

COWDENBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(Minutes for 17th June 2021)

1. PRESENT :

Community Councillors	I Burt, L Rae, C Gourlay, I Cuthbertson, W Aitchison, A Haddow, D McLean, A Lockhart
Co-opted Members	n/app
Elected Members	Cllrs A Campbell, A Bain & G Guichan (GG joined meeting 18.35)
Police	n/app
Members of the public	

2. APOLOGIES

Community Councillors	P Millmore, A McGillivray, A Dziennik
Co-opted Members	n/app
Elected Members	Cllr D Watt
Police	

3. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** - 29th April 2021 Approved L Rae, Seconded D McLean
20th May 2021 Approved C Gourlay Seconded I Cuthbertson

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 29/04/2021 - All Microgrant decisions made. Confirmation of awards and cheques sent to each individual applicant. Details of all awards also sent to Foundation Scotland. We have received Microgrant money from 2020 main fund. We will begin to ask for next MicroGrant applications end July/beg Aug.
- 20/05/2021 - Recruitment campaign has begun. Article has appeared in Central Fife Times (17th June) and has been posted on our Facebook page. As yet no response. Cllr A Campbell has suggested that the CC perhaps organise to canvas for applicants in High Street (perhaps on a Saturday). Community Councillors to consider this idea.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- Recycling Centre.** With Coronavirus restrictions easing, The question of when the booking system at the Cowdenbeath Recycling Centre will be scrapped has been asked of community councillors and elected councillors by residents over the last month or so. Community Councillors have been canvassing opinion in the few weeks and the outcome of their conversations was shared at the meeting. There were various opinions of the booking system - some positive, some negative. But it was apparent that the overwhelming response from face to face discussions with local residents is to scrap the booking system and return to the previous drop in system. The community councillors themselves were also unanimous that the booking system should be scrapped. It was advised that there will be an Environment & Protective Services Sub Committee meeting on 24th June where a review of the operation of the Recycling Centres booking systems will be held. It was indicated that the recommendation in this report is to retain the booking system at all Recycling Centres. There was concern expressed about this recommendation and the hope is that our elected councillors will relay to their colleagues on that committee the depth of feeling in Cowdenbeath against this recommendation..
- Waste Bags for Brown Bins.** A question was raised with elected councillors prior to this meeting asking why Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre charge for waste bags but they are currently free from the Library, Maxwell Centre (They were also previously available free from the Recycling Centre but not at the moment) The scenario was mentioned that when the Library moves to the Leisure Centre, you could have the situation that you go in the back door at Centre and you get the bags for free/you go in the front door at the Centre and it costs £1.30 per roll. Can the situation be clarified. Cllr Watts current investigations have identified that there are differences of opinion between Fife Council and Fife Sports Leisure Trust as to why there is a charge. Cllr Watt will continue to progress the matter
- Expanded Fife Bus recovery Service.** The Community Council was pleased to hear the news that elected councillors on the Policy & Co-ordination Committee have approved the timeline and funding to deliver an expanded Fife Bus Service ensuring a Ring & Ride Service is provided across the whole of Fife to support recovery post COVID-19. A few years back at one of our cc meetings, The lack of this type of service in Cowdenbeath was raised and it was advised at that time, that the money to provide such a service was not available. Questions were asked about key milestone dates leading up to April 22 when the new service will be available. **Action:** Cllr Campbell will send out the appropriate report. **Post Meeting note.** Email with report attached received from Cllr Campbell and sent to Community Councillors on 18th June 2021.

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- **Royal Voluntary Service.** RVS have been asked by Fife Council to develop and promote a service in Central & West Fife where volunteers use their own cars to transport and assist older clients who are unable to use public transport, to various appointments throughout Fife. RVS are looking for volunteers and clients. Hope is Community Council can help promote this service. Has been promoted on Social Media

- **4 winds Trust.** IB and AMcG are the Trustees representing Cowdenbeath Community Council on the 4 Winds Trust. Both attended the Annual Members meeting held on 17th May. All Cowdenbeath CC members were invited to attend. New resolution passed at the meeting - to amend the current wording of Clause 8.2.5 to - If any of the Community Councils within the Community should cease to exist, any successor thereto shall take their place. If there is no such successor body, or if a Community Council fails to make nominated community representation, the Board of Trustees will be ensured by advertising the two Trustee vacancies per lapsed Community Council within the area of the Communities previously served by that lapsed Community Council or when a Community Council fails to offer nominated representation. Nominations from within the area previously served by that lapsed Community Council, or where no offer of nominated representation is given, will then be accepted. Should more than two nominations be received, Trustees for that area will be appointed following a community vote, the form of which will be decided by the existing Charity Trustees. This process will be publicly advertised.

Minutes from the Annual members meeting and the subsequent trustees AGM meeting (which confirms office bearers going forward) will be distributed when available. 4 winds trust is still ongoing but there are some formalities to be sorted out as a result of new trustees (eg change signatories for cheques). IB/AMcG will keep us informed of position.

- **Christmas Lights** – As previously advised owing to diminishing Fife Council budgets, it was decided at the Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting in September 2020 to set aside a 3 year sliding scale budget for the management of Cowdenbeath Christmas Lights. The budget will be available to the Community Council to work on a proposal to manage the Christmas lights from now on in. Lumphinnans CC are also included in this proposal. A few community councillors met a few weeks ago and there's lots to take in. IB is going to take on and chat to FC to try to get more information.

- **Environment Group** – There have been a few issues trying to get the accounts independently examined. However the issues have been overcome and the accounts to 31/03/2021 have now been handed over to the independent examiner. CG will report to Community Council when accounts returned.

As advised in previous minutes the CC has agreed to a budget of £200 to allow AD to continue the maintenance work which the Env Group usually carries out (eg: ensuring equipment in working order, planting millennium garden). Another task which usually happens around now, is the planting up of the planters on the High Street by Lady Helen Nurseries. A proposal was put to the Community Councillors via email asking them to agree to fund the cost of £360 to allow this work to be done. Matter was also discussed at this meeting. 10 community councillors in agreement to fund the work (AD has a conflict of interest re this matter and consequently did not vote)

- **Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils** – The amended Scheme was agreed by Fife Council at their meeting on 11th March 2021. Copies of the amended Scheme were issued to Community Councillors at the time. It is also available via the link on our Website. The purpose of raising the matter at this meeting was for Cowdenbeath Community Councillors to formally adopt the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils as our constitution. All those in attendance at this meeting agreed to formally adopt the scheme as our constitution.

6. COUNCILLORS REPORT

- **Crown Hotel** – In response to an enquiry from the owner of the hotel, Cllr Campbell advised him it is entirely up to himself to progress. The hope is there will be some movement on the matter.
- **Johnston Park** – FC were looking to formally adopt Johnston Park at a recent area committee meeting. However, there are a few 'snags' with work which has been done by previous contractor. It has been agreed to delay the adoption to August meeting until 'snags' are resolved.
- **Youth programme for the Summer** – FC have confirmed that £40k will be put into this programme. Approx £1.2million also coming from the Scottish Government.

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7. **Treasurers Report** . IB issued (via email) to community councillors prior to the meeting, a spreadsheet containing details of our finances as at 17th Jun. General update given at meeting.

Pointed out that unfortunately the Microgrant Cheque for CACA was paid into the account of the CC rather than CACA. AH known in RBS and they paid into wrong account. Matter resolved with a new cheque being written and delivered to AH.

IB confirmed that she is in the process of completing the appropriate bank forms to ensure correspondence is directed to her as the new treasurer and signatories on CC account updated. Community Councillors at this meeting agreed that LR will be the third signatory on the account (along with IB and CG)

As at 17th June 2021 an amount of £36,530.99 is in CC bank account,

The amount of £32,160.81 is ringfenced for the following projects/initiatives leaving £4370.18 available to CC

Beath Bulletin	£ 258.49	MicroGrants	£3880.90
CRT Communications	£5505.00	CRT Underpass	£3316.42
CRT Sculptures	£2200.00	4winds Tea Dance	£1500.00
Love Cowdenbeath	£0.00 (Bids)	Love Cowdenbeath	£15500.00 (FC)

NB: We did not pay the £20 subscription for the Mens Shed as suggested at a previous meeting.

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 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.

At 17/6/2021 meeting, it was agreed to pay £360 to Lady Helen Nurseries for the cost of planting up the planters on the High Street.

At 17/6/2021 meeting, it was agreed to donate £120 to CowdenInTheCommunity to sponsor kids on their summer camps

8. **AOB** Proposal put forward that Cowdenbeath Community Council donate £120 to the Cowden In The Community Summer Camps. Cowden in the Community is a thriving, sustainable, community focused organisation providing positive life enhancing experiences using sport and football in particular to help people throughout the Cowdenbeath area and Fife achieve their goals. Our donation would hopefully be able to give a free place at each camp to someone who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. Email had been sent to CCs in advance of the meeting (AD/AMcG responded via email saying Yes) and a vote was taken at the meeting (Unanimous for proposal). Proposal was agreed. (nb: AH had conflict of interest and was unable to vote). CG will contact Cowden In the Community.

Exxon Mobil Message received today. The safe re-start of our plant operations is scheduled to begin and run through next week. We will take the time required to ensure this is done safely, with all equipment being fully tested at each stage. Actions have been taken to contain the majority of flaring with within the ground flare, but you may also see limited elevated flaring.

Mural in Green Square – expectation is that the scaffolding will come down next week. Grass at green square has been cut, the planters are in process of being planted up and a request has gone in to remove the word 'FREE' from in front of the BE. Green square should look great.

9. **Date of next Meeting.** Agreed that next meeting will be Thursday 19th August 2021 via Zoom at 18.30