

Cowdenbeath Community Council

Minutes for 20th June 2019

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

Co-opted Members J Young
Elected Members Cllrs A Campbell, G Guichan & A Bain
Police
Members of the public Capt & Mrs J Robertson
Guests

2. **APOLOGIES**
Community Councillors A Lockhart, A McGillivray, S McGillivray
Elected Members Cllr D Watt
Co-opted Members
Police F Menzies, G Gardiner

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Proposed: P Millmore Seconded: L Rae

4. **MATTERS ARISING** - No matters arising

5. **POLICE UPDATE** - Report produced by PC Gardiner and sent into CC.
Over the last month there have been 410 calls made to Police in the Cowdenbeath area which are broken down as follows. 20 Drugs and substance abuse calls, 15 ongoing disturbance calls, 2 Hate crimes, 74 calls for Police information or for assisting a member of the public (advice only calls), 21 domestic incidents and 26 calls with regards to concern for a person.
Of these 410 calls there have been 46 crimes recorded. A large portion of these have been recorded as domestic incidents. One shop is also to be reported for selling alcohol to a person who was under the age of 18.
At the last meeting there was discussion over Fraud and bogus calls, over the last month there have been 3 reports of Fraud. Unfortunately there was monetary losses for two of these calls, both of which have been recorded as crimes and banks alongside the Police are carrying out investigations.
There continues to be problems with youths in the area, when we are on duty we do try and keep on top of them and they have been shifted away from the war memorial on a few occasions over the last month.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- **School Colours Awards** – LR attended the colours awards ceremony on 7th June. . Very enjoyable afternoon. Impressed when she heard about one young person who had done over 500hrs voluntary work in the community.
- **Junior Citizenship Awards.** LR attended this awards event along with Civic Week Rep. M Davidson.. Again another enjoyable event seeing awards being presented to the youth of today. Senior Award on 27th June.
- **Civic Week:** Chair (IB) congratulated the Civic Week Committee for yet another successful programme of events in the lead up to the Parade on Saturday, 15th June. There's a lot of hard work and effort goes on behind the scenes for these events and we are lucky to have a committed group of volunteers who take time out their busy schedules to organise a programme of events for Cowdenbeath residents and visitors to enjoy.. IB was particularly proud to have been able to take part in the crowning ceremony for the queen/princesses.
Civic Week Report (AH) – Whole week was Very successful. Tea Dance – well attended. Church Service held at the Salvation Army this year. Golf tournament went well. Wheelbarrow Race was fun and enjoyable. 5/6 teams taking part. Swimming Disco well attended. 5-a-sides – 16 primary school teams involved. Pet Show, Bowls tournament and Storytelling at Library...all went well and enjoyed by those in attendance.
The bunting and yarn bombing (covers on the bollards) ...etc.. were taken down on the Saturday/Sunday
And the Civic Week team and their families and volunteers will now take a well earned rest

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6. CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- **Coalfields Regeneration Trust.** The launch of the of the Community Action Plan was on 30th May and it was well attended. There were over 100 people there. Each of the groups who received funding did a presentation. What are the plans for the future? As yet the CRT steering committee have not agreed how to approach matters in the future and how other groups can be involved in the CAP. AH will hand over some copies of the CAP booklet to MP at Maxwell Centre to allow distribution at their Family Day on 6th July. Copies have already been distributed to Trinity (AS), North Church (LR), Library (AMcG)
- **Mini Roundabout at Morrissons.** General feedback from folks in the Town is that the roundabout has been well received. Certainly makes a difference. There is concern about people still parking at the Café/Bookies. Can double yellow lines/zig zags be put in place? It is actually illegal for cars to park on a roundabout and consequently there should be no need for double yellow lines. However the matter will be monitored. Will be good when the car park at Morrissons is actually opened up for use again.
- **Mossmorran** – LR/PM have agreed to represent Cowdenbeath CC at a meeting for local community groups at Mossmorran on 27th June. Questions/Comments which you would like LR/PM to raise should be given to them in advance of the meeting. EG: Based on previous discussions at our CC meetings and with residents, The plant has been open longer than originally expected, what is the shelf life of the plant? Are there any plans to decommission the plant? Ask about what the thoughts are on residents having issues with noise, flaring....etc...
Another flaring happened at weekend. Ground flaring stepped up. Looking at installing 4th steam generator. ExxonMobil have a meeting with Fife Council.
- **Establishment Scheme for Community Councils.** Fife Council are intending to review the establishment scheme for community councils. Community Councils have been approached asking for their views of what should be considered in the up coming consultation. The discussion by community councillors was held after this meeting was concluded. However it was mentioned at this part of the meeting that there was concern about the review taking place when in fact the Scottish Government may approve a report titled "Strengthening Community Councils". The report was only produced in April 2019 and there is concern that CCs within Fife may not be aware of the report and the impact it may have on their Community Council
Post meeting note: *The undernoted are community council comments sent to Fife Council*
Re CC elections. Is there any real need for a person who wishes to become a Community Councillor to have 2 people to nominate him/her. Would it not be sufficient for him/her to fill in their form and as long as they are over 16, on the electoral role for the area. live in the area....etc that is all that's needed.
8.0 Casual Vacancy. Can there be more clarity regarding filling vacancies within CCs. The wording in 8.2 focuses mainly on there being a list of unsuccessful candidates. In reality the chances are that no CC has a list of 'unsuccessful candidates', Needs to be clearer that recruitment campaigns organised by CC after the original election cannot be ongoing but must have a start/end date and have to be publicised either in local paper, social media, noticeboards. Community Councillors cannot just ask people they know to join them. Must be made open to the public ...similar to when the elections held. We don't think it's clear to CCs that this has to happen
9.7 Minutes: Is there any real need for minutes to be signed. Is it not sufficient for them to simply be approved at the next ordinary meeting. Also if minutes are to be made available for inspection....should there be a specific places for them to be held or does it just depend on the CC
As well as discussing the Establishment Scheme, we also referred to the recent report by SDSC and What Works Scotland titled *Strengthening Community Councils. Our discussions concerned the impact of the recommendations made in this report versus the consultation on the Establishment Scheme
If proposals are being put forward to CCs within Fife to consult on the Establishment Scheme, should the recommendations from the SDSC report be considered in the consultation
The SDSC report was only produced in April 2019 so there is a chance that CCs are unaware of the content of the report and therefore it may affect their thought process in terms on how they see the Establishment Scheme. Also, if the SDSC recommendations are accepted and implemented by the Scottish Government, what does that actually mean for the Establishment Scheme
- **Beath Bulletin.** Many thanks to all those volunteers who helped with the distribution of our newsletter. If anyone has any ideas for the content of the Christmas issue – let Chair/Secretary know
- **Fife Coast and Countryside Spring 2019 Newsletter** issued via email to community councillors

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6. CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- **Unconventional Oil and Gas consultation:** The Scottish Government has shared information about their Unconventional Oil and Gas addendum consultation. This follows on from a consultation in October 2018 on An Environmental Report for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Scottish Government's preferred policy position, updated preferred policy position and a partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA). More information about the addendum consultation and the previous consultation are available below. The consultation will close on 25th June 2019 and any questions should be sent to UOGSEAConsultation@gov.scot

7. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr A Bain advised about a possible car park at King Street. Cars already parking on the land but currently no dropped kerbs.

Cllr G Guichan commented on the railings at the Fountain (at the corner) are looking good. Has taken a while but they have now been reinstated.

General discussion on the issues surrounding car parking at Central Park. Awaiting outcome of discussions between Police/Fife Council.

Speedbumps being installed at Farm Road to assist with Traffic Management

Lockups being taken away at Blackburn Drive. Several complaints received about the upkeep of the open spaces and a wall which is 'falling apart'. This matter is in process of being resolved. Has been referred to Housing who are responsible for the land

8. OTHER REPORTS

Treasurers Report (spreadsheet distributed before meeting). Balance in CC's account as at 20th June 2019 : £19,692.04

Amount	£ 14,635.00	ringfenced for Community Futures Projects/CRT communications
	£ 1,000.00	ringfenced for art sculptures (mossmorran wind farm community funding)
	£ 250.00	ringfenced for Remembrance Day Services (<i>money recd from WW1 memorial sponsors</i>)
SUB TOT	£ 15,885.00	
Balance	£ 3,807.04	available to the Community Council.
TOTAL	£ 19,692.04	

NB. Annual Grant received from Fife Council (£1652.20)

Experiencing problems with changing signatories on cheques (ie IB will now replace AH as signatory) Hoping to resolve matter soon.

Environment Group – Ally has been working with Living Solutions on the Community Woodland.

Env Group has cleaned the 'Welcome to Cowdenbeath' sign at A92. Other signage needs cleaning.

Back of Baynes is an eyesore. Rubbish overspilling from bins. (**Post meeting note:** rubbish has been cleared up)

Civic Week – see above

Foodbank – Still as busy

Street Pastors – 8 pastors focussing on Cowdenbeath. Have had interesting conversation with some youths regarding the burning of wheelie bins.

Mossmorran - see comments under correspondence

CACA – tomorrow night is last night before holidays. Considerable numbers of young folks still attend CACA

4 winds trust – Successful applicants at most recent meeting were: Lumphinnans Sports Club, Lumphinnans United football club, Lumphinnans tenants and residents association, Lochgelly Albert colts, Cowdenbeath & District Probus club, LADAMA, Lochgelly bowling club, Lochgelly Community Christmas lights, Auchtertool Church and Lochgelly Albert junior FC. Next meeting will be sometime in September.

Maxwell Advisory Panel – AGM was held on 19th June. The CC needs to work more closely with new panel. LR is our representative on the Panel

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9. AOB

Question sent to CC via Facebook Page: why do the schools not do compulsory swimming lessons within school time? Action taken by Cllr A Campbell

Post meeting response from Cllr A Campbell: Swimming lessons were, in the past, provided for all children when they reached primary 6.

This provision was removed in August 2011 as part of the budget set in February of that year. At that time it was recognised that the majority of pupils in P6, receiving swimming lessons, could already swim.

To mitigate the impact of this decision there was a publicity campaign at that time to encourage parents to make sure their children can swim and to encourage parents to spend time with their children when they learn to swim, making swimming a family activity.

Additionally, the Leisure Trust introduced campaigns such as Quid a Kid and free swimming over the holiday periods etc. These are running, this year, for the full 7 weeks.

10. Next meeting will be Thursday 15th August @ 18.30 in the Maxwell Centre.