



**Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Meeting on Thursday 15th August 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: Tom Gunn
Cllr Stewart Cree
PC Morag Lawrence

Apologies: None

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees to our 42nd and penultimate meeting of the term. No apologies had been received.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (18th July 2013)

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Reports

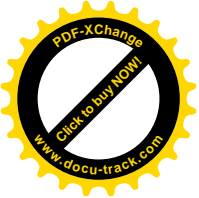
3.1 Police

The Local Policing Report is attached as Appendix 1. PC Lawrence confirmed that the new Inspector in Buckie is Inspector Mann, and that there was nothing further to report beyond the content of the report. Following an indication from John Aitken regarding the relative proximity of the recent break-in in Deskford with 3 other break-ins in the past, PC Lawrence undertook to e-mail her Keith colleagues to highlight this point. She also undertook to provide feedback on the investigations to the Secretary (for circulation). PC Lawrence did not have any information on the incidents discussed at the previous meeting.

Lighting and safety issues at the harbour: The Chair and Vice-Chair reported on a recent meeting of the Cullen Harbour Association where several misunderstandings amongst the boat owners had been clarified - in relation to the funding for both the lighting and a chain - and including confirmation that the costs of these items would not be to the detriment of maintenance at the harbour. No decision had been made at the meeting. Cllr Cree undertook to speak to Keith Stratton regarding the way forward.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat/Malcolm Watt/Cllr Cree

Review of Traffic Warden Provision and Public Service and Opening Hours at Police Offices: The Secretary confirmed having responded to this letter from Mark McLaren, Divisional Commander (30/07/13) requesting clarification on where the boundaries come between police and traffic warden responsibilities in relation to parking offences - particularly in smaller rural communities. For example, why do the police not enforce parking regulations?



She highlighted that, in our own small community of Cullen, there are two persistent breaches of parking regulations - firstly, down at the harbour during busy holiday periods when illegal parking at the pier could block emergency vehicle access in the event of an incident at the harbour; and secondly, at double yellow areas outside the Co-operative store in Grant Street. The Secretary also confirmed having received a response from Inspector Ewan Innes - attached as Appendix 2. The Chair advised that the police had acted on illegal parking at the harbour on at least two occasions since our letter of 30/07/13.

3.2 Community Warden

There is no Community Warden report for this meeting.

The Secretary advised that the Community Warden had confirmed (03/08/13) the current siting of dog bins throughout Cullen - as per attached map (separate document). The Community Warden also advised that, following a request to relocate certain bins (as per previous discussions), Moray Council had indicated that moving the bins is not an option; no reasons were given for this stance. The Community Warden had also advised that he would have the posters in place in Cullen prior to the meeting on 15th August 2013.

The Secretary confirmed that she had received a response from Duncan Falconer (08/08/13) indicating that the reason for not moving any of the dog bins in the Logie Drive/Avenue area is due to the bins which are already in the area being at strategic points, and he did not think it would be beneficial to move any of the bins; Cllr Shepard agreed with him on this matter. It was brought to his attention by Andrew Mackie that it was suggested to move a bin to the top of the park, but there is already a litter bin next to the cycle track which can accommodate dog waste as any litter bin can across Moray.

3.3 Local Councillors

No items were raised.

3.4 Treasurer

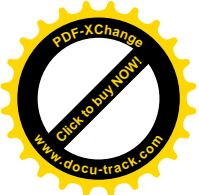
The Secretary confirmed that the last bank statement (15th July 2013) indicated a balance of £2,276.76; with subsequent expenditure of £112 for the Community Council elections leaflet and a credit of £95 for calendar sales, the current balance stands at £2,259.76.

The bank balance includes £250 ring-fenced for Neighbourhood Watch.

The Vice-Chair confirmed that each sponsor had received a free copy of the calendar.

A cut-off point of 10th September was agreed for all expenditure and income, with a view to presenting the final accounts on 19th September 2013. Following Cllr Cree's suggestion, it was agreed that an indication of the source of income (e.g. Moray Council grant or Community Council fund-raising efforts) should be included if possible in the final accounts.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson/Ashley Mowat



ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Moray Council Budget Proposals

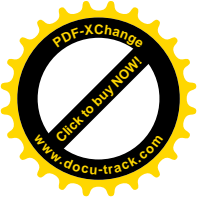
Library: A communication was received from Don Toonen, Equal Opportunities Officer, Moray Council (01/08/13), as follows: "The decision regarding the libraries was due to be made at full council meeting of next week. However, due to the size of the response we have had to postpone this. We hope that a meeting will be convened towards the end of August. A press release will go out later this week. I would first of all take the opportunity to once again thank you for your support which has resulted in 1,760 questionnaires being returned. I am fully aware that this delay is frustrating for many people and I apologise for this. The analysis and the need to respond to a great number of Freedom of Information Requests have led to some delays in completing the report. It was felt that, given the amount of information contained in the reports, councillors will need to be given more time to consider the information." The date for the Council meeting is currently unknown.

Toilets: A response remains outstanding to our letter to Stephen Cooper of Environmental Services, who had passed the communication to Steve Williamson for action.

With regard to the action on Cllr Cree to provide clarification on the policy surrounding asset transfer of Cullen Harbour and Beach toilets - in light of the developments with Cullen Golf Club reported previously and the absence of developments with the Cullen Harbour Association, Cllr Cree has provided this communication (sent to the Chair on 1st July 2013): "I now have the following information that may help explain the matter. In essence the costs associated with running any public toilet affected by the proposals will have to be met by the relevant organisation seeking to maintain it. Charitable organisations may be able to avoid some part or other of these costs however that will depend on individual circumstances. In the case of the Cullen Links toilets the costs being sought by the Council are not a 'rental' but simply a recovery of the costs. If the toilets were to transfer as a CAT the body gaining ownership would still face these costs albeit they may be rebated by discounts on rates etc that MAY be available to charitable organisations. Viz:

The difference between a CAT and an SLA is that the CAT transfer the building and all the legal responsibility for the building to the community group, whereas under an SLA the community group is managing the function on behalf of the Council and the responsibility still lies with the Council, hence the reason for identifying what responsibilities we would expect the community group to have in undertaking the operation of the toilets on behalf of the Council.

In order for the Council to realise the savings then the community group has to pick up the costs for running the toilet. In the case of the toilet next to the golf club this was identified as being £1784 (this excludes cleaning and supplies costs which the community group would be expected to provide themselves). The £1784 is an annual cost made up of maintenance costs (which have been calculated by taking an average over the last 2 years) and third party charges such as water charges. The maintenance costs for the Cullen West beach has been on average £1202. I received a response from the Golf club in response to a draft SLA where they informed me that they felt that the costs were too high and would therefore not be willing to take them over. I subsequently phoned Mr Findlay from the Golf Club asking if he would consider taking on the maintenance costs themselves which would leave the water charges (£582) for them to pick up. I said I would write to him with this proposal.



It should be noted that the costs can vary quite considerably depending on the toilet. The variables include if

- the toilet is rated or not,
- there is electricity and the consumption
- it is seasonal
- the toilet is part of bigger building with other use as some of the costs can be absorbed by the other functions contained within the building and
- water consumption and maintenance

It is not possible for community groups to take over the running of toilets without incurring costs unless the Council retains these costs which would reduced the savings. I have tried to take a flexible approach with the groups as one group has offered to pay the Council the full costs for the Council to operate the toilets, and in the case of the Cullen Golf club offering them to take on the risk of the maintenance costs themselves."

An update is awaited on repairs to the Cullen Square toilets and a general improvement in their cleanliness.

The Secretary advised that she had received an e-mail complaint (23/07/13) from a couple who regular walk Cullen Beach; she advised that, on that day, they arrived just before 11.00 to find litter bins by the beach toilets overflowing, broken wine bottles littering the ground with glass and the toilets themselves disgusting. These comments were passed on to Steve Williamson, Stephen Cooper and the 3 locally elected councillors (26/07/13). Cllr Shepherd's response (26/07/13) indicated that this had been dealt with on the Tuesday in question, and all bins emptied on the Wednesday morning. Cllr Coull's response (26/07/13) indicated that the smell at the Beach toilets is overwhelming, and requested that something be done about this. Other responses are awaited.

Cllr Cree advised that he is in discussions with Stephen Cooper regarding the effectiveness of mobile cleaning teams. He will provide further information when available.

ACTION: Cllr Cree

5. Planning

5.1 Aultmore Wind Farm

Nothing further to report.

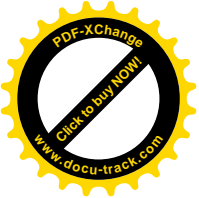
ACTION: John Robertson/John Aitken

6. A.O.C.B.

6.1 2013 Community Council Elections:

The Secretary confirmed having contacted the Moray Council Elections Officer (24/07/13) to confirm some of the details in the leaflet, as a result of which a few minor changes were made. It was agreed that the leaflets should be distributed within a few days of 30th August. Tom Gunn and John Aitken undertook to cover the Deskford area; Tom Gunn also volunteered to help out with the Cullen distribution. The Secretary undertook to e-mail with details of her distribution responsibilities. She also confirmed that she would undertake other promotional activities, including: full details in the Discover Cullen e-Newsletter; circulation of details to all the database e-mail lists; comments on the website; and hopefully an article in the Banffshire Advertiser, Northern Scot and Banffshire Journal.

6.2 Cullen Beach - Awards:



The Secretary confirmed having written to the Chief Executive of Moray Council (30/07/13) in relation to the recent omission of Cullen Beach from the Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Awards. The letter reflected the information available in the minutes of the last meeting, registered Cullen & Deskford Community Council's support for a Cullen application for the appropriate Seaside Award (either Rural or Resort) and requested that Moray Council recognise the value of Moray beaches to the tourism industry by progressing the appropriate applications. Further details of the committee report were also requested. An acknowledgement was received from the Chief Executive (07/08/13) indicating that he had forwarded our letter to Mr Stephen P. Cooper, the Council Officer concerned. Cllr Cree undertook to follow up on this.

ACTION: Cllr Cree

6.3 Recycling Bins in the Seatown:

The Chair confirmed having received a communication from Duncan Falconer (Moray Council - 23/07/13) indicating proposals to install communal recycling bins (3 x 1100 litre capacity - one each of glass, cans and plastic bottles, paper and card) to the west of the electrical sub-station in the Seatown across from 142 (with permission from the Seafeld Estates). This is being proposed because the recycling collection vehicle is unable to access the road between numbers 77 and 95 due to the vehicle dimensions and the width of road needed for cornering. The proposed site is quite centralised for the affected residents to drop off their recyclable materials. At the moment, the bins are being taken down from the kerbside and left at several points in the Seatown; Duncan has received complaints previously regarding this. As at the time of writing, no bins had been installed, and Duncan has been calling on Seatown households to gauge reaction to his proposals - with all those contacted happy with the proposal, with one exception. It is also proposed that the residents will have an option to have their recycling bins uplifted if no longer required, and bags delivered to aid them in transporting their recyclable materials. Duncan plans to issue letters to residents outlining his proposal before any bins are delivered. Further information is awaited.

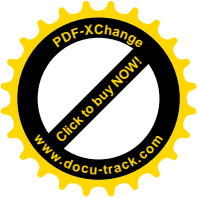
7. ITEMS FOR NOTING/DISCUSSION BY EXCEPTION

7.1 Cullen Medical Centre: The Chair had nothing further to report on the response awaited from the Chief Executive of NHS Grampian.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

7.2 Cullen Community and Residential Centre - potential Asset Transfer: The Secretary advised - with disappointment - that the following statement had been issued by the Chair of the Cullen Community and Residential Centre Development Group: "It is with considerable regret that I must write on behalf of Cullen Community Centre Development Group to advise that we are unable to proceed with our intended Feasibility Study into the potential Asset Transfer of the Community Centre. This is due to the Group, despite its best endeavours, being unable to raise sufficient funds within the necessary timescale to commit to this work, which was also to include Community Consultation and an outline Business Plan. Although we can no longer proceed with this project, we still believe that with a more commercial and private sector orientated approach, the deficit currently recorded by the Centre might be greatly reduced or eliminated whilst still delivering the considerable range of vital and irreplaceable services to our Community with the corresponding beneficial social and economic impacts to Cullen and the much wider area." Cllr Cree suggested that this latter offer should be progressed with Jane Mackie of the CAT team.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson



7.3 Cullen Harbour Association Report: There was nothing further to report - other than the comments under Item 3.1. - with the exception that the Cullen Summer Festival had been very successful.

7.4 ITEMS AWAITING ACTION/CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN

AWAITING ACTION:

7.4.1 Lawtie Trust: The Trust is to be reviewed in 2014. It was noted that the terms of the Auchernack Trust in Forres have now been amended (as reported in the P & J 07/08/13) - the revised terms now allowing it to be used for the benefit of the elderly community in the Forres area and for the relief of those in need by reason of advanced age. In response to a query from the Chair, Cllr Cree undertook to establish whether the amendments to the Auchernack Trust included the inclusion of representative(s) from the Forres Community Council. Cllr Cree indicated that further publicity inviting applications to the fund is to be undertaken

ACTION: Cllr Cree

7.4.2 Community Website: The Google Analytic results for the month of July were distributed to all members of the Community Council.

There are currently 112 subscribers to the Newsletter; newsletters are sent out regularly, with the prime objective of driving traffic to the website.

Details of the proposed Cullen Website review are included in Appendix 3. Following discussion, it was agreed to go with Option 2 - at a total cost of £880, split 50/50 between the Community Council and the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative. It was agreed that the Community Council would pay the first instalment of £440, with the Tourist Initiative paying the second and final instalment of £440.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

7.4.3 Logie Head Path: The Secretary advised that she had spoken with Eleanor Munro of Aberdeenshire Council (15/08/13) following a complaint submitted to the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative that the grass on the path from Sandend to Cullen was waist-high and that the path was considered dangerous in several places due to erosion. Eleanor Munro had been under the impression that all work related to both the coastal path and the gully path had been undertaken in July; she undertook to investigate the position.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

7.4.4 Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund: There was nothing further to report on the application.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

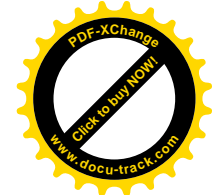
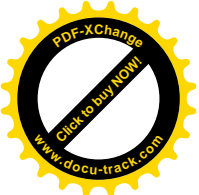
CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

7.5 Planning - Weekly List

The Weekly List dated 19th July listed the following applications:-

- Erect house and garage at the Crannoch, Cullen
- Erect house and garage with new access at the Crannoch, Cullen
- Demolish timber garage and erect new timber garage at Wilmar, 11 Cathay Terrace, Cullen
- Alter and extend house at 174 Seatown Cullen.

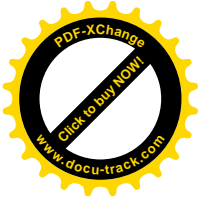
These were not deemed to be of community interest.



8. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 9th September 2013 commencing at 7 p.m. in the Cullen Community and Residential Centre (TV Lounge).

It should be noted that this meeting will be the last of the current Community Council, and will include the AGM and presentation of the final accounts.



**CULLEN AND DESKFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON 15 AUGUST 2013**

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

CULLEN and DESKFORD

Between 0800 and 1605 hours on 26 July 2013, an isolated dwelling in Deskford was broken into and a quantity of personal items and jewellery were stolen. Entry was gained by throwing a brick through the patio glass door. Enquiries are continuing.

On 1 August 2013 a male was reported for careless driving near Cullen Golf Club. He has been referred to the Driver Improvement Scheme.

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

None

3. DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO LOCAL PRIORITIES

Please see attached Community Police Update for the Buckie, Keith and Cullen Wards.

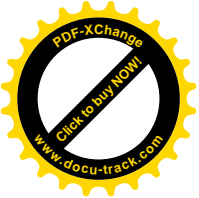
4. ONGOING LOCAL/ FORCEWIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

CRIMESTOPPERS

If anyone has any information relating to controlled drugs or drug dealing, please call the Police Scotland 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

POLICE SCOTLAND

The Police Scotland are keen to highlight their use of social media and advise the public that our latest news can be found at www.scotland.police.uk and using the <http://www.twitter.com/policescotland> or <http://www.facebook.com/policescotland>



9 August 2013

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 478/13

Mrs Zillah J. Jamieson
Secretary/ Treasurer
Cullen & Deskford Community
Council
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AB56 4TE

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Road Policing
B Divisional Headquarters
Blackhall Road
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire
AB51 3QD

Tel. 101

AberdeenServiceCentre@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Dear Mrs Jamieson

Illegal parking - Cullen and Deskford

I refer to your recent correspondence dated 30 July 2013 to Chief Superintendent McLaren in connection with the above matter, which has been passed on to me as the Road Policing Inspector for Aberdeenshire and Moray Division.

Firstly, let me assure you, illegal parking on public roads maintained by the local authority and governed by a system of double yellow lines remains an enforceable offence, which carries a monetary penalty of £30.00.

Enforcement of parking infringements is primarily carried out by Traffic Wardens based at Elgin Police Office however, Police Officers do have authority to enforce parking legislation.

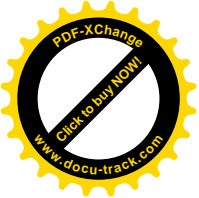
Your letter highlights two specific areas in Cullen where illegal parking takes place; the Pier and outside the Co-operative store on Grant Street and I will deal with these individually.

With regard to indiscriminate or illegal parking at the pier during the summer months, without seeing the manner of parking personally, I can only agree that poorly or illegally parked vehicles could hinder access to the area by the emergency services. If this was the case, I would expect this issue to be dealt with as an obstruction under separate road traffic legislation on a case-by-case basis.

In respect of the issues you have highlighted on Grant Street, as mentioned above, parking infringements are in the main enforced by Traffic Wardens based at Elgin police station who carry out regular patrols of all towns and villages throughout the Moray area.

You specifically ask why the police do not enforce parking regulations. Again, as I have briefly mentioned earlier within this letter, the police do have the power to enforce parking regulations, and many officers do this when duties permit.

I am sure you can appreciate that with the ever increasing demands placed upon today's police service, it is unfortunately not always possible for officers to regularly



attend and deal with the issues you have raised and as such it is mainly left to the Traffic Wardens to enforce.



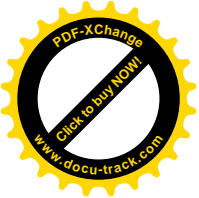
That said, Police Scotland are focussed upon keeping people safe within their communities and one of the Force priorities is to increase road safety. As such, if the manner of parking was deemed to be dangerous or the vehicle(s) in question were causing an immediate obstruction to others, I would expect this matter to be dealt with robustly and in good time.

I have passed on the concerns raised by yourself and the members of the Cullen and Deskford Community Council to the Local Area Policing Inspector and the Traffic Wardens in order that the situation can be monitored and action taken where necessary.

I trust that this will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Ewan Innes
Inspector



WWW.DISCOVERCULLEN.COM

REVIEW AUGUST 2013

The Chair of the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative asked Hedley Enterprises to submit suggestions as to how the website could be refreshed (after 3 years); also how the website should be amended to keep up-to-date with changing technologies; and also to increase compatibility between the main and mobile websites (given that they were developed at different times using different technologies). This seemed an appropriate timing given the 3-year period since its launch and also in light of the potential funds available from both the Community Council and Tourist Initiative bank reserves - on a 50/50 basis as per historical practice.

2 options have been presented, and these are outlined below, together with benefits:-

Option One - £360 - A freshen up of the old site

| Feature | Benefits |
|--|--|
| A complete freshen up of the background code - now using HTML5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- help the site to load quicker- make the site more responsive so that it will adapt to all screen sizes and types of devices (e.g. desktop, tablet and mobile) |
| Give the site a fresh look keeping it to the same style | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- will make it more visual, although the general layout will remain the same |
| One set of amendments for both main and mobile websites | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- currently, amendments have to be made twice - once on the main website, and then again on the mobile website; this development will remove this administrative challenge- in addition, all the content of the main website will appear on the mobile website; currently, only selected content appears on the mobile website |

It should be noted that all content will be copied across to the new site from the main website - with no need for re-inputting. This will also ensure that all content is accurate.

Option Two - £880 - A freshen up and added extras

| Feature | Benefits |
|--|--|
| All features as above | All benefits as above |
| Adding the Business listings into a database similar to www.banffshirecoast.com where the main admin user would be able to add a new business listing, edit / modify and remove | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- better business search for users- additional business entry features, e.g photos, social media links, other website links- easier editing and allocation to different categories, e.g. shopping, services; currently, if a business appears in different categories, it has to be input into each category; the database facility would mean that only one input would be required |



Recommendation

It is recommended that Option 1 is undertaken as a minimum - partly to ensure that we keep up-to-date with constantly changing technology, partly to "rejuvenate" the website through a new look, and partly to remove current administrative challenges.

Should both organisations feel that the funds can be made available at this time, it is considered appropriate that we move to the database format - Option 1 - even though the full features may not be implemented at this time; the investment will provide greater flexibility for the future.

Given the range of businesses on the website, the full features of the facility may not be appropriate to all; and inconsistent application would make the website look rather inconsistent. However, given that businesses are grouped together e.g. self-catering accommodation together, painters and decorators together, the look of inconsistency would be minimised. On the other hand, the greater search facility for visitors to the website would be useful.

Other considerations

The Community Council at their last meeting suggested that a charge should be made for the development costs or that a charge should be made for future inclusion on the website. This is considered inappropriate, for several reasons:-

- It is impractical to implement - both from the perspective of the time taken to contact all relevant parties (and who would carry out the work), and also because exclusion through non-payment negates the concept of a community website
- The Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative currently receives income from businesses in the town, at the businesses' discretion, and one of the benefits cited in their "membership" letter is free entry on the website; charging for inclusion would totally negate this, and may impact on the Initiative's income
- If a charge is made, then businesses will ask for relevant performance statistics i.e. Google Analytics; an average of 250 visits per month does not justify charging; in addition, businesses would expect marketing activity to be undertaken to drive traffic to the website; there are no funds available for this.

Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative

At its committee meeting on 14th August 2013, those present expressed their preference for Option 2, failing which Option 1 - subject to the Community Council agreeing.