



Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative

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A Graham Bell
Secretary
23a Seafield Street
Cullen
AB56 4SU

CVTI Committee Meeting

In the

Norwood G H

On

17th October 2011

Present

Zillah Jamieson (V-Chair)
Rob Pinkerton

Graham Bell (Sec)
Simon Tucker

Barbara Nash (Treas)

Apologies

None

Chair's Report:

The Vice-Chair Person took the chair. There was nothing to report from the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting were read and agreed.
The minutes were proposed by ZJ and seconded by RP Passed and signed off
Matters Arising - None

Secretary's Report

Nothing to report at this time

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the bank balance currently stood at £3649.90 and there was still one cheque to clear in respect of Robertson Darby for £152.75

Tourist Office

ZJ advised the Committee that Alistair would look at the printer and check the security prior to the office opening in 2012.
ZJ informed the meeting that further to the e-mails between N.Goodchild and herself, she had subsequently held a telephone conversation with him. During that she had had been appraised of certain concerns the Council and Councillors had raised:

- a) The conflict of interest
- b) The Finances of the CVTI and would they be able to pay the lease.

After due discussions the Committee asked ZJ to e-mail the Councillors and N. Goodchild of the following points

- a) First and foremost the CVTI and the Heritage Group had only lodged a letter of interest in leasing the ground floor of the Town Hall.

- b) Despite a request to have a formal meeting with the Council to discuss the matter, this had not been forthcoming. Whilst the Initiative was fully aware that there would be a financial commitment to be taken into consideration, without any communication or discussions with Council officials, no thought can be given to the way forward.
- c) At no time had the two groups indicated that the Halls would not be available for hire by others.
- d) The Committee was alarmed at the fact that the Council and Councillors seemed to making assumptions without having held talks with either group.
- e) For some time now, Councillors and Council Officials have been holding out an Olive Branch to the Town Hall Committee. So far they have refused to get round the table to talk things through.
- f) How long are they prepared to follow this line before they agree that the only way forward is to hold a meeting with all other interested parties?

The Committee agreed that in light of the present decision taken by the Council the Secretary should resubmit the booking form for the hire for June to September and enclose a covering letter. He produced two drafts of the covering letter. A decision was agreed to submit the first.

Website.

There are currently 62 subscribers to the newsletter. Continued updating being undertaken.

ZJ advised the Committee that she had held discussions with Neil Hedley in respect of the creation of a Festival Page. She had been advised that this would have its problems and it was agreed to shelve the proposal at this moment in time.

C & D C C

Economic Strategy Review: comments to be submitted by end October 2011.

Cullen & Deskford Calendar 2012: sales going well; photo display in Cullen Library now dismantled.

Cullen & Deskford Calendar 2013: photo competition will be launched at the beginning of November.

Community Centre: despite repeated requests for a further meeting, nothing has happened; this is now in hands of the Local Councillors.

Cullen Dirt Cycle Track: now approaching £4,000 funds raised; several outcomes awaited over next few weeks; Soup and Sweet on Saturday 29th October.

Crannoch Hill Path: funds raised for work on the path (combination of funds raised at Ceilidh, Community Council reserves and Cullen Common Good Fund application); Moray Training to undertake work (180 metre path); awaiting the work to be completed.

Path to the south of the Cullen Auld Kirk car park: now cleared by Criminal Justice Unit

Cullen Burn Footbridge Path: path on the west side of the footbridge has now been tarmaced.

Logie House Path: still in dialogue with Aberdeenshire Council.

Cullen Common Good Fund: it has come to light that rental payments on 2 Common Good properties have inadvertently been credited to another account, This has now been rectified, and the Fund available for disbursement is now much higher than previously thought; over £9,000 available for disbursement during the financial year 2011/12. Community groups should bear this in mind

Merger of Cullen and Seafield Medical Practices: still seeking reassurance that there will still be a Cullen Medical Practice beyond 2014 when the lease on the current building expires.

Brochure

ZJ advised that she had now received photos from Lyn MacDodonald and was due to meet with Neil Hedley in a few days time to obtain more photos. She then hoped to finalise the new brochure during the course of November and December and submit it to print in January 2012.

Cullen Festival.

It was agreed that a meeting of all groups should be organized in November. It was also agreed that the Business Community should be invited to attend the meeting. Whilst it was agreed that ideally two members of the business community should attend, despite the sterling efforts of Heather Mackenzie to form a Business Committee, this was no further forward. ST agreed to hold discussions with various business owners. ZJ advised that the Common Good Fund now had monies available and suggested applying for funds to fund new ideas. ZJ asked to follow this up,

Reindeer Night.

GB reported:

- a) Starting Point – this had now been agreed as he had received a confirmation letter from A. Norval that we be allowed to use the gateway just inside the Cullen House Gates on Grant Street.
- b) Smoke Screen – It had now agreed with Tilly that the smoke screen could be made at the gates of Cullen House. However she requested that the machine would not be in operation whilst the reindeer were passing through the gates.
- c) High Vis Jackets - ST advised that these would only need about 7 days once ordered and that once he was aware of how many marshals were needed he would order them. It was agreed that there should be in the region of twenty if possible.
- d) Marshals - RP, GB, ZJ, AJ, Brian Lawrence, A Robertson and Mike had agreed to be Marshals. It was agreed that ideally there should be approx. 20. ZJ to request assistance by e-mail.
- e) Santa – ST to approach Peter to take on this task once again.
- f) Santa's Presents – ST to hold discussions with his Mother. CVTI will pay for them.
- g) Santa's Grotto – ST to arrange.
- h) Carol Concert – Rev Stevenson has agreed to assist. GB still attempting to contact the Methodist Church and Primary School to arrange a meeting. GB advised that he had spoken to Emma and Elaine who had agreed to take on the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.
- i) Treasure Hunt – GB to ask Julie to arrange this again.
- j) Square Closure – Permission already applied for.
- k) Collections – License application has been submitted. Buckets to be arranged.
- l) Advertising - RP & ST to undertake the road signs. Adverts to be placed in newspapers. GB to confer with AR re posters. Posters to be out by beginning of November and place as wide as possible,
- m) Christmas lights – GB to ascertain when these will be switched on. ZJ to request all businesses and household to decorate windows on the route.
- n) Police – ZJ to advise the Local Inspector of the event and the route to be taken.
- o) Ambulance – ZJ to seek the attendance of Scottish Ambulance Service or St John's Ambulance for safety reasons,
- p) Fire Brigade – ZJ to approach.
- q) Barriers – GB to discuss this with Ron Shepherd.

AGM

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 16th November 2011 at 19:30. The Secretary was tasked to undertake the issuing of the relevant documents and arrange for the advert to be placed in the Banffshire Advertiser.

AOCB

Banffshire coast Booklet – ZJ reported that the Banffshire Coast Partnership had now received funding for a new Area Guide and enquired as to whether the CVTI again wished to place an advert in the booklet. She advised that a back page would be £200-00 + VAT or alternatively inside back page would be £150-00 + VAT. After due discussion it was agreed that the inside back page would be sufficient. She also advised that some form of description of Cullen would be included in the booklet and she would forward a copy of this to the committee for their agreement in due course.

Next Meeting

To be arranged.

The meeting was closed.