust.

Yours sincerely



RR

Rhona Gunn
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

cc: Cllr Cree, Convenor