

Minutes of Meeting of Cowdenbeath Community Council
AGM
Thursday 17th May 2018

1. Present

A Haddow, A Stott, C Gourlay, A Dziennik, T Lockhart, I Cuthbertson, I Burt, A Gibson, A McGillivray, D McLean, L Rae (TWELVE COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS)

Co-opted Community Councillors - M Payne, W Aitchison

Members of the Public - Mr & Mrs J Robertson

Elected Members - Cllrs A Campbell, A Bain and D Watt

Police -

2. Apologies – J Allan, A Lockhart, K Turner, PCs F Menzies & C McDougall

3. Approval of Minutes for May 2017 - **Proposed:** I Burt **Seconded:** I Cuthbertson

4. Chairman's Report for May 2017– May 2018

Its been an 'up and down' year in Cowdenbeath since our last AGM

I have to say that my main 'bug bear' during the last year has been waiting on the Town Centre being developed. It has been frustrating. This development has been talked about for a number of years and while we all realise that gaining funding for major works, completing the tender processes, agreeing contracts.....etc all takes time, it has taken a rather long time. The proposed drawings of what the Town Centre will look like combined with the project on the Brunton Square Heritage Garden all look great.....and I for one am looking forward to them being completed....I just wish it was sooner rather than later. I sincerely hope that work gets underway soon and Cowdenbeath gets the uplift it needs.

Another issue Cowdenbeath (and other communities) has had is **Flaring at Mossmorran**. There have been a number of Flaring incidents in the last year which has been causing a great deal of concern in the Town. A cross party group and an Action Group have been set up to look into the issues. General consensus is there needs to be much better communication between the Companies at Mossmorran and local communities as well as ensuring the plant is safe. We should continue to encourage people to share their thoughts with locally elected councillors/Mossmorran Action Group....etc

We've had our fair share of **vandalism/youth disorder** in the Town . Thank you to our local community officers for keeping us up to date with these problems and advise what we , as a community council, can do to help. It's been apparent that without 'local knowledge', our community officers would have struggled to apprehend some of the culprits and resolve some of the issues.

On a more positive note, We've seen the doors of the **Maxwell Centre** open to everyone. This centre is named in honour of Alex and Mary Maxwell and is a fitting tribute to the both of them. It's a fantastic facility for Cowdenbeath and hopefully folks will use itlots...

Work on the **Skate Park** (at the back of the Leisure Centre) is going well. Not sure what the opening date is yet...but it looks good. The skate park has been designed with input from youngsters so here's hoping it will be well utilised.

Heritage Garden at Brunton Square – The gigantic mural of the boy wearing his dads/granddads 'pit bits and hat' on the gable end of the police building has gone down well with residents and visitors alike. We took a straw poll of approx 400 people and the results were.... over 75% liked the mural. You never really know until 'it's in situ' what folks actual response is, and I was pleased to read and hear that when the mural was complete, it was an even better response from folks.

Winter Lighting. More winter lighting was installed at the trees at Morrisons. This was in addition to the lighting at Stenhouse Street and the back of the Leisure Centre. This type of lighting is well received by folks.....it seems to 'lift their mood' when it's the dark winter months....so perhaps we should look at getting more

Mossmorran WindFarm Ltd Community Fund and Four Winds Trust. Yet again a number of groups have benefited from both these funds. Need to continue to promote the existence of these funds to local groups. Every little helps.

Guest Speakers. We've had a couple of guest speakers along at Community Council meetings (Fife Forum and Safer Communities) and these have been very informative. Anyone with any ideas of 'guest speakers', let Christine know.

Environment Group: In the Beautiful Fife Campaign, Cowdenbeath achieved the SILVER award. The environment group, their volunteers and Fife Council staff were disappointed they didn't achieve the Silver Gilt award but there's always next year. The small band of volunteers work tirelessly to help Cowdenbeath look good, but they really need help. Again we need to find away to bring volunteers on board. Congratulations and Well done to the environment group and their volunteers.

Civic Week: There are about 15 folks on Civic Week Committee who work tirelessly throughout the year to organise a fun filled programme of events for the folks of Cowdenbeath. There are lots of events they organise whether they be fundraisers or fun activities. To name a few are the: The Loony Dook which raised nearly £5000, the Parade in June which was nearly 1.5miles long. The weather held for the Parade and it was a fantastic day out for folks. The playing fields were 'covered' with people. The Christmas Events were the same...all well attended. Tickets for the events were sold out in days.

Again Congratulations and Well done has to go to our Civic Week Committee and all their friends and family as well as volunteers who regularly respond to the 'call to arms' to help. A fantastic community spirit

Remembrance Day Service. Attendance at our Remembrance Day service continues to grow. The weather 'held up' for us and it didn't rain. This year will be particularly poignant in that it will be 100 years since the end of WW1. I am pleased to see that there are a few ideas which the Community Council have to commemorate this event.

5. Treasurer's Report - A Stott

Accounts to 31st March 2018 have been independently examined. Amount in accounts is £43,554.91
Copies of accounts distributed to Community Councillors for discussion. The bulk of the amount in our accounts is for the proposed heritage/community garden at Brunton Square (eg approx £38,000).
Application has been submitted for Fife Council grant.

6. Election of Officials

At this point, Chair stood down and Cllr A Bain took charge as office bearers were elected.

Position	Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairperson	A Haddow	T Lockhart	I Burt
Vice Chair	K Turner	C Gourlay	I Cuthbertson
Treasurer	A Stott	T Lockhart	D McLean
Secretary	C Gourlay	T Lockhart	D McLean

NB: There was only 1 nomination for each position. And AH advised that he will be standing down as chair when the Community Council elections are held in November 2018

7. Selection of Citizen of the Year.

It was agreed in the last few months that we stop CoY and Young CoY and look to organise another type of event which celebrates and recognises more people who volunteer and/or do well in our community.

8. Date of Next Meeting : Next meeting will be Thursday 16th May 2019