



**Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Meeting on Thursday 19th September 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 Gary Coull
Sgt Ferris
Andrew Mackie
Jackie Kersley
Bob Moon
Mollie Moon

Apologies: John Robertson

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees to our 43rd and last meeting of the term. It was noted that no apologies had been received from either Cllr Coull or Cllr Shepherd.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (15th August 2013)

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Reports

3.1 Police

Police: Sgt Ferris went through the Local Policing Report - attached as Appendix 1. Unfortunately, he had no information on the previous incidents reported nor on the break-ins in the Deskford area - although an update had been promised at the last meeting. Investigations into the Co-op break-in are underway.

It was agreed that the posters available for the Halloween period - covering advice to parents, "No Trick or Treater" and advice for Shop owners - should be sent out to the Secretary's e-mail circulation lists.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

The Chair thanked Sgt Ferris for his attendance and expressed the Community Council's thanks to Grampian Police for their support during our tenure; he hopes that the succeeding Community Council will receive as good support.

Lighting and safety issues at the harbour: Cllr Cree had undertaken at the last meeting to contact Keith Stratton to clarify developments; the Secretary to contact Cllr Cree for an update.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson



3.2 Community Warden

The Community Warden Report is attached as Appendix 2. It was noted that the dog barking issue remains a persistent issue - Andrew Mackie undertook to follow up on this. He confirmed that there will be more dog fouling patrols during the winter months as he will not be covering for other areas during summer holidays. It was noted that there has been a significant improvement in all areas of his responsibilities since Andrew Mackie took up his post. Andrew confirmed that posters have been provided for the Cullen House gardens area, and that he will be displaying the posters around Cullen in the near future. He also confirmed that he and Duncan Falconer are undertaking a number of initiatives at Buckie High regarding litter. A request was made that Andrew speak to the Sorting Office regarding the littering of elastic bands, which can be dangerous for animals, particularly birds. Andrew explained that he had been requested to go incognito on some of his patrols - a suggestion which he was resisting. The Community Council supported him in his stance. Andrew also confirmed that investigations are in hand for community wardens to wear body cameras - and an approach may be made for a contribution to this initiative. Those present indicated their support for this. In conclusion, the Chair thanked Andrew for all his hard work and support/attendance at Community Council meetings.

3.3 Local Councillors

No items were raised.

3.4 Treasurer

The Secretary confirmed that the last bank statement (22nd August 2013) indicated a balance of £2,259.76; since that date, a payment of £440 had been made as the Community Council contribution to the website redevelopment, and income from calendar sales banked to the amount of £311.25 - leaving a final balance of £2,131.01.

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

The Chair confirmed that he had issued invoices to the value of £661.25 - with outstanding payments amounting to £350. It was understood that the break-even point had been reached - a very commendable result by this point in the year; this would be confirmed following the meeting.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Moray Council Budget Proposals

Library: The Chair reported - with great sadness - that the Moray Council had voted to close all 7 libraries originally earmarked for closure, including Cullen. This decision went against the advice from officers, against the findings of the EIA (the Leader of the Council believes that the key issues highlighted in the EIA will be mitigated to an acceptable level), against expert advice and against the advice from SLIC that their decision may result in an inadequate service. He also noted with dismay that two of the three locally elected councillors - elected to safeguard the interests of our community - voted in favour of the closure.



The Chair confirmed having received a copy letter from Stewart Stevenson addressed to the Chief Executive of the Moray Council - attached as Appendix 3 - acknowledged by the Chair; this letter had been acknowledged by the Chief Executive, with an indication that it had been passed to Graham Jarvis for investigation.

The Chair confirmed having received a letter from the Moray SNP Group of Councillors - attached as Appendix 4 - acknowledged by him 16/09/13.

In his own response to Stewart Stevenson, the Chair had suggested a meeting with the appropriate MSPs and MPs, including Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Culture. This had been agreed, although a suitable time had yet to be identified and this might prove difficult because of other commitments. It was noted that Richard Lohead and Angus Robertson had arranged to meet Moray Library Campaigners on 27th September 2013 (12.30 in Elgin in the SNP offices), and it was agreed that the Chair and Tom Gunn would attend this meeting.

Following extensive discussion - during which it was confirmed by Cllr Coull that the legal advice given during the Council debate had indicated a strong risk of legal challenge - it was agreed that the Community Council should:-

- write to both the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Government Minister for Culture (as advised by the Moray Council SNP Group)
- and also to Richard Lohead in his role as Minister for Rural Affairs
- with the letter requesting a moratorium on the current decision until all avenues had been pursued
- become involved in the very proactive Moray-wide Library Campaign group
- proceed with arranging a meeting with Stewart Stevenson.

It is unclear whether judicial intervention will put a delay on the library closure.

Cllr Coull undertook to find out the comparative figures in relation to libraries per head of population in other Scottish Council areas. It was also noted that the re-definition of "adequate service" should be available by January.

Toilets: The Secretary advised that, towards the end of August, she had been contacted by Stephen Cooper's PA to arrange a meeting with Stephen Cooper and Steve Williamson to identify the issues raised in recent e-mail correspondence. The agenda was not clear, although it was indicated that the meeting was to identify the issues currently under discussion, and it was expected that the meeting should take place in Elgin during working hours Monday to Friday. The Secretary requested that the agenda be confirmed. No further communication was received on this topic.

Cllr Cree followed up on these actions points with the Secretary (30/08/13), as a result of which she saw sight of an e-mail from Steve Williamson (20/08/13) to Cllr Cree indicating that:-

"With regard to the Mobile Toilet Cleaners, their routes and workloads were drawn up so that they could cover everything within their area on a daily basis. There are four to cover Moray. Their remit is to clean all toilets in their area, to litter-pick the main streets within the location of the public toilets, to litter-pick main streets in villages en route and to empty litter bins. Those villages which previously had village officers who were able to keep the public toilets up to a clean standard by popping in throughout the day may well notice a difference. However, monitoring has indicated that the toilets in Cullen are on a par with others in Moray.



The Cullen Square Gents' toilets have always had the problem of poor ambience. The workload/area has been allocated to be as effective as possible utilising available budget."

In addition, the Chair confirmed that he had had a productive meeting with Steve Williamson and Ian Bruce at the beginning of September, and the following points were agreed:-

- Steve Williamson to write to the Secretary apologising and explaining the reason for delayed response (e-mail received by Secretary dated 5th September 2013 indicating too many e-mails from different sources on the same or similar subject and he lost track)
- As part of the required cutbacks to his department, the staff numbers and availability have reduced, and each toilet can be cleaned only once per day
- Any future difficulties should be directed to him personally and not through any intermediary
- Steve indicated that the plan suggesting closure of the poor toilet facility in the Cullen square and its substitution with an upgraded, unisex, wheelchair access facility in Cullen Town Hall cleaned and cared for by the Town Hall caretaker had never reached his office; he felt this suggestion had much to commend it and requested a copy of the Community Council minute containing this suggestion; in response, the Secretary forwarded on (15/09/13) our e-mail of 25th June 2013 addressed to Stephen Cooper which Stephen forwarded for response to both Steve Williamson and Ian Bruce on 28th June 2013.

It became evident during the meeting that Steve Williamson has not visited the Cullen toilets despite the number of complaints which had been sent to him.

Cllr Coull indicated that the Moray Council Tourism and Culture Group was investigating potential European funding for the refurbishment of toilets.

Schools Review: Initial details of the Schools Review had been circulated. It was noted that the Chair and Secretary were to attend a meeting in Buckie on 30th September 2013 as part of the consultation with local groups, including Community Councils.

5. Planning

5.1 Aultmore Wind Farm

There was nothing further to report.

ACTION: John Robertson/John Aitken

6. A.O.C.B.

6.1 2013 Community Council Elections:

The Chair confirmed that the election leaflet had been distributed at the end of August, and expressed his thanks to all those involved.

The Secretary confirmed that other promotional activities had been undertaken, including:-

- Details, including election leaflet, displayed on Community Council page on www.discovercullen.com
- E-mails sent to all those on central e-mail circulation lists (08/09/13)
- Discover Cullen newsletter (issued 08/09/13)



- Press release (issued 11/09/13): the P & J confirmed that they would use quotes re the Library closure decision in an article on this topic, and also use separately the remainder on urging the community to stand for election; other coverage is awaited.

6.2 Cullen Beach - Awards:

The Secretary confirmed having received a letter (dated 29th August 2013) from Jim Grant, Head of Development Services - attached as Appendix 5. Following discussion it was agreed to respond to the letter indicating the Community Council's support for the initiative and willingness to make a contribution both financially and with clean-ups. Cllr Coull undertook to raise the matter with the Tourism Group and Economic Development.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson/Cllr Coull

6.3 Recycling Bins in the Seatown:

No further information has been received.

6.4 Calendar Photo Display in Cullen Library:

The photo display has now been dismantled, with appropriate thanks expressed to Eleanor Kidd for her help and support this year.

6.5 Contingency Action for On-going Items:

Discussion took place on future action on the following items in the event that the Community Council does not exist beyond October:-

- Beach Awards: will be progressed by the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative (CVTI)
- Condition of coastal path: similarly by the CVTI
- Post Office Events Diary: similarly by the CVTI
- Cullen Town Hall Flag: similarly by the CVTI
- Cullen & Deskford Calendar: this may have to go into abeyance after 2014 if there is neither a Community Council nor another group which would wish to take it on
- Cullen Medical Centre: to be progressed by the Local Councillors: the Chair to pass on all relevant correspondence; it was noted that Cllr Cree is on the Grampian Health Board
- Cullen War Memorials Restoration: the Chair to progress
- Cullen & Deskford Community Website; similarly by the CVTI
- Lawtie Trust: the Chair to progress

7. ITEMS FOR NOTING/DISCUSSION BY EXCEPTION

7.1 Cullen Medical Centre: There was nothing further to report.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

7.2 Cullen Community and Residential Centre - potential Asset

Transfer: Further to the disappointing announcement that the Group was unsuccessful in raising funding for the feasibility study/community consultation/business plan, initial very positive and constructive discussions have been held with Moray Council (Graham Jarvis) with several areas for further investigation identified. These will be discussed at a forthcoming Group meeting on 2nd October 2013. Following a query raised by the Vice-Chair, it was agreed to investigate whether plans exist for a housing development on the green space.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson



7.3 Cullen Harbour Association Report: There was nothing further to report, other than the significant work which has been undertaken on funding applications for the Sailing School project. See also comments under item 3.1.

7.4 ITEMS AWAITING ACTION/CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN

AWAITING ACTION:

7.4.1 Lawtie Trust: The Trust is to be reviewed in 2014. Following the discussion at the August meeting, Cllr Cree had advised the Secretary (19/08/13) that membership of the Auchernack Trust has included the Chair of Forres Community Council since the Trust's inception in the early 1980s. This reflects the state of Local Government reform at that time, as Community Councils had been established for some time prior to this. Cllr Cree also indicated that, during the Auchernack Trust's re-organisation, the opportunity will be taken to strengthen such community representation, and this is something that may well be possible should similar reorganisation of the Lawtie Trust prove possible.

7.4.2 Community Website: The Google Analytics results for the months of July and August were circulated as separate documents. There are currently 113 subscribers to the Newsletter; newsletters are sent out regularly, with the prime objective of driving traffic to the website.

The Secretary confirmed that she had commissioned the website revamp with Hedley Enterprises (17/08/13); it is anticipated that the project will be complete by the end of October; a new layout design has been circulated, with comments returned; the main database itself will take around 5 to 6 weeks to build, followed by testing and applying to the new website layout.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

7.4.3 Logie Head Path: In addition to the work already requested on the Logie Head path, the Secretary advised that, following a complaint into the Cullen Tourist Office, she had contacted Eleanor Munro (21/08/13) to report that the Giant's Steps are in a poor state of maintenance; many of the stone steps are loose and moving, and they are very overgrown with vegetation. Eleanor's response received (30/08/13) indicated that grass cutting was done back in July; another cut this year will be investigated, along with instigating two cuts a year in the future. She also indicated that the Aberdeenshire Council does not have the capability within the Council to carry out repairs to a structure like the Giant's Steps, and she will investigate a contractor - possibly someone who specialises in mountain paths as they are used to working with stone to create paths and steps. This may be a winter job as contractors like this are usually working in the mountains until into the autumn when the snow pushes them back to sea level.

ACTION: Zillah Jamieson

7.4.4 Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund: The Chair reported that an application had been made to the fund on 3 separate occasion, the last one about 3 months previously. A decision can take up to 6 months.

ACTION: Ashley Mowat

CONFIRMATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

7.5 Planning - Weekly List

There have been no items of community interest since the last meeting.



8. A.G.M.

The Chair presented his final Chair's Report (attached as Appendix 6), followed by presentation of the Final Accounts (attached as Appendix 7).

DRAFT



CULLEN AND DESKFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2013

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

CULLEN and DESKFORD

On Tuesday 6 August 2013, a male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for careless driving near Craibstone, Deskford

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

Local Policing Officers would like to remind dog owners that 'Doggy bags' can be uplifted free of charge from the Police Office, Libraries and Primary Schools throughout the local area.

Posters are available for the Halloween period for advice to parents, 'No Trick or Treaters', and advice for Shop Owners.

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>



APPENDIX 2

MORAY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT 19/09/2013

The information included on this document covers the period from last community council meeting on Thursday 18th July 2013 to Thursday 19th September 2013 for the Cullen and Deskford area only.

Local Interest Information

- There have been 0 anti-social behaviour incidents reported for the attention of the community warden.
- There have been 2 incidents reported direct to community warden. 1 neighbour complaint and 1 dogs barking.

Dog Fouling

- There have been 0 incidents created for persons reporting dog fouling to Moray Council.
- There have been 0 complaints made directly to the community warden reporting dog fouling.
- The community warden has issued 0 FPN
- Hotspot areas targeted for patrols to deter dog fouling are
Seatown
Seafeld Place
Playing Fields
Mercat Cross
Beach
Binview Road

Litter/Fly Tipping

- There have been 0 incidents created related to litter.

Abandoned vehicles

- There have been no reported abandoned vehicles.

Initiatives

- Community Warden will be carrying out litter patrols and engagement events around Buckie High School during September and October to deter littering.

Other

Feedback to issues raised from previous CC meetings

The community warden continues to work alongside a number of partner agencies to tackle a number of anti-social issues within the Cullen and Deskford area.

Contact details

Andrew Mackie 07800 670 662 .Email Andrew.mackie@moray.gov.uk

Antisocial Behaviour Office 01343 563322 . Email
antisocialbehaviour@moray.gov.uk

Moray Council Call Centre 0300 123 4566 Or
Online Antisocial Behaviour Reporting Form accessed through The Moray Council website.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Stewart Stevenson MSP

Banffshire & Buchan Coast

Stiùbhart MacSteafain BPA

Siorrachd Bhanbh agus Oirthir Bhùchainn

11 September/An t-Sultain 2013

Mr Roddy Burns
Chief Executive
Moray Council
Council Office
High Street
ELGIN IV30 1BX

Dear Roddy

Library Closures.

I am writing regarding the above-mentioned issue.

I was disappointed to note that the Council took the decision yesterday to close seven of the fifteen libraries operated by Moray Council, as well as to withdraw one of the Council's two mobile library vans. Three of the libraries that will be closed are in my constituency and constituents have raised concerns with me in this regard.

I have been advised that Council officials recommended that the library in Cullen, amongst others should remain open. I note that this recommendation followed the carrying out of an Equality Impact Assessment, which highlighted transport costs and the lack of broadband connectivity in certain parts of the area covered by Moray Council. As you will be aware, the Equality Impact Assessment was used to ascertain the impact of any libraries closures on groups, such as the elderly, disabled and families with young children. The report presented to Councillors noted that the proposed closures would have an adverse effect on all three groups.

Officials, I understand, advised Councillors that with the removal of one mobile library, the Council's mobile library service would not be able to serve those communities losing their libraries.

I would also draw your attention to the section of the report that went to Councillors for their meeting on 10 September 2013 regarding the library closures that advises Councillors of proposed changes to the Public Libraries Quality Improvement Matrix (PLQIM). Point 5.6 of the report advises that the likely changes to the PLQIM would mean that the proposed strategic network and professional staffing levels for Moray Council's libraries 'would no longer be adequate'. Furthermore, the report goes on to say that the proposed changes to the PLQIM could leave Moray Council failing to meet its statutory obligations, and therefore subject to judicial review. I understand that officials noted the significant costs and time that a judicial review would involve, and also the potential damage to the Council's reputation.

See over/

Please address all
correspondence to:

Constituency Office
Unit 8
Burnside Business Centre
Burnside Road
Peterhead
Aberdeenshire
AB42 3AW

Tel. 01779 470444
Fax. 01779 822025

Office Open
Monday to Friday
9.00am to 5.00pm

Also at:

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

e-mail:
msp@stewartstevenson.net



It was noted in a press release issued by Moray Council on 10 September 2013 that Cllr Wright, the leader of the Council, 'believed that the eight remaining libraries were adequate for the needs of the people of Moray'.

With the challenges that many in rural communities face in accessing broadband, coupled with the UK Government's decision to force people to deal with their benefits claims online, I am concerned that the decision taken yesterday will further exacerbate the digital divide that exists in this country, meaning that people are unable to access online services.

It would be appreciated if you could please address the points that I have made, particularly with regard to the Equality Impact Assessment that was presented to Councillors and the potential changes to the Council's statutory duty in terms of library service provision.

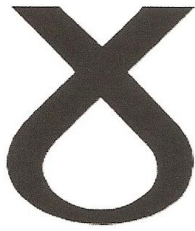
I thank you for your assistance in this matter and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

STEWART STEVENSON MSP



APPENDIX 4



15 September 2013

**Councillor Gary Coull
SNP Group Secretary
Moray Council**

144B Mid Street, Keith, AB55 5BJ
Tel: 01542 888471
E-mail: garycoull@hotmail.com

Professor Ashley Mowat
bucholie@btinternet.com

Dear Ashley

Cullen Library Closure

I am writing on behalf of the SNP Councillors in Moray to update you on our position with regards to the library closures and on what actions we have carried out since the Conservative and Independent Councillors took this ludicrous decision.

You will probably be aware from the press that at the meeting of the Moray Council where this was debated the SNP proposed that no closures should happen at this time given the review currently underway on the PLQIM and also on the legal advice we were given in the report and the Chief Legal Officer. We firmly believe that libraries are an asset to Moray and that we should not be decimating an excellent service.

Based on the refusal of the Administration to take heed of the legal advice and the results from the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) the SNP's Education Spokesperson, Councillor Mike Shand, has written to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture Fiona Hyslop MSP. We have asked for advice on the legal issues surrounding this decision and also the potential that Moray is no longer providing an adequate library service. We would urge your group to also write to these two organisations at the following addresses:

Equality & Human Rights Commission - Scotland Office

Commissioner Kaliani Lyle
Equality & Human Rights Commission
151 West George Street
Glasgow
G2 2JJ

Scottish Government Minister for Culture

Fiona Hyslop MSP
Minister for Culture
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

SNP Group

Councillors Pearl Paul (Group Leader), Gary Coull, Patsy Gowans, Margo Howe, Graham Leadbitter,
Mike McConachie, Gordon McDonald, Aaron McLean & Mike Shand



X

We are keen, as an SNP group, to continue a dialogue with the groups fighting to save the libraries so that we can come to the best outcome for our communities.

I hope that you have found this information helpful and should you wish to discuss anything with me or my SNP colleagues then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on any of the details above.

With best wishes meantime.

Yours sincerely

Gary Coull

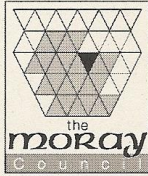
Councillor Gary Coull
Secretary
Moray SNP Group

SNP Group

Councillors Pearl Paul (Group Leader), Gary Coull, Patsy Gowans, Margo Howe, Graham Leadbitter,
Mike McConachie, Gordon McDonald, Aaron McLean & Mike Shand



APPENDIX 5



Jim Grant
Head of Development Services

The Moray Council
High Street, Elgin, Moray IV30 1BX
Telephone: 01343 563262 Fax: 01343 563263

Ms Zillah Jamieson
Cullen & Deskford Community Council
Norwood
11 Seafield Place
Cullen
Banffshire
AB56 4TE

E-mail: jim.grant@moray.gov.uk
Website: www.moray.gov.uk

Your Reference:
Our reference: 130039/JG/ld

29 August 2013

Dear Ms Jamieson

Seaside Awards – The Moray Council

Further to your letter of 30 July 2013 to the Chief Executive, Roddy Burns, regarding the Seaside Awards, I would like to inform you that the Environmental Services Department of The Moray Council is currently estimating any associated resources these awards require. We are in communication with Keep Scotland Beautiful and considering these awards for all three designated bathing beaches in the Moray coastal area (Lossiemouth, Findhorn & Cullen) and if appropriate will be in touch with relevant local organisations.

As I am sure you are aware the Council is facing very difficult times in terms of budget saving which have to be made. In some areas the beach award schemes are promoted by local communities in partnership with the local authority with local community groups often providing support through regular beach clean ups and support in the way of fund raising to cover some of the costs associated with the scheme, perhaps the community council could consider if this is something they could assist with.

Thank you for your interest in promoting Moray's excellent beaches and improving its tourism potential.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further queries.

Yours sincerely

Jim Grant
Head of Development Services

Corporate Director: Environmental Services - Richard Hartland



CHAIR'S REPORT - 2012/13

The Chair reflected on a year of significant challenge in these times of economic constraint and continuing pressures on local government budgets, with a particularly sad end to the Community Council term following Moray Council's decision to close Cullen Library, along with 6 others throughout Moray.

As a preface to his report, the Chair described this news as devastating and a very short-sighted decision which regrettably shows Moray in a very poor light at a time when it is hard to see positives. He expressed thanks to all in the community who worked so hard to develop a coherent and cogent case for retention of the library and expressed his regret that 2 of our 3 elected Councillors remained unconvinced by the solid and reasoned case for retention, as well as the strength of public support evident at the packed-out public meeting in Cullen Town Hall. Credibility has been stretched to breaking-point as it is understood that the EIA conclusion and expert advice report were both in support of retention.

Despite this sad end, the Chair highlighted that the last 6 years have seen our Community Council achieve far more than the statutory obligations.

- Uppermost in the mind of all local residents has been the **Moray Council budget consultations** which specifically saw Cullen Library and Cullen public toilets at risk of closure. This position underlines the value of a local community council as the statutory body which must be consulted on such significant local issues and which has proved its worth this year in bringing pressure on Moray Council to reverse their original decisions.
- Whilst dialogue with the Moray Council on the budget consultations has consumed a lot of available resources during this past year, the Community Council has also continued to **raise funds for community projects** - primarily this year through sales of the 2013 calendar and the production and initial sales of the 2014 calendar - in total well over £2,000. Some of these funds have been used during the year, resulting in contributions to Cullen Primary, the repair of the Cullen Town Hall clock (with support from the Cullen Common Good Fund), the Jubilee Commemorative bench in Cullen Square and ensuring that the Town Hall Flag continues to fly for many years to come.
- The next Community Council term will see a very **healthy financial balance** for future community projects, with the majority of the 2014 calendar sales still to come; the Chair commended all those involved in creating this healthy position, supplemented by the very generous support of Lord Seafield and the Seafield Estate over the years.
- The Community Council has continued to **collaborate closely with other community groups**; the Community Council is delighted to see that the Dirt Cycle Track continues to be well used, with a very healthy financial position ensuring its future maintenance for many years to come; whilst the Community Council was not directly involved this year, its members played their part for other community groups in the Cullen Summer Festival in August - which enjoyed fantastic weather, lots of activities and entertainment; congratulations must go to local businesswoman, Tracey Fuller, for winning the 2nd Cullen Skink World Championship. The 3 Harbours Association is working its way towards realisation of its plans for a Cullen Sailing School initiative - there is a long way to go yet, but significant progress has been made over the last year. The Cullen Community and Residential Centre Steering Group is also hoping that their recent endeavours will ensure that the Centre remains open for the foreseeable future.



- The **community website - www.discovercullen.com** - developed and maintained in collaboration with the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative - continues to provide a valuable promotional tool for the area and local businesses; 113 newsletter subscribers (up from 89 last year) receive regular communications re events and developments; technology does not stand still however; a complete revamp of both the main and mobile-friendly websites is scheduled for the end of October 2013 which will result in a new layout and look, as well as enhanced editing facilities which will ease the administrative burden.
- The Chair highlighted the need for the next Community Council to continue to work with and be supportive of the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative who have been instrumental in orchestrating the highly successful Cullen Summer Festival, together with other efforts to promote tourism, including www.discovercullen.com, all of which are so vital for the economic survival of our community
- The Community Council continues to recognise the hard work and commitment from the community through the award of **Certificates of Achievement** - this year to Ethel Reid, Wilma Zielinski and Bill Davidson in recognition of their many years of service to the Cullen Christmas Lights Group (and to the Cullen Voluntary Tourism Initiative in the case of Ethel Reid).
- The Community Council has endeavoured to respond to **community concerns** as they are raised; this has resulted in the installation of a covered bus shelter at Castle Terrace (with thanks to Moray Council officers for their support), on-going dialogue with the Seafield and Cullen Medical Practice and NHS Grampian on the future of a Cullen medical practice, and dialogue with Aberdeenshire Council to ensure that the coastal path remains a safe and scenic walk for locals and visitors alike.

Looking forward to the next community council term, the Chair highlighted the significant issues and the on-going projects to be tackled:-

- Endeavour to ensure that Cullen and Deskford are not disproportionately and adversely impacted by the **budget cuts** which will inevitably continue across Moray - with short-term action required to save the Cullen Library from closure
- Achieve a fruitful outcome on the campaign to reinvigorate and restructure the **Lawtie Trust** (over £100,000) for the benefit of the residents of Cullen and Lintmill; the recent re-definition of the Auchernack Trust in Forres bodes well for the review promised by Moray Council in 2014, and the aim that the current significant funds in this trust can be "unlocked" for local benefit
- Assist Deskford colleagues in their endeavours to ensure that they receive a proportionate allocation of the **potential community fund** arising from the possible Aultmore windfarm development
- Support the Harbour Association in their plans for a **Cullen Sailing School**, and the Cullen **Community and Residential Centre** Steering Group in their endeavours to secure the future of this valuable community facility
- Continue to **raise funds for community projects** and to respond to **community concerns** as they arise.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the continued support of Moray Council officers, Grampian Police, the Community Warden, the Seafield Estate, our locally elected Councillors and the community.



The Chair expressed thanks to Community Council members for their hard work, commitment and dedication not only over the last year, but also the four years of this term. In particular, he paid tribute to and thanked Zillah Jamieson, our stalwart Secretary/Treasurer without whose dedication and commitment we would have achieved very little.

DRAFT



APPENDIX 7

CULLEN AND DESKFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 1ST OCTOBER 2012 TO 13TH SEPTEMBER 2013 ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

	£	£	£
OPENING BANK BALANCE (01/10/2012)			3093.98
INCOME			
Donations to Community Projects	600.00		
Calendars	2,181.95		
Moray Council Grant	625.42		
TOTAL	3,407.37		6,501.35
EXPENDITURE			
Miscellaneous	1,669.04		
Calendars	1,557.30		
Administrative Expenses	41.50		
Fundraising Activity Costs	125.00		
Fundraising Beneficiary	500.00		
Website	477.50		
TOTAL	4,370.34		
CLOSING BANK BALANCE (30/09/13)			2,131.01

The Cullen & Deskford Community Council acts as the conduit for a number of multi-agency community projects, as well as undertaking fundraising activities for the benefit of both community projects and local charities.

Notes to Accounts - Income

Donations to Community Projects	Seafeld Estate contribution Cullen Common Good Fund (for Town Hall Clock)
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Notes to Accounts - Expenditure

Miscellaneous	Remembrance Sunday Wreaths Jubilee Seat and Plaque Deskford Association Flowers Town Hall Flags Elections 2013 - JCC Contribution + Election Leaflet Town Hall Clock Repair Achievement Certificate Costs
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From the Bank Balance, contingencies are required to cover the costs of/contributions to:-

Ad hoc community projects
Production of annual calendar
Maintenance and on-going costs of Cullen & Deskford Community Website
(shared equally with Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative)
Community Council Administration

In addition, we are the nominated "guardian" of funds as follows:-

Neighbourhood Watch	250.00
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EXAMINED BY J. MOWAT (FCIBS)
& mowat
16/9/13.