

Minutes of Meeting of Cowdenbeath Community Council
AGM
Thursday 19th May 2016

1. Present

A Haddow, A Stott, C Gourlay, J Allan, D McLean, I Cuthbertson, A Lockhart, C Kirk, A Dziennik, A Munro (TEN Community Councillors)

Co-opted Community Councillors – A Dunlop

Members of the Public – Cllr Ann Bain

Elected Members – Cllrs A Bain & G Guichan

Police - Inspector I Stephen

2. Apologies - Cllr P Lockhart, F Forbes, W Aitchison, PCs F Menzies & C McDougall

3. Approval of Minutes for May 2015 - **Proposed:** J Allan **Seconded:** A Stott

4. Chairman's Report for May 2015 – May 2016

It's been a 'mixed bag' for Cowdenbeath this year

We've seen the Little Raith Windfarm extension rejected by the Scottish Government and the Windfarm development at Hilton of Beath Farm stopped as a result of the Westminster Government withdrawing subsidies for renewable energy developments. There was an indication that local communities could perhaps progress the Hilton Farm development with a view to them being 'sole owners' but this never came about. And then we had the 2 windturbines erected by Air Volution at Mossmorran which means there will be another community fund available to the people of Cowdenbeath.

Last year, we had the disappointment of the development by Tesco at the North End being 'shelved' but then we had ALDI opening in the autumn of 2015 on the site of the old Police Station in Stenhouse Street.. And in the last few months, someone new has acquired the land at the North End and a planning application has been submitted.

Cowdenbeath launched it's own community cinema in the Leisure Centre – we really need to help the promotion of this initiative. It's too good to lose it.

There were rumours that our Recycling Centre was closing but fortunately these rumours were unfounded. Our recycling centre is still our 'jewel in the crown'. There was also the proposed changes to Fife's Library Services. Some local libraries closed their doors but our library was kept open. Hopefully people will continue to use the services at our local library

In October we celebrated our 125th anniversary of becoming a burgh. And it was great that the moderator of the Church of Scotland was able to visit our Town to join us in the celebrations organised in Trinity Church. A good time was had by all and there were lots of photos of times gone by on display.

Sadly we lost the Credit Union in Cowdenbeath – they had to relocate from the Town House but a suitable place could not be found for them. We ourselves had to move our community council meetings and we have relocated to Brunton House.

The Street Pastors celebrated their '1st birthday' and Mossmorran celebrated their '30th birthday

Hill of Beath has formed a community council and as a result the boundary for Cowdenbeath Community Council has changed. Allan Park and the associated part of Woodend Place will no longer be part of Cowdenbeath.

We began issuing a community newsletter (Beath Bulletin) and feedback from residents suggests it seems to be going down well in the Town. Our issue to celebrate our 125th anniversary was issued to all households in Cowdenbeath. A big thanks has to go to 4 winds trust, Fife Charities Trust, Fife Print Centre and all those business/shops who advertise in the bulletin. Without them we wouldn't have been able to produce the bulletin.

And we also launched our website – cowdenbeathcc.org.uk. The website combined with our Facebook page (which now has approx 550 'likes') means we are hopefully reaching more people to give them information on Cowdenbeath

One of the biggest 'changes' though was that the Community Council (in collaboration with Fife Council) successfully applied for approx £80,000, to install public access wifi, winter lighting and purchasing 'market stalls' for potential events to be held at the 'green square'. This hopefully will be the start of improvements within the Town.

Well done to our Environmental Group and their volunteers – with their help and efforts, Cowdenbeath was awarded Silver Gilt in the Beautiful Fife competition. It's getting harder and harder to keep Cowdenbeath nice especially with only 4 folks in the Environmental Group. So if anyone knows of anyone who is 'greenfingered' and likes outdoors – I'm sure the group would appreciate their help.

And it's also well done to the Civic week committee members. They work tirelessly throughout the year to put on a mixture of events. Last year, we tried Winter Wonderland (lots of activities during the whole weekend) but the weather was against us. Still, it was fantastic the number of people who turned up at during the weekend. The cancellation of Winter Wonderland had a short impact on the committee members but they have bounced back and are gearing up for the Gala Week.

Our Remembrance Day Parade is going well. Each year, we seem to be getting more and more people attending. It's great that the community comes together on this day.

Unfortunately, owing to personal circumstances 3 of our community councillors have decided not to continue in the role (Eileen Kirk, Paul McPherson and Moreen Axford) . Although we have a new member (Irene Cuthbertson), we still have 7 vacancies. We need to try and get them filled.

And it was 'a blow' when Jim Graham (our local policeman) was transferred to Dunfermline. We've had a good relationship with Jim over the years and we wish him well. Having said that , we look forward to building a similar relationship with Calum McDougall (new community policeman)

And finally, I have to say a massive thanks to Fiona Forbes who has been a great help to the Community Council throughout the years. Fiona is retiring next month and she will be sorely missed. We wish her all the very best.

This coming year will be just as busy for the Community Council

We will have the results of Fife Council's pilot of 4 bin collections. We really need to get a handle on what the folks of Cowdenbeath think about this matter.

The new community centre is scheduled to be open around the end of this year.

Our funding application for money to build a heritage garden will hopefully be accepted and we will see a change at Brunton Sq.

The green square is due to get a 'facelift', we need to canvas residents to find out what they would like to see at the green square.

5. Treasurer's Report - A Stott

Accounts to 31st March 2016 have been independently examined. Amount in bank is £77,355.62

Hard copies of accounts distributed to Community Councillors for discussion. The main reason for the amount being so high is because of the funding for the winter lighting, gazebos/marquee and broad band which we successfully applied for. Application has been submitted for Fife Council grant.

It was agreed that we would purchase a retirement gift for F Forbes in recognition of all the support and help she has given over the years. Reps from Env Group and Civic Week were in attendance and they also agreed to participate in a combined gift. Amount agreed with community councillors.

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	J Allan	A Munro
Vice Chair	C Kirk	C Gourlay	A Haddow
Treasurer	A Stott	A Munro	A Lockhart
Secretary	C Gourlay	J Allan	A Munro

NB: There was only 1 nomination for each position.

Would be good to try and fill the vacancies that we have. Publicise the vacancies.

Ruling re attendance at meetings: Agreed to leave as detailed in the constitution

7. Selection of Citizen of the Year.

Voting process for Citizen of the Year (updated and agreed in 2015) was completed during the 2 weeks leading up to AGM. All correspondence relating to the nominees was distributed to community councillors (12) and asked to vote. The successful candidate requires to gain the majority of votes. If more than one round of voting has to take place then so be it.

Round 1....Jackie Easton received majority of votes needed

Jackie Easton (Curly Star Foundation) was announced as Cowdenbeaths' Citizen of the Year 2016

Reception for CoY will be held on Tuesday, 31st May 2016 in Town House

8. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Thursday 18th May 2017