

Minutes of Meeting of Cowdenbeath Community Council
AGM
Thursday 29th October 2020

As a result of the Covid19 Pandemic of 2020, Cowdenbeath CC had to postpone their AGM (which is normally held in May) until now. As restrictions meant the community councillors were unable to meet face to face, a ZOOM meeting was organised. Notification of the meeting was posted on the Cowdenbeath CC Facebook page (and pinned to the top of the page) as well as in the community notices section of the local paper (central fife times) on 15th and 22nd October. Contact details were supplied in all posts to allow members of the public to get in touch for the ZOOM meeting password details

1. Present

I Burt, L Rae (joined meeting 15mins in), A Stott, C Gourlay, I Cuthbertson, W Aitchison

<u>Co-opted Community Councillors</u>	- n/a
<u>Members of the Public</u>	- n/a
<u>Elected Members</u>	- Cllrs A Campbell and D Watt
<u>Police</u>	- n/a

2. Apologies – A Haddow, A Dziennik, A McGillivray, D McLean, P Millmore, A Lockhart
Cllr G Guichan, PC L Wallace,

3. Approval of Minutes for May 2019 - **Proposed:** A Stott **Seconded:** I Cuthbertson

4. Chairman's Report for May 2019– Oct 2020 – I Burt

We find ourselves in unprecedented times. Due to Coronavirus restrictions all our meetings had to be postponed from March until now. I am glad that due to virtual technology we can now meet again to hold our AGM. This Annual Report covers June 2019 to October 2020.

Projects: Up to our last Meeting in March individual Community Councillors took lead roles in setting up projects from various funding streams. All projects have been put on hold since March:

Underpass Artwork – there has been a lot of assessment work done with young people to produce artistic designs for the underpass.

Sculpture Trail – I am delighted that the planned sculpture trail saw the first sculptures installed at or near gateway sites into Cowdenbeath. A big thank you to the school children who helped with this project. Our aim is to continue to install several more sculptures to create a trail within the town.

Mural/Green Square – Although the plans for the art installations in the Green Square have been put on hold due to Covid-19 – we look forward to working with Kerry in the future. I am sure she will delight us once more with her work.

Men's Shed – The first meeting was held to discuss taking this project forward in March.

I thank all those involved with the above projects and the hard work and effort put in by individuals to make things happen. Well done!

Funding: Over the course of each year we look for funding that allow us to help create projects and to support local organisations. Thanks to all who have granted us funding.

Environmental Group: Congratulations to our Environmental Group achieving the Silver (Gilt) Award in the Beautiful Fife Campaign. I know those individuals involved were disappointed as they were aiming for a Gold - but their dedication, effort and hard work is a credit to them. Well done! **The Street Pastors** also won an individual award in the same Campaign for the Bollards displayed in the High Street. This is their first award – well done to all!

Awards: I was delighted that Cowdenbeath was on the short-list for the Great British High Street Competition. It was disappointing when we found out in January that we did not win at the award.

Civic Week : Civic Week again provided us with a memorable Gala in June last year also Cowdenbeath's first 5K Run in September and all their Christmas events in December. It is so sad that Civic Week had to cancel all their usual summer events this year including our joint venture to host events to celebrate VE Day in May. However, thanks to Jamie, our lone piper who played a fitting tribute outside the Town House. All these events take a huge amount of time, effort and hard work by every member of Civic Week and they make it look so easy. I would like to say a big thank you to Civic Week and will look forward to working with them in the future.

Remembrance Day: In November last year I was proud to have been involved in the Remembrance Day activities. It was a new group of Community Councillors and the local Army Cadets taking joint leads in organising the day. It was a daunting task as this was our first time of taking responsibility for this important event. My sincere thanks to all those who volunteered to help and to all those who attended the service. We learned a lot on the day and did our best. The main thing for me was that we held the event, lessons were learnt and many new relationships formed.

Note: The small garden area in front of the Town House has been transformed with the Remembrance furniture and with the completion of the paving area. Thanks to all involved.

Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Community & Safety Liaison Committee : I attended my first meeting of the above Committee this month. There has been a review of the purpose and structure of this group. Work is ongoing and sub-groups are to be formed to shape this umbrella group.

Love Cowdenbeath: Love Cowdenbeath includes Cowdenbeath shop traders and Fife Council. They also have support from Cowdenbeath Community Council. With Covid-19, it is more important than ever to shop locally. Our High Street is certainly looking good and we do not want shops to close. The shop traders need support.

In the Future: As I said at the beginning of my report we are in unprecedented times. However, it has been good to reflect on what Cowdenbeath Community Council has achieved for this Annual Report. Once restrictions are lifted we will continue to build on our current work plan, forming new partnerships and projects and hopefully add to our current membership.

I think we will all have changes to make to our life – how we shop; how we work; how we hold meetings and how to stay safe. I have no concerns that all of us will comply with what is required because we are committed to do our best for our town and community.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has attended our meetings and worked with us. My thanks to our Secretary who has continued to keep our on-line profiles up to date during the Coronavirus restrictions and to all those who have supported me as Chair. Here's to our next year

5. Treasurer's Report - A Stott

Accounts to 31st March 2020 have been independently examined and signed off.

Amount in bank as at 31st March 2020 is £20,163.45

Copies of accounts distributed prior to meeting for discussion on the night.

REPORT

I have pleasure in submitting the annual accounts of Cowdenbeath Community Council for the year ended 31st March 2020 for approval by Community Council members at this AGM. The accounts have been independently examined and agreed by Mrs. Margaret Clark, the Treasurer of Beath and Cowdenbeath North Church. I forwarded the accounts to Community Council members earlier in the year and also earlier this week.

If the accounts are approved, I will forward the application to Fife Council for the annual Community Council grant of £1705.64 less the data protection notification fee of £40.00, therefore we are expecting £1665.64 to be credited to the Community Council bank account. This figure is made up of a fixed amount and a per capita amount. If you have any questions, I will try to answer them.

ACTION: Community Councillors approved the accounts and agreed Treasurer to submit application to Fife Council for annual grant.

6. Election of Officials

At this point, all office bearers stood down and Cllr A Campbell took charge of proceedings for the election of office bearers. On behalf of elected councillors, Cllr Campbell thanked the community councillors for all their hard work and effort. Significant improvements in Cowdenbeath over the last years and it's good to hear about all the projects underway. Specific Thanks to Irene having taken over from A Haddow as Chair last year. Excellent job.

Position	Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairperson	I Burt	C Gourlay	A Stott
Vice Chair	L Rae	I Burt	W Aitchison
Treasurer	A Stott	L Rae	C Gourlay
Secretary	C Gourlay	I Burt	I Cuthbertson

NB: There was only 1 nomination for each position and each person accepted their position.

7. . Date of Next Meeting : Next meeting will be Thursday 20th May 2021.