

Cowdenbeath Community Council – Minutes for 18th January 2018

1. PRESENT

- Community Council Members** - A Haddow, C Gourlay, A Stott, T Lockhart, T Crawford, L Rae, I Burt, I Cuthbertson, K Turner (Left early), A Dziennik
(TEN COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS)
- Co-opted Members** - A Dunlop (Civic Week), W Aitchison (Street Pastors), M Payne (Community Centre)
- Elected Members** - Cllrs A Campbell, D Watt, A Bain and G Guichan
- Police** -
- Members of the public** - A Bain, Capt & Mrs Robertson,

2. APOLOGIES

- Community Councillors** - A McGillivray, A Gibson, D McLean, J Allan, A Munro, A Lockhart
- Police** - PCs F Menzies & C McDougall

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - Proposed : L Rae Seconded: T Lockhart

4. POLICE UPDATE – no update available

5. MATTERS ARISING ... No Matters arising

6. CORRESPONDENCE - Local Matters

Maxwell Community Centre - update from Mike Payne. Works have been progressing well with the work to the community hall and the internal refurbishment of the older building now being 99% complete. The furniture for the building has been delivered, fixtures and fittings have been added. Some snagging issues to be dealt with and the hope is that the building will be 'handed over' on 22nd January 2018. Intention is to transfer groups from Broad Street Centre to the Community Centre. No update on Advisory Board as yet...Public meeting will be held to ask people to come forward to form advisory board. Official opening once CLD know how everything operates. Questions asked about bookings for the new centre and cost.. Priority will be given to Broad Street Groups and charging will be same as other areas. Also asked was if there was any plans to assist people attending the Centre with crossing the road from Leisure Centre Car Park. Traffic assessment will be done going forward. Request made on behalf of Civic Week Committee for large hall to be available for events during Civic Week (eg Pet Show). The hope would be to accommodate this request but needs to be checked with various groups.

Whats Your Beath office – Closing on 31st March. Funding no longer available. KT hoping to secure a new job. General disappointment that the hub is closing. It was felt that it was just beginning to take off. The function of why it was started was working ...building good connections. Would be good if there was a group around to take it on. KT will progress this.

Sustrans/Nadfly Update from meeting held on 11th December. Some doubt about whether the proposals would work for Cowdenbeath. Some attendees felt it was more like presentation rather than consultation. General discussion held. What do we want to be known for in Cowdenbeath. We were a mining community, We aren't any longer. What different things can be done to make people feel proud of the town we live in. What are the chances of Cowdenbeath High Street returning to what it was in the past. Do we need to think differently about how we can encourage folks to come into the High Street and use the existing shops. What is it that can be improved/changed short term (eg cleaning road signs), within our control, within control of Fife Council, within control of others...etc. Setting of rates is responsibility of Scottish Government. Buildings are responsibility of owners. What pressures can be brought to bear to change this. Hopefully the work planned for Cowdenbeath Town Centre for this year can go some way to show that changes are happening. Perhaps will even encourage more folks to volunteer to help out. We really need more volunteers. Food for thought.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE - Local Matters**

Planning Application – Crown Hotel (17/02370/FULL) Change of use from hotel (class 7) to retail (class 1), restaurant (class 3), 1 flat dwelling (sui generis) and HMO (11 persons) at The Crown Hotel, 6 High Street, Cowdenbeath. General discussion was around the fact that it would be good for this eyesore to have something done about it. The situation has been dragging on far too long.

Fife Licensing Board – Application for Provisional Premises Licence for The Clansmen. No objections/representations made by CC. Application will be considered on 22nd Jan 2018

Lighting on the High Street – Concern expressed at the length of time taken to resolve the matter. Expectation is that the proposals for making the lighting in the High Street brighter will be completed by financial year end. (ie 31st March 2018).

The original change made in the High Street was to fit an LED lamp, equivalent in power to the existing lamps, into the existing lantern. After concerns being voiced about the 'new' lighting Fife Council looked at a number of viable options to improve the lighting.

1. Reduce the height of the columns (This did not improve matters)
2. Replace the decorative fittings with standard fittings (This did not resolve specific concerns)
3. Install LED gear trays with a specially designed distribution into the existing decorative lanterns (This should resolve the concerns)

It should be noted that the existing lighting meets the legal standards and since the proposed introduction of gear trays will incur a not inconsiderable amount of money, this proposal will be progressed by end of the financial year.

There was also a discussion on whether the installation of LED trays would impact the hanging baskets and bunting on the lampposts. Majority voted that we wait until gear trays installed before asking about these requirements.

Christmas Lights – The subject of Christmas Lights was discussed at a meeting last year. AH had been in discussion with Fife Council and Lighting company and it is necessary for Cowdenbeath to consider how they fund raise for Christmas Lights. AH's proposal is that a separate group be formed with the specific purpose of raising funds to ensure Cowdenbeath continue to have Christmas Lights. We need to agree a plan of how this can be done. Suggestion is that we 'advertise' for more volunteers to come forward with the aim of forming a group (with appropriate constitution..etc). The existing band of volunteers on Civic Week, Community Council and Environment group do not have the capacity for this. If no one comes forward in the next year or so, there is every possibility Cowdenbeath will not have Christmas Lights going forward.

Micro Grant Scheme. It was confirmed that the micro grant scheme will run again this year between 1-28th Feb 2018. We have been allocated £2000 from Mossmorran Wind Farm Ltd Community Fund. This Scheme is to award grants to individuals or groups whose work benefit residents living in the Cowdenbeath Community Council area. We will be able to award small grants of up to £250 individuals and groups (both constituted and unconstituted) who are involved in activities that can benefit Cowdenbeath residents by:

Enhancing the quality of life for local residents;

Contributing to deliver vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities;

Promoting community spirit and encouraging community activity.

Individuals and groups can apply for an award to assist with running costs (insurance or hiring facilities), equipment costs, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities etc.

More details available on our website.

Exxon Mobil Panto (7/12) and Exxon Mobil Burns Lunch (17/1). Approx 60 panto tickets distributed at Leisure Centre which is down on previous years. Need to spread the word to see if newer folks interested in going. Would also be good to get other CC members involved with the distribution/checking busses (approx 2.5hrs commitment). Unfortunately owing to bad weather the Burns lunch was cancelled. AH confirmed that Cowdenbeath residents will be invited next year. Need to find additional ways to inform senior citizens in the town of these events.

Chairperson – A Haddow, 16 Arthur Place, Cowdenbeath. (Email address: cowdenbeath.comm.council@googlemail.com)

Secretary – C Gourlay, 1 Elgin Road, Cowdenbeath (Email address: cowdenbeathcc@gmail.com)

Facebook Page – Cowdenbeath Community Council

Website – www.cowdenbeathcc.org.uk

6. **CORRESPONDENCE - Local Matters**

Lochore Meadows Advisory Panel. Cowdenbeath Area Committee at its meeting on Wednesday 13th December considered a report by the advising of the responses received to a consultation exercise regarding the terms of reference for the proposed Lochore Meadows Country Park Development Board. The Committee:- (a) agreed that further discussions should be undertaken to determine the membership of the Group; (b) agreed that the Group should develop its own terms of reference once established; and (c) recommended that the Convener of the Housing & Communities Committee should be invited to be a member of the Development Board. In the light of those decisions, **nominees and volunteers are being sought to take this work forward.** Those recruited will work in the first instance with Fife Voluntary Action to address issues around Board membership, governance and remit. Support will also be available from Community Learning and Development staff. They will also meet and receive reports from those currently responsible for managing Lochore Meadows Country Park and its various operations and will be able to influence current and future initiatives. Any nominations or volunteer requests should be made to Kevin Sayer, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Brunton House, High Street, Cowdenbeath KY4 9QU in writing or by e-mail to Kevin.Sayer@fife.gov.uk by Friday 19th January 2018. An initial meeting will be convened for all interested parties as soon as possible thereafter. **Note: As per previous meeting T Lockhart has been put forward as Cowdenbeath CC nominated person**

Waste Strategy for Fife: Fife Council is writing a new waste strategy for Fife. We are looking to hold a workshop on some of the waste challenges we face, with local communities, to get feedback on what would work for local people. Is any Community Councillor interested in attending the workshops

Fife Council will be offering 4 workshops in January 2018 for interested locals, community groups and community council members. These will be at the following places and dates. See table below. There is also the opportunity to feedback on the 6 themes of the strategy on the feedback form at www.fifedirect.org.uk/dontwasteit Places at the workshops are limited so please let CG know as soon as possible (Carolynm.bell@refsol.co.uk)

Mossmorran and Braefoot complexes - Update

This brief update is to let you know that historical flaring data has been added to SEPA's dedicated Mossmorran hub at www.sepa.org.uk/mossmorran. Both the Fife Ethylene Plant and Fife Natural Gas Liquids plant at Mossmorran are required by SEPA to report annually the amount of flaring that occurred during the year at both sites. Data for the years 2008 to 2016 has now been added to the **FAQs section** of the Mossmorran hub under 'How often do plants flare?'

Further information. SEPA is committed to keeping local communities around Mossmorran informed. Our **recent newsletter** is available on SEPA's dedicated Mossmorran hub at www.sepa.org.uk/mossmorran - where you can sign up to receive future newsletters. The Hub provides the latest update on our activities and the stages of the investigation following the recent flaring incident in June. We're working hard to provide a further update on this as quickly as possible.

The Mossmorran hub also contains information on common questions including:
The role of SEPA, the Health & Safety Executive, Health Protection Scotland & Fife Council.
Information related to monitoring activity.

Why the flaring occurs. What the constituents of the flare are.

What restrictions are applied. Why smoke can be produced.

Health impacts and other local factors

For further questions, please email community@sepa.org.uk – this account is monitored weekdays during office hours only.

SEPA's 24 Hour Pollution Hotline is available on 0800 807 060 and is available to report environmental incidents, with information on how and what to report at www.sepa.org.uk/contact/

Fife Plan – information available online and from CG

Fife Voluntary Action – information available online and from CG

Fife Centre for Equalities – information available online and from CG

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7. COUNCILLORS REPORT - Cllrs Bain, Campbell and Watt
High Street Lighting and Sustrans consultation – see above
Lumphinnans Care Home – being handed over soon.

Congratulations from all the Councillors to Civic Week Committee for their hard work and effort in the Christmas Events. The events were amazing.

Concern expressed about crazy driving at Shimla Car Park. The police are aware of this.

8. OTHER REPORTS...Spreadsheet issued to all CC's prior to the meeting

Treasurers Report - Balance in CC's account as at 16th Nov 2017 is £45,216.76

C/Fwd from 16 th Nov 2017	£41,903.87		
		EXPENDITURE 17/11/2017 – 18/01/2018	INCOME 17/11/2017 – 18/01/2018
Beath Bulletin	£		£1075.10
Young CoY	£ 150.00		£
Remembrance Day Services	£ 10.00		£ 77.00
MicroGrant Scheme	£		£ 2000.00
Grant s	£ 100.00		£
Rebate from Bank	£		£ 420.79
Totals	£ 260.00		£ 3572.89

Amount of £38,352.00 **ringfenced** for FET – Heritage Garden at Brunton Square

£ 2,000.00 **ringfenced** for microgrants

£ 749.95 ringfenced for training on Beath Bulletin

£ 18.59 ringfenced for production of Beath Bulletin

➤ Balance of £ 4096.22 available to the Community Council .

1. **Civic Week..** Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas Events. The Switch on and kids Party went well. Kids party Was a sell out. The Community Choir was also a sell out. And a video of part of the event was seen by approx 17k folks on Facebook over over the world. Fantastic. Reflects community spirit. Christmas Raffle drawn on the night was also a success. More details on amount raised will be available at next meeting.

A big thank you also goes to the Looney Dookers. Approx 60-70 folks ran in to the freezing waters of the Forth on 1st January 2018. Expectation is that approx £4500 raised with this event. Brilliant achievement.

First meeting of Civic Week Committee will be end of January. They are already working on plans for their '40th' birthday this year.

General discussion held on fund raising. Few suggestions made (eg Crowdfunding page, door to door collections (like Kelty), up to Civic Week Committee to consider.

2. **Street Pastors** – Going well. Approx 3 patrols a month
3. **Foodbank** - no update available.

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8. OTHER REPORTS (continued)

4. **Town Centre** - Hopefully work will begin on town centre development for 2018.
5. **4 winds trust** – Foulford Parent Council were awarded funding. Only group this quarter from Cowdenbeath.
6. **CACA** – doing inventory of what needs to be done. Awarded funding from Mossmorran.
7. **Mossmorran**– Next meeting is 10th December. No questions raised via community councillors.. SEPA have agreed to various points. Q&A on their website.

Burns lunch (due to be held 18/1) had to be cancelled because of the weather.

8. **Environmental Group** – no update
9. **Broad St Centre** – AH and LR attended the awards ceremony held at Broad Street Centre. Enjoyable evening to celebrate Broad Street Centre over the years.

J Allan was also in attendance. He received an award. Well done and congratulations to Jackie.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Remembrance Day Services. This year will be 100 years since end of WW1. CC are looking into ways to commemorate this. AH also looking at other types of events. AH has indicated that this may be his last year of organising the services. Request was made that he involves others (eg succession plans) this year to allow the continuation of the service. CC not able to continue sole organisation of the event.

Volunteers required. General discussion held about help required for Civic Week Committee, Environmental Group and Community Council. Need to try and 'get others on board'. They do not need to sit on committees but Cowdenbeath are in need of more volunteers to help out with activities

10. NEXT MEETING Thursday 15th February 2018 @ 18.30.

