

# COWDENBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## (Minutes for 28th January 2021 )

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1. **PRESENT :** I Burt, L Rae, C Gourlay, I Cuthbertson, W Aitchison, A Lockhart, A Hadow

**Co-opted Members**

**Elected Members** Cllrs A Campbell, G Guichan & A Bain (cllr bain had to leave before meeting ended to attend )  
(another meeting)

**Police** n/app

**Members of the public** n/app

**Guests** n/app

2. **APOLOGIES**

**Community Councillors** D McLean, P Millmore, A McGillivray, A Dziennik & A Stott

**Co-opted Members** n/app

**Elected Members** Cllr D Watt

**Police** PC L Wallace

3. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** - Approved: L Rae, Seconded: I Cuthbertson

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

- Christmas (2020) Window Competition. Joint Venture with Civic Week Committee went well. Quite a few businesses entered into the Competition. The winner (Moorelands Travel) was decided by the public (votes). The Community Council agreed to donate £50 as the first prize. When presented with their Trophy, Moorelands confirmed they wanted to donate the £50 to Civic Week. Children at Lumphinnans School helped with the decorated window and they were given a wee treat as well. Civic Week Committee gave certificates/sweets to all participants to thank them for entering. Great community spirit.
- Love Cowdenbeath initiative. 150 entries into the Look Local Competition which ran in late Oct/early November. Local resident won competition. Prize was £150 of vouchers for High Street shops. The lady picked the shops she wanted vouchers for. Festive Fiver had approx 12 businesses signed up. Also had 3 Christmas videos produced promoting Cowdenbeath/Shop Local. More to come in 2021. Proposal made that we use some of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust communication budget, which is being held by the Community Council, for the next video. It will take into account what is in the Cowdenbeath Community Action Plan. Agreement has also been received from P Grandison from CRT and Fife Council. **All CCs in attendance agreed** with using the CRT budget.
- Remembrance Day. Last year was a difficult day to organise in accordance with the Covid Guidance from the Scottish Government/Fife Council changing by the hour. The laying of the wreaths went to plan and thanks have to go to all those who laid wreaths and helped to respectfully decorate the Town (eg poppies in the High Street, window displays by local businesses and planters by Environment Group). Particular thanks also to the local cadet troop who organised to 'light up' the WW1 monument. It looked fantastic. And it was great to see that Cowdenbeath WW1 memorial was included in PoppyScotlands 'Light up red' campaign on their Social Media pages.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

**4 Winds Trust:** Meetings held 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December. £25,890.00 paid out to local groups including the following Cowdenbeath based groups.....Cowdenbeath Jujitsu, Hearts of Beath FC, Cowdenbeath Environment Group, Street Pastors and The Clearing. There is a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb to discuss when the AGM will be held. The Trustees are also looking at the website and when the next date for applications will be discussed

**Mossmorran Windfarm Community Fund:** Panel Meeting held 2nd December. £10146.39 paid out to local groups including the following Cowdenbeath based groups.....Homestart Cowdenbeath, Cowdenbeath Horticultural Society, 46th Fife Scout Group and Cowdenbeath Primary School Parent Council

NB: Subsequent to the meeting, it was discovered that the process for receiving applications had been changed and it meant that 2 applications had not been processed properly. These applications were decided on by email with the Panel members and Foundation Scotland representative (in January 2021). As a result the applications for The Clearing and Street Pastors were successful

It was agreed by the Panel members that the deadline date for applications to the 2021 Main Fund will be 22nd September 2021. The Panel will then organise to meet on 24th November 2021. Details of minutes of Panel meetings and decisions made will be posted on Foundation Scotlands website. It was also agreed that each CC (ie HoB, Crossgates & Mossgreen and Cowdenbeath) can run a MicroGrant Scheme this year (using the funds remaining from the 2020 budget)

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### **5. CORRESPONDENCE** (continued)

The topic of the MicroGrants for last year (which were postponed because of Covid Lockdown) was then discussed. **Agreement** reached (at the meeting and via email for non attendees) that we would contact the applicants from last year and ask if their request is still valid. If yes, CC will discuss at a specially convened meeting. If no, do they have other project which would fulfil the microgrants funding criteria. If still no, application will be withdrawn. All CCs in attendance at this meeting were happy with proposals made (proposals in accordance with Foundation Scotland guidance)

**Action:**CG to contact original applicants

- **Boundary Review/Establishment Scheme**

We have confirmed to Fife Council that Cowdenbeath CC do not wish to change any boundaries for Cowdenbeath. There were no comments returned to Fife Council re the amendments to the draft Establishment Scheme. It is important that Community Councillors familiarise themselves with the changes to the Establishment Scheme (amended as per the consultation exercise 2020/2021) Once the Scheme is finalised, we will adopt as our Constitution (as we have previously done) and CCs need to know what they are adopting. It should be noted that the Community Council elections which were originally set to be held in 2022, will now be held in 2023 (according to the proposed changes)

- **Mossmorran Liason Committee.** IB attended a Microsoft Teams meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. Animated presentations were made about both plants. 3 new groups have been set up under the umbrella of the Liason Committee. These groups will be populated with experts and volunteers from the local community. IB advised the Community Councillors that she has volunteered to join one of the groups. The groups will be Air Quality Group, Noise, Vibration & Light Group and Communication Group. The Liason Committee is currently looking for an independent chairperson. Confirmation that there will be Secretarial involvement from Fife Council and N Kerr from Fife Council will be in attendance at the meetings.

The subject of the smell which is 'hanging about the Town' was discussed at the Liason Committee. It was subsequently investigated and Fife Council has confirmed that it comes from Lochhead landfill site in Dunfermline not the Mossmorran Plant.

As part of the discussion at the CC meeting, It was also mentioned that the "Actions Speak Louder than Words" Action Group has raised a petition for closure of the plant. So far 1000 people have signed the petition. The petition is available through the Action Groups facebook page as well as the Mossmorran Action Group page.

- **Proposed Development of affordable housing on land at the back of Lumphinnans Primary School**

An exhibition of the initial proposals can be viewed online at <http://www.bracewell-stirling.co.uk/cowdenbeath/>

Residents are encouraged to check out the detail and contact bracewell stirling with any comments

- **Recycling Centre** General discussion on the reopening of the recycling centre. Feedback suggests that the booking system is working reasonably well. Although some residents hope that it returns to a 'turn up when you wish'm A few at this meeting had been at the Centre and found it worked well. Staff say that they are busy. The subject of the reason for the bollards was mentioned. What difference do they make. Explanation is that they stop cars from parking at the entrance to the gates. They were put there as part of the safety measures. The £45k which has been mentioned on Social Media and in CFT was not just for the bollards. It was for all safety measures implemented at the site.

- **Bridge Street** . Bridge Street.....a gateway to Cowdenbeath....is a disgrace. Lots of pedestrians/drivers up in arms about the state of the road. We know it's part of the roads programme to get fixed ....but when will that be.. The road needs fixed now. And hopefully it will be better quality workmanship than appears to have happened on this stretch of road in recent years. All locally elected councillors are fully aware of the state of the road and have been actively trying to 'get it fixed'. Constituents have been complaining to all of them. The Community Councillors should encourage everyone to advise Fife Council of any potholes they discover in Cowdenbeath Roads. And if anyone who damages their car as a result of driving on a road that has potholes then that should also be reported to Fife Council. The more people who report/inform Fife Council the better.

**Post meeting note:** Both Cllrs Campbell and Guichan wrote to Transportation Department after our meeting. The following day they received confirmation from Transportation that work is due to start on Bridge Street on the 8<sup>th</sup> February to repair the areas needing repair.

- **Vandalism in the Town** Graffiti in the Town is terrible. What can be done? The green square had graffiti which has since been cleaned up. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, its reckoned that the bill for clean up of stickers on bins, lampposts, signage and graffiti on walls comes in at a few thousand pounds. The police are working with the community wardens to tackle the ongoing problems. There is a lot of graffiti on the wall at the 'old valley house' site....an idea was suggested that we could perhaps organise for a mural to be painted on the wall. However with the current restrictions in place just now hands are tied. Similarly with the green square. Permissions have been obtained and funding is in place for a mural to be put there.....but until restrictions lifted what can be done is limited.

Question was asked about the use of CCTV to identify the culprits for the graffiti at the Green Square. It depends on whether the camera was of high enough quality. **Action:** Cllr A Campbell will contact the police centre at Glenrothes.

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### **6. COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

- Cllrs all have a heavy case load. Lots of Covid issues. As well as dealing with individual cases, Bridge Street, the unpleasant odour in the Town and the Vandalism & Graffiti are being dealt with by them.
  - Pleased to announce that more business grants will be becoming available to businesses in the town. Was good to see that there was a grant recently made available for Taxi Drivers. It was advised that one taxi driver applied and he received his grant within a few days.
  - Max's Meals – more money has been put in to help with food poverty. Max's Meals were normally on a Thursday but it has been extended to a Monday as well.
  - FC Housing will be commencing work (weather permitting) on houses within Greenmount area (eg renewing retaining walls)
- Question asked by AH: CACA youth club are not meeting just now because of restrictions. However, they did want to be able to organise to issue 'toasties' as they would do on a normal Friday night. However they have been told by Youth First and BHS that they can't do it. Question is Why? What's the difference between this suggestion to help with food poverty and Max's Meals.
- Action:** Cllrs will try to find out answer.

**Treasurers Report** . Report was unavailable for the meeting but CG will work with Treasurer to get information as soon as possible

**NB:** It should be noted that at October 2020 meeting, it was stated that £100 was not paid to BHS for F24 2020 when in fact the treasurer did manage to pay the money before lockdown

We did not pay the £20 subscription for the Mens Shed

At 29/10/20 meeting, it was agreed that we enter into a joint venture with Civic Week and sponsor £50 for Christmas Window Comp. Still to pay

At 29/10/20 meeting, it was agreed that we grant £200 for proposed trail at Community Woodland being organised by PC Wallace. Still to pay

At 28/01/2021, it was agreed to approach BTaylor (see AOB) to purchase books (15 x £5) to be donated to local schools.

### **7. Police Report:** See appendix

### **8. AOB**

An Ex Cowdenbeath resident (B Taylor) has written a childrens book (Scrambled with Care) with 100% of the proceeds going to the Erskine Charity who look after veterans. The book is about 2 children who are reunited during WW2. The story gives insight into the flying career of a RAF pilot during the second world war. The resident is looking for individuals/groups/businesses to purchase the books and donate them to local schools. It's a win win situation with the charity benefiting and local schools. Request sent to the CC to help in any way we can. Proposal made that we purchase 15 books and ask that they be donated to the local schools in Cowdenbeath. CCs in attendance at the meeting **agreed** to the proposal. Email had been issued to all community councillors prior to the meeting. DMcL and AD **also agreed** to the proposal **Action:** CG will contact BTaylor.

- As the meeting came to a close, a few of the CCs were having a chat amongst themselves and a suggestion was made about doing an anti graffiti video perhaps involving Cowdenbeath FC. . AH said he would approach contacts involved with Cowdenbeath FC and see if a video could be done. **Post Meeting Note:** AH has advised Cowdenbeath FC and Bluebell the Coo have agreed to the video being done in the next few weeks.

### **9. Next meeting.** The next meeting will be in about 6 weeks time and via Zoom. CG will propose a date for agreement. Then we will promote on Social Media Accounts and Central Fife Times.

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### Last week in Cowdenbeath...

#### Calls to the Police

Last week 209 calls were recorded for the Cowdenbeath area.

23 of these calls required an immediate response.

This led to 25 Crimefiles being recorded, which contain a total of 36 charges.



#### Crimes/Offences

Crimes/Offences recorded include, Assault, Breach of Bail, Domestic Assaults, Possession of Drugs Thefts, Threatening behaviour and Shoplifting.

Road Traffic Offences which include, No Insurance, Fail to stop for Police, Drunk Driving, Taking vehicle without consent of owner