

Cowdenbeath Community Council

Minutes for 20th February 2020

1. **PRESENT :** I Burt, L Rae, A Stott, C Gourlay, D McLean, A Haddow, I Cuthbertson, P Millmore, A Lockhart (NINE COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS)

Co-opted Members

Elected Members

Cllrs A Campbell, A Bain, D Watt

Police

n/app

Members of the public

J Robertson, A Robertson, B Kay, P Galfskiy

Guests

n/app

2. **APOLOGIES**

Community Councillors

W Aitchison, S McGillivray, A McGillivray, A Dziennik

Co-opted Members

J Young

Elected Members

Cllr G Guichan

Police

PC L Wallace

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Proposed: L Rae Seconded: D McLean

● **MATTERS ARISING** - Actions from previous meetings which are still outstanding

- **Accessibility to Train Station** – Is there anything that can be done to get Network Rail to adapt the loading bay at Union Street to allow better accessibility to train station. CG wrote to Network Rail. Incident No is 200211-000573. No response to date.

PM advised that he had been informed that Scotrail would supply taxis to allow those with disability to get from Cowdenbeath station. PM will investigate and check it out

- How long are the contractors going to be in Morrisons car park – Once work on High Street finished. No timescales given though.

- **Brunton Square** – one of the CCs advised that 7 council vans were parked in the public parking bays. Can they not use the staff car park? Cllr Campbell said he would pick this up.

- **VE Day activities** – Need to know if any CC is interested in setting up a group to do something in May 2020 to commemorate VE day. IB/CG met with HA/TH from Civic Week. Agreed that Tea Dance will be held on 9th May 2020. See correspondence item

- **Traffic Lights at North End** – PM was in attendance at the site visit on 20/12. The timings of the Pedestrian Crossings was also mentioned. Not included in the questions/answers. Cllr A Campbell will pick this up
Post Meeting Note: Cllr A Campbell contacted P Clarke at Transportation. The timescale for the safety audit and changes/adoption is March/April. Will know after then what changes....etc... will be made

- **Town House consultation** – LR/IB/AM/WA /CG met with A Walker re Town House consultation. Technical report was discussed as was various ideas as to what the Town House could be used for. Community Councillors mentioned a number of ideas that residents had been talking about (eg move library to Town House, create a museum, transform it into a community hub) There is a fair bit of damage to the Town House and it's more than likely that the £400k set aside will be used to ensure the building is water tight, secure and upgraded to a state where it can be used going forward.

● **POLICE UPDATE** - Report sent in by PC Wallace

Calls to the Police

During the past month, Police Scotland have received 372 calls to the Cowdenbeath area.

This led to 41 crime records being created for investigation, 23 of the crime records reported have resulted in detected offences against offenders. The detection rate for all reported offences is 56 %.

Of the 372 calls received 11 % have resulted in crimes being reported.

The following is a snapshot of the reported crime within the area and the various operations being used to target crime of these types, this is in line with the current policing plan for the whole of Fife.

Operation Prospect: Drug Crime -

During this period there has not been proactive drugs warrants executed. However as intelligence is received Drugs warrant will be applied for and executed should there be sufficient ground.

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5 POLICE UPDATE (continued)

Operation Paramount: Road Safety

We have responded to 46 Road traffic matters, 25 of these calls related to road collision. 9 Road Traffic offences have been reported.

Operation Prevail: Anti-Social Behaviour

6 crimes of vandalism and 6 crimes of threatening behaviour have been recorded. Investigations so far have led to all domestic and hate related incidents being detected. .

Operation Path: Violent Crime

9 Assault charges have been recorded on Police systems since 15/1/2020. This has resulted in 4 being detected charges against offenders.

Operation Principle: Acquisitive Crime

6 acquisitive crimes have been reported in relation to theft, fraud and house breaking.

Community Involvement

PC Wallace is going to be trained on the Community Speedwatch and will be looking for volunteers to assist with enforcement activities. Prospective applicants should enquire via the Police Scotland Website.

• CORRESPONDENCE

• Wooden Sculptures Initiative

IB/LR/WA/AM/DM/CG met on 18/2 to discuss the next steps in this initiative. It was proposed that the next lot of sculptures should be placed at the Millenium Garden, The entrance to the Public Park, beside the recycling containers at Foulford Road, CuddyHouse Road and Dalbeath Marshes. CG will approach Parks & Open Spaces to check that it is okay to place sculptures on FC land. AMcG will approach Fife Coast and Countryside re Dalbeath Marshes. AMcG will approach the sculptor to discuss what we can get for our money.

Proposed animals are (based on previous discussions/current discussions):- Fox, Deer, Hedgehogs, Fish, Buzzards, Frogs, Pit Pony, Koala

• Compensation related to flaring at Mossmorran – Meeting on 30/1

IB/LR attended the meeting organised by Cllr D Ross Co-Leader of Fife Council to discuss the issue of compensation both to communities collectively and whether or not it would be possible to address individual compensation claims with a view to putting a proposition to Exxon Mobil. Approx 10 community councils were represented at the meeting. IB/LR advised it was not the meeting they thought it was going to be. No proposals or agreements re any monies were made by any community council. However, it was agreed that FC representatives could go to speak to ExxonMobil to establish and gauge their thoughts on the subject of compensation. These FC reps would then come back to the Community Councils and relay the outcome of the meeting with Exxon Mobil. Community Councils would then be in a position to establish the next steps in the matter. (eg consulting with their community on any proposals made) At this point, it was reiterated that the Community Council (having consulted with residents in the past) are supportive of an independent review being conducted (as per the motion passed at Fife Councils meeting). The sooner this happens the better. Our locally elected councillors are fully aware of this stance. In light of recent activity surrounding Mossmorran, it was also suggested that we 'dedicate' some time on our agenda to discuss the matter again. There have been differences of opinion canvassed in the past (eg some against Mossmorran, some for Mossmorran and some folks who don't really bother about Mossmorran) and we need to understand if that is still the same thought process.

Post Meeting note: suggestion made that we dedicate the last hour of our April meeting to talk about Mossmorran. That should give community councillors time to canvass opinion on the subject

- **Micro-Grant Scheme.** To date we have received approx 12 applications. The closing date is 28th February. If anyone knows of any groups/individuals that may qualify for the microgrant criteria, please encourage them to apply. Once 28th is past, CG will scan all applications in and email them out to community councillors. We will discuss applications at our meeting on 19th March.

- **Network Rail** - Incident logged with Network rail (11th Feb) about the state of the Train Station entrances/exits. Money has been spent upgrading Cowdenbeath so we are asking why Network rail can't spruce up the train station. Incident Number is 200211-000576. No response to date

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6. CORRESPONDENCE

- **BHS F24 2020** - #teamBeathRacing. Team looking for donations to purchase vehicle parts, race suits, helmets, gloves and to assist with transportation costs. Proposal was that £100 be donated by community council. Unanimous agreement by those community councillors in attendance at the meeting.

Post Meeting Note: AS delivered cheque to PC C McDougall at BHS week beginning 25th Feb

- **Mens Shed** – IB/WA/LR/SM attended a meeting on 31st January at Lochore Meadows about a mens shed. It was agreed at that meeting that it was not practical for Cowdenbeath to join forces with Lochore to establish a Mens Shed. The population of Cowdenbeath merits having one of their own. The speaker (Tim Green) at the meeting on 31st January gave a very informative update on all things to do with Mens Sheds and this was relayed to the CCs. Over 200 mens sheds in Scotland. 80% in Temp accommodation.

Question asked: Are Community Council prepared to facilitate a Mens Shed project? The CC won't run the shed but will help to get the shed up and running. Unanimous response of yes from cc's in attendance.

B Kay is also interested in being involved and agreed that his email address can be shared with the aforementioned community councillors. BK has already approached owner of premises at old Babygro.

Agreed that LR will set up meeting to take the project forward.

Unanimously agreed tonight that Community Council will fund the £20 towards mens shed subscription

CIVIC WEEK UPDATE– AH advised that this would be his last year doing the Gala. He's happy to help out after June but not to the degree he has been in the last xx years. Civic Week Committee have also agreed that there will be no Christmas Lights Switch on this year. Most of their committee have full time jobs and families and they are cutting back on the programme of events. Civic Week (ie the week leading up to the gala) will be done but other events will be ones done in conjunction with partner groups (eg 5K with Cowdenbeath FC/Jog Cowdenbeath). Christmas Lights were discussed but as there is a small group of folks from Civic Week/Community Council discussing the subject with FC and Blachere Lighting, we will wait to hear the update from that group. Touched on the subject of potentially crowdfunding for lights. Need to investigate further.

VE 75 - Civic Week Committee normally organise a Tea Dance in lead up to Gala. However on this occasion they have agreed to bring forward the date of the Tea Dance to 9th May and are willing to work with the Community Council to host a VE75 Tea Dance. CG/IB have met with HA/TH from Civic Week Committee and have put various tasks in motion. It was also advised that the CC would apply to 4winds trust for funding specifically for the Tea Dance. Aim would be to hire local events planners, local musicians.....etc...

7. COUNCILLORS REPORT - Cllrs A Campbell, D Watt, A Bain

- Town House – report being put to Area Committee on Monday. Unanimous support for building to be utilised.
- Virgin media – concern expressed by residents about repair of pavements after work undertaken by Virgin Media. Cllr Watt has followed up with the company and has been advised that some repairs have a temporary surface. Will be resolved shortly.
- Cllr Watt praised the SAMH event at CoOp – Dalbeath Crescent. Well attended and fair bit of money raised.
- Cllr Bain has been working with residents in the flats at the back of the library. The road needs to be adopted by FC before work can begin to fix it. Cllr Bain working to help make it happen.
- Cllr Campbell – will be attending a meeting on 26th Feb regarding the adoption of the road at Johnston Park

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8. OTHER REPORTS

Treasurers Report (spreadsheet distributed before meeting). Update on monies paid out/into account advised and discussed. Balance in CC's account as at **20th February 2020 : £20,263.45**

Projects	£ 4,266.42	ringfenced for CRT underpass project (£996.42 left from orig amt/£3270 trans from Mens Shed)
	£ 2,200.00	ringfenced for CRT sculptures project (£3000 recd Mar 2019/£800 pd out Aug)
	£ 5,505.00	ringfenced for CRT communications (£5665 recd/£160 pd to Beath Bulletin in Nov, agreed with CRT)
	£ 30.36	ringfenced for Mural at Grn Sq (£3000 recd from 4 winds trust. Chq £2970.50 pd 8/11)
	£ 1000.00	ringfenced for Mural at Grn Sq – received from Foundation Scotland Nov 19
(Sub Total	£ 13001.78)	
Grants	£ 4,000.00	ringfenced for Micro Grant Scheme
BB	£ 258.49	ringfenced for Beath Bulletin (payments received since Nov 19)
	£ 17,260.27	

Balance £ 3,003.18 Amount available to CC

TOTAL £ 20,263.45

Nb: Agreed at this meeting that £100 be paid to BHS and £20 be paid for subscription for Mens Shed. See Correspondence

9. AOB

School Colours – update from LR re CCs contribution to the school colours awards at BHS. Thank you from the school for cc's representation

Brunton Square – question asked about what's happening re Brunton Square. Will any plants be planted. There is still work to be implemented at Brunton Square (eg railings, plinths and installation of plants). Will be done in coming months.

Thursday Market at Central Park – question asked about running of Thursday market. Seems to have gone downhill in last few years. It's the same company who have always run the market.

Community Council PL Insurance – Local resident has asked if the litter pick which they are organising can be covered under CC Insurance. General discussion held/Insurance contract checked.....it was agreed that the CC Insurance will only be used for events which the CC organise. Our insurance is currently being renewed.

10 Next meeting is Thursday 19th March at 18.30 in the Maxwell Centre.