

Minutes of Meeting of Cowdenbeath Community Council
AGM
Thursday 18th May 2017

1. Present

A Haddow, A Stott, C Gourlay, J Allan, I Cuthbertson, A Lockhart, A Dziennik, I Burt, A Gibson, T Crawford, L Rae (ELEVEN COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS)

A McGillivray, K Turner (TWO COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS WHO JOINED TONIGHT)

Co-opted Community Councillors - A Dunlop, W Aitchison

Members of the Public -

Elected Members - Cllrs A Campbell, G Guichan and D Watt

Police -

2. Apologies – P Lockhart (who joined tonight), A Munro and PCs F Menzies & C McDougall

3. Approval of Minutes for May 2016 - **Proposed:** J Allan **Seconded:** A Stott

4. Chairman's Report for May 2016 – May 2017

Stenhouse Street Underpass and Shutter Art Initiative. These initiatives really got the folks talking. The artwork really cheers our wee town up. Congratulations and well done to all those involved in both initiatives (our local community police, beath high school pupils, fife council and Kerry Wilson the artist). Having said that it is disappointing that the underpass was vandalised earlier on this year and still hasn't been repaired. And we heard yesterday that one of the shutters has been targeted by some youths. As I said, very disappointing.

Town Centre Development. Other projects which the community council was directly involved in (along with Fife Council officers) was the installation of the Winter Lighting in the trees at Hall Street/Stenhouse Street in October last year and then the 'soft launch' of the Public Access WiFi. Our application to the Scottish Governments Town Centre Capital Communities Fund (TCCCF) was successful which resulted in money being used for the aforementioned projects as well as the purchase of marquee/gazebos to hold various events in the Town. I'm sure you will agree with me that the Winter Lighting went down a treat. As to the use of the public access WiFi – early statistics show that it is being used but more analysis needs to be conducted on the data.

And then there's our application for funding for a heritage garden at Brunton Square. The hope is we can have a mosaic/mural on the wall as well as an upgraded seating area and flower beds with some mining memorabilia. Hopefully 2017 will see the ideas coming to fruition. Not forgetting the newly opened 'Whats your Beath'. A place where residents can visit to find out all about the Town Centre Development and have their say.

Participatory Budgeting. Along with 8 other communities, Cowdenbeath community were involved in the PB exercise to share our views on how we would spend the sum of £250,000 from Fife Council. It began in June 2016 with folks being asked for their ideas on what they would spend the money on and ended in November 2016 with the votes being cast and the winning projects being advised. Our towns winning projects were: Clean up of the Line, Improvements up the Public Park, Improvements at the Train Station and improvements at the gateways to Cowdenbeath. Looking forward to the work being carried out this year.

Mossmorran WindFarm Ltd Community Fund. As a result of the wind turbines installed by the developers – Air Volution – groups within our community (and Crossgates&Mossgreen and Hill of Beath) were able to apply for funding from the community group. In addition, we were awarded money to distribute as a Micro Grant Scheme. All in all, approx 13-15 groups/individuals benefited from the fund and the micro grant scheme. I'd say that was a result.

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Guest Speakers. We've had a few guest speakers along at Community Council meetings and feedback suggests that this goes down well. We hope to continue with more guest speakers and if anyone has any ideas, then let us know. (Donald McArthur, theatre group), Kathy Hamilton (FVA: Mentors in Work), Lee Walls (Brag: About Social Enterprise)

Remembrance Day Service: This is one of my highlights of the year. The weather hasn't been kind to us for the last few years but I'm pleased to say that the attendance at the services has grown. Both in those participating in the parade as well as the locals who attend. It's very satisfying that folks come to the services and pay their respects.

Environment Group: In the Beautiful Fife Campaign, Cowdenbeath achieved the SILVER award. The environment group, their volunteers and Fife Council staff worked hard this year and although they really wanted to retain the Silver Gilt Award, it was not to be. But with only a handful of people volunteering they had a mammoth task ahead of them. Although the planters/tubs on the High Street were looking good, and the Millenium garden had been well maintained, concern was expressed about the Community Woodland. It has been the subject of continued vandalism and it's difficult to keep on top of it. This 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.

In addition to the above, we have an issue in the Town with Dog Fouling. This is not the responsibility of the environment group and their volunteers but the responsibility of dog owners. This is not a problem just specific to Cowdenbeath but we need to work with Fife Council to try and educate people to 'Just Bin it'

Civic Week: Again we have a small group of people who work tirelessly throughout the year to organise a fun filled programme of events for the folks of Cowdenbeath. The main events were the Gala Week and the Christmas Events but there were also a few smaller events (easter disco, Halloween disco). Last year the weather held for the Parade and all went well. The playing fields were 'covered' with people. 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 finally I have to say we have said goodbye to 3 of our community councillors during the year (Eileen Kirk, Chic Kirk and Keith Hynd). However, we have welcomed Liz Rae, Irene Burt, Amanda Gibson and tonight we have received declaration forms for Angela McGillivray, Peter Lockhart and Kayle Turner. That means we now have 16 Community Councillors. The maximum community councillors we can have is 19. So if you know of anyone else who would like to join us, then invite them along to one of our meetings.

5. Treasurer's Report - A Stott

Accounts to 31st March 2017 have been independently examined. Amount in accounts is £47,333.67
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 (ie £45,000). Application has been submitted for Fife Council grant.

6. Election of Officials

At this point, Chair stood down and Cllr G Guichan took charge as office bearers were elected. Cllr Guichan said it was an honour to 'officiate' these proceedings and he'd like to welcome Cllrs Campbell and Watt to Cowdenbeath. All councillors are looking forward to working with the community council

Position	Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairperson	A Haddow	I Burt	T Crawford
Vice Chair	K Turner	A Haddow	C Gourlay
Treasurer	A Stott	A Dziennik	C Gourlay
Secretary	C Gourlay	J Allan	L Rae

NB: There was only 1 nomination for each position.

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 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. Details of the vote were distributed to the community councillors and then the winner was announced by the A Haddow.

Round 1....Wilma Aitchison received majority of votes needed

Wilma was then announced as Cowdenbeaths' Citizen of the Year 2017

Reception for CoY will be held on Wednesday, 31st May 2017 in Town House...

8. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Thursday 17th May 2018