

COWDENBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes for 20th January 2022

This meeting was held via ZOOM

- 1. PRESENT :** I Burt, L Rae, C Gourlay, W Aitchison, A Haddow, I Cuthbertson, A Lockhart, D McLean (joined 18.45). C Sneddon (had to leave approx. 19.10)

Co-opted Members	N/App
Elected Members	Cllrs A Campbell , A Bain, D Watt & G Guichan
Police	not able to attend as meeting is via zoom (security issues)
Guests	P Grandison (Coalfields Regeneration Trust)

2. APOLOGIES

Community Councillors	P Millmore, A Dziennik, A McGillivray
Co-opted Members	n/app
Elected Members	n/app
Police	PC L Sneddon

- 3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** - Approved: L Rae, Seconded: W Aitchison
The aim is to compile and distribute the minutes within 1 week of the meeting. Because meetings are held via Zoom at present, it is a little bit more difficult taking the minutes. It would therefore be appreciated, if attendees would take the time to read the minutes when they are issued and make any comments in amendments/adjustments at that time. Questions and the formality of approving the minutes will be discussed at the next CC meeting

4. MATTERS ARISING

Queens Canopy – The Woodland Trust are inviting Community Councils to apply for free trees which can be planted in local areas as part of the Queens Green canopy. IB is investigating on behalf of CC. Turns out to be a little bit more complicated than just planting trees. Need to identify land and obtain permission from landowner before even applying for trees. Thought that FC would have been approached by a few CCs to plant trees. Cllr Watt agreed to contact KJ at Parks and Open Spaces to see if he can shed any light on the matter....has he been asked. Got to be done by March. It may be that theres nothing else we can do. If there is no land available to plant the trees.

Love Cowdenbeath – Good program of events from Love Cowdenbeath Team. 1.) Festive Flier (29/11-5/12 had 8 businesses with offers. 2) Next up was the Christmas Trail where 15 businesses agreed to put posters in their windows. 15 kids put entries in. Unfortunately only 2 out of the 5 schools had participants despite all the schools being given details. Competition done in conjunction with Education Department. TWO winners were given prizes which were obtained from the Candee Man, High Street, Cowdenbeath. The others were given selection boxes. 3) Santa Comes to Town had approx. 100 kids attending over 3 days. All kids got a selection box and they were offered the chance to have their photo taken with Santa and his elves. The team need to sit down with FC and review how well the program went. Cost to the Love Cowdenbeath initiative was £852.39

There was also a winner for the Loyal Free competition – Isabel Muller – she was delighted that she'd won the competition and used her voucher to purchase goods from Lucie Sue Gifts and Coffee Shop. Cost to Love Cowdenbeath initiative was £50

The Love Cowdenbeath website (www.lovecowdenbeath.co.uk) is currently under re development.

Cost to Love Cowdenbeath was £500 to date. All Love Cowdenbeath monies paid from CC bank account.

Winter Lighting - It is really disappointing that the Winter Lighting is still not up and running. These lights went down well when they were first introduced and its nearly 3-4 years since they were working. They would bring much joy to the Town if they worked

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Christmas Lights Mixed reception to Cowdenbeath Christmas Lights in 2021. Some liked the lights/some didn't. The good thing is that Cowdenbeath Town now own their lights. Up until 2021, Cowdenbeath Town only owned 1 set of lights. And that's 'Merry Christmas from Cowdenbeath'. All the other lights were hired and paid for by Fife Council. Last year, it was agreed Cowdenbeath Community Council accept the budget for Cowdenbeath's Christmas Lights going forward. In short, 2021 was the beginning of purchasing lights on behalf of Cowdenbeath Town with the limited budget available. The budget available was approx. £8500 plus an amount of £1440 was obtained from 4 winds trust. Sounds a lot of money but with approx. £2500 – 3000 being required for installation/storage/retrospective repairs....etc...and then the cost of the lights themselves being anything from £200 - £500, the budget was soon utilised. There was some of the budget retained for potential repairs during the time they were up. Now is the time to begin building on the foundation achieved last year. If any of the CCs are interested in continuing on the Xmas Lights group, please let CG know. Intention would be to start discussions as soon as to check out ideas and look at costs for 2022. Probably 3-4 CCs would be good for the Xmas Lights group. Thanks also have to go to local firm MAR scaffolding. They put up the scaffolding which holds the 'Merry Christmas from Cowdenbeath' sign for FREE.

5. GUEST SPEAKER – Pauline Grandison, Coalfields Regeneration Trust

The CRT are interested in the Town House. There is nothing set in stone but CRT just wanted to let the CC know of their interest and potentially what the building could be used for. Once CRT have more information, they intend to organise public information events. The CC were also reminded that IB/CG/LR had already spoken with Community Enterprise who are acting for CRT via Zoom sometime in November 2021 and updated them with some of the ideas which have been suggested by residents (eg museum, location of the library, volunteer hub) One thing that CRT confirmed was that their intention was not to convert the Town House into flats.

The work that is being carried out just now on the Town House was organised by FC to ensure that the building is secure and wind and water tight. Funding for the work to be done came from the Scottish Government a few years ago.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Mossmorran Microgrants – Agreement reached amongst the CCs that the Microgrant Scheme will run from 1st Feb – 15th March. CCs should re-familiarise themselves with the guidance for Microgrants and encourage local individuals/groups to apply. Maximum grant will be £250. CG will begin the process. Details can be found on our website. www.cowdenbeathcc.org.uk

Climate Know How Training – Fife is taking action on climate change and is aware of the urgency declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019, committing to reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2045 and becoming a just and resilient community. But what does that mean for communities? W Aitchison contacted the organisers of the seminar on behalf of the CC and raised interest in their Climate KnowHow training Course. The free Climate Knowhow training will tell you everything you need to know to confidently discuss the climate emergency and climate action. It is delivered online of 4 two hour modules. Their next course will run weekly from Thursday 17th Feb 6.30 online via Zoom. If anyone is interested, we can arrange to send you a booking link once the page is set up. If this date doesn't suit us the group could deliver a course just for Cowdenbeath Community Council/community groups, but would need a minimum of 10 people to do so. **Action:** CCs to contact W Aitchison and let her know if they would be interested.

Train Station Opening Hours – Recent article in Press and on Social Media about Cowdenbeath Train Station ticket office hours to be cut. What do the CCs think and can they take the opportunity to canvass opinion on this issue. General consensus of opinion within the meeting that it is very disappointing that the hours are being cut. If the weather is cold or it's raining, travellers can currently take shelter in the ticket office. If the hours cut, that means they will be exposed to the elements. Reduced hours will mean the station will be more deserted. Just feels like it's a 'nail in the coffin' for the station. Suggestion was made that perhaps the commuters could be canvassed. No one volunteered to be able to do this. **Post meeting note:** On reading various press/social media articles on the subject, it appears that the RMT (who are firmly opposed to ticket office closures) will be talking to customers, staff and stakeholders about the proposed changes

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Flytipping/Graffiti/Vandalism – A Dziennik has been checking around the town in advance of perhaps submitting application to the Beautiful Fife Campaign (if it indeed it happens this year). Its very disappointing the amount of Flytipping, Graffiti and Vandalism that is in Cowdenbeath. Flytipping is on private land opposite Recycling Centre. Someone mentioned that Woodland Trust were assessing the position. AD is considering not submitting an application to the Beautiful Fife Campaign. He's approached various parties (eg FC) to try to get things cleaned up but unfortunately no action appears to happen. Cllr Campbell suggested the CC produce an Action Plan and get in touch with K McIntyre at Community Payback. During this discussion, the subject of Recycling Centre came up – question asked if there was a possibility that the centre could be opened more than the 3 days

Post meeting note: Cllr Guichan contacted appropriate FC department and heres the response

"Thank you for your email. At present we are still dealing with a high level of staff absence, which is not just with staff based at Recycling Centres, but also on the drivers required to service the waste containers

We have tried our best to allocate resource to meet demand over the whole of Fife and the only way it would currently be possible to increase the operating days of Cowdenbeath would be to remove days from other centres such as Dalgety Bay or Kirkcaldy. If we were to reduce the days at Kirkcaldy Recycling Centre, it would mean local residents would have to travel an average of 9 miles to access the next closest site which is Glenrothes, or between 7-8miles for Dalgety Bay/Inverkeithing residents to travel to their next nearest site

I appreciate that Cowdenbeath Recyling Centre is extremely convenient for local residents, however on the days that it is closed Lochgelly is always open and is only 3 miles away, which is significantly less distance that many Fife residents need to travel to their local centre. Access is only permitted by car or van, so the current service offering should not prohibit any local resident from being able to access recycling services on any day of the week, and certainly should not be accepted as an excuse for fly tipping

The position is constantly under review and we will look to increase service provision as soon as practically possible"

Future Community Council Meetings – General discussion held on returning to Face to Face meetings for Community Councils. Infection rates appear to be reducing and the general consensus was that we return to holding meetings from March 2022. Indication is that the Maxwell Centre will continue to be a testing centre so we will have to look at alternative venues. There is a possibility of the Leisure Centre and CG will liase with Cllr Watt re this possibility. Our February meeting will be via Zoom.

7. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Hill Street Closure – emergency drainage repair work to be carried out at Hill Street. Alternative route in place

Foulford Road flooding – due to repeated efforts by ward councillors, investigation works in to the flooding at Foulford Road are progressing and excavation works have been done

Skatepark – Following vandalism, the skate park was closed around mid Dec to consider the cost and repair of the remedial work required

Lochore Meadows – Project at the Meedies has been delayed for a yar

WW1 – Fencing erected up at the monument

Cuddyhouse Road – New farm building being erected which is why there is activity/roadworks. Question asked about the two big boxes beside the mast. What are they? Cllr Bain said he would check it out.

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8. TREASURERS REPORT .

IB issued spreadsheet (via email) to community councillors prior to the meeting containing details of our finances as at 20th January 2022. General update also given at meeting

RBS have transferred £300 into CC bank account as compensation for the hassle IB has had trying to get LR on as signatory on the account. What should be done with the payment? General discussion held and proposal made that the £300 should be transferred to the Xmas Lights project. CCs to give this some thought to this proposal or come up with another proposal. Agreement to be reached at next meeting.

As at 20th January 2022, and amount of **£36,489.35** is in CC account. Cheques paid out since last meeting were for Xmas Lights initiative, Love Cowdenbeath Initiative, Environmental maintenance and Poppy Scotland donation. We also received income from 4 winds trust (Xmas Lights) Police Project (Community Woodland project) and RBS compensation

It should be noted that the amount of £31,413.36 is ringfenced for the following projects/initiatives leaving £5075.99 available to Community Council

Beath Bulletin	£258.49	Microgrants	£2735.22
CRT Comms	£5505.00	CRT Underpass	£3316.42
CRT Sculptures	£2200.00	4 Winds Tea Dance	£1500.00
Xmas Lights	£1400.62	Love Cowdenbeath	£14097.61 (FC)

NB:

At 20/01/2022. It was confirmed to Treasurer that the agreement minuted at our 29/10/20 meeting should be actioned (IE treasurer to transfer £200 from CC funds to the Police Project (Community Woodland: Find the Coo) bringing the total for the project to £600

At 29/04/21 meeting, it was agreed that we would budget £200 towards maintenance costs for Environment Group work. AD will supply receipts as and when he pays out money. Amount of £75.12 paid to AD 27th August. Amount of £75.52 paid to AD December 2021

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9. AOB

Police Report : PC Sneddon is unable to attend virtual meetings due to security

As has been discussed at previous meetings, we need to supply details of what updates we want to hear at our CC meetings. CG has spoken at length with PC Sneddon and has suggested we want to hear the 'end result' for recent incidents in the Town. Also, what is the process when youngsters are involved in crimes reported. Since there have been incidents in the last 6 months where youngsters have been involved, it might help us understand what happens. CCs should have a think and suggest what we want to hear about at our next meeting

Here is the process in relation to a crime being reported involving youths

The Youth Offender Management Group (YOMG) exists to divert young people between the age of 12-17 years who commit a crime/offence to appropriate early & Effective interventions through partner agencies. To provide an immediate and proportionate response, moving the focus away from the formal justice system

The primary aims of the YOMG are

- To enable more timely and appropriate interventions for young offenders
- To reduce re-offending rates and the number of repeat young offenders, and
- To reduce the number of inappropriate referrals made to the childrens reporter and procurator fiscal.

This involves a unique multi-agency partnership approach focused on ensuring that youth offending is responded to in an efficient, effective and proportionate manner. Co-ordinated by Police Scotland, P Division, the partnership approach includes representation from

Police Scotland P Division
Scottish Childrens Reporter Administration
Fife Council Social Work
Fife Council Education Service
The Safer Communities Team

The multi agency partnership working have various different disposal options available to them

The following was also confirmed:

Enquiries are ongoing regarding the break in to Colin Sneddon Funeral Services at Woodend
Youths were charged with Willful Fire Raising and Vandalism and reported to Multi Agency Youth Offender Management

10. .Next meeting will be 17th February via ZOOM
