

Cowdenbeath Community Council

Minutes for 19th September 2019

1. Present: I Burt, L Rae, A Stott, A Haddow, A Dziennik, P Millmore,
D Mclean, A Lockhart, I Cuthbertson, W Aitchison.

Co-opted Members – J Young

Elected Members – Cllr A Bain, Cllr A Campbell

Members of the public – J Robertson, A Robertson, A Bain

Guests – Sarah Roxburgh, Fife Council Community Manager

2. Apologies – C. Gourlay, A McGillivray, S McGillivray,
Cllr G Guichan

3. Approval of Minutes – Proposed D McLean

Seconded A Stott

4. Matters Arising – No matters arising. Proposed D McLean

Seconded A Haddow

5. Police Update – No correspondence available at present

6. Correspondence – Beautiful Fife Campaign 2019 – Ally felt disappointed with the judge's decisions on some points (marked down with the garden at the Maxwell Centre and marked down with the tree arch at the Millennium Garden) but was pleased with the awards for both the woodlands and the bollards award. Cllr Campbell praised all the hard work that had been done.

Civic Week – Cowdenbeath 1st 5K run. Alex noted that the weather was perfect for the event and was well attended from far and wide. A letter had been received from Crossgates Community Council praising the organisation of the day and how well it had been attended. This was collaboration with the Civic Week, Jog

Cowdenbeath, Cowdenbeath FC and G Greig. Alex reported that Gordon Greig had sponsored the medals and finally he thanked all the Marshalls and volunteers for their support on the day.

Great British High Street Competition – Irene and Angela meeting with the judges on Friday 20th September and judging would take place between 1.00pm – 3.00pm. Voting was still open until *Monday 7th October* and Irene encouraged everyone to keep voting until then.

Underpass Project – Irene reported on behalf of Angela that work with the youth group was going well and they were very enthusiastic to be involved in this project. It was suggested that the youth group be invited to the November meeting so they could share their vision of the underpass. A discussion followed regarding funding and Irene asked Sarah Roxburgh about matched funding to which she suggested putting in an application for that.

Remembrance Day Services – Irene advised she had asked Alex if he wanted to be involved and noted that he had been the mainstay of this. However he stated he would now be able to attend Hill of Beath Service for Remembrance Day. Irene fully understood his decision regarding his uncle. Although there were still arrangements to be made, Irene advised of a proposed change. Between 13.30pm and 14.00pm there would be a Guard of Honour (Cadets), a piper and the minister (D.Dobbie from North Church) would be up at the WW1 Memorial. This will be followed by a parade led by Kingdom Brass Band leaving the Library to the Town House at 14.25pm with the service starting at 14.30pm led by the Salvation Army. At this point it was unsure about the Sea Cadets and the Air Cadets but Bob Richardson of the Army Cadets is working on this. Both the Salvation Army and the North Church will be involved in the Remembrance Day and all the names from WW1 will be displayed at the Town House. Irene advised that the cost to the Community Council last year was over £1,000.

7. Councillors Reports – Cllr Bain gave an update of the Traffic Warden attendance in Cowdenbeath. He then discussed his meeting with Exxon that week (minutes of which would be available on the Fife Council website in the near future) and noted that the plant was shut at the moment. There had been problems with the steam generators and discussions were ongoing about 4 new steam generators and the possibility of portable steam generators. Pete Millmore was concerned about the ongoing flaring. Cllr Bain explained that ground flaring would continue as they have to burn off the ethane that Exxon is not using at the moment. He further explained that £140 million was being invested into the plant in the future and there would still be one stack flaring and ground flaring. Cllr Bain then reported that Exxon would no longer be distributing Pantomime tickets to the local communities but instead would make a donation to the theatre group to show their continued support.

Cllr Campbell spoke about his attendance at Beath High School for the meeting regarding play parks and play areas in the community. There had been an attendance of 15-20 local people which he noted was the highest turnout in Fife. Pete Millmore praised the facilities at Townhill and asked why Cowdenbeath could not have similar. It was noted that The Meadows had been chosen as our designated area by the Cowdenbeath Area Committee. Cllr Campbell explained that there was funding available but the right starting place would be for a “like minded” group to get together and get the ball rolling for play areas and spaces within our own community of Cowdenbeath.

8. Introduction to Sarah Roxburgh – Fife Council Community Manager. Irene introduced Sarah and explained that she had taken over from Kevin Sayer who has now retired. Sarah was very keen to work with communities and to give her support wherever this was possible. She was very keen and excited to continue on from Kevin and felt very positive about what she could bring. Sarah noted that she needed time to get to know and meet with people in the community to consult and better understand their needs. Cllr Campbell asked Sarah if she could look into

money available (£50,000) for shop frontages and she agreed. Discussion followed about being able to tie in with the 8 Headline points of the Action Plan and Cllr Campbell stated that he had been heavily involved with Kelty Communities action plan. He felt it was very important to keep groups who had received funding involved in the action plans as an ongoing project. Sarah agreed that this was important and asked for everyone's patience while she "finds her feet" in her new post. Irene thanked her for meeting with the Community Council and welcomed her at future meetings.

9. Other Reports – Treasurers Report – Alan gave an update of the accounts and asked if there were any questions. There were none and he was thanked for his continued diligence with the accounts.

Sculpture Update – Money had been available for 3 sculptures which it was hoped would be in place at the beginning of October. Further funding will be sought for more sculptures to cover all Cowdenbeath's Gateways.

Environmental – Ally asked that we all report anything we see which we feel is untoward. He also discussed Japanese Knotweed which is thriving in some parts of our community.

Civic Week Committee – Alex informed that they had just had their AGM and that he had agreed to stay on as Chairperson for a year. He noted however that they could do with more volunteers. Discussion followed about the upcoming Festive Season with the Christmas Fayre/Party happening *on 7th Saturday December*. Alex expressed his concern about using the green square and the application of licences for this. Irene advised that Christine was already looking into this and Sarah Roxburgh agreed to seek more accurate information about this.

4 Winds Trust – Alex reported that the trust had met on *Monday 16th September* and several groups had been awarded various amounts. Some organisations benefitting from this were the Street Pastors, Lochgelly Indoor Bowls, Fife Headway, CACA Youth Group and Cowdenbeath Community Council.

C.A.C.A – Alex stated that staffing the youth club was very difficult. Staff was absent due to illness and Community Worker, Mike Payne was moving to Inverkeithing for a year. 78 children from the youth club have now moved on and can no longer attend. A scheme has also started whereby children can get something to eat on arrival at the club. Toasties and cereals are also available at a minimum cost.

Street Pastors – Wilma reported that the Street Pastors are now celebrating 5 years since they began with 9 street pastors and 4 rail pastors. They were meeting soon to discuss the future and their vision for the Street Pastors.

Foodbank – Diane reported that the foodbank was still very busy. Cllr Campbell pointed out that his daughter was organising a fundraising dinner at the Garvock House Hotel in Dunfermline on the *1st November* and tickets were £10.00 the proceeds of which would benefit the foodbanks.

10.AOB – Irene took the opportunity to explain about the thinking behind the large red word “BE” in the green square as there had been wee bit confusion about the meaning. She spoke about it being introduced in 2015 when trying to promote Cowdenbeath for example “be Proud” etc., it jogged some of our memories and we agreed we’d seen it.

Irene then went on to congratulate Jean Young for attaining Women Who Rock “Business Woman of the Year” award.

Irene then gave an update of the success achieved by “Homestart” organisation in Cowdenbeath.

VE Day Celebrations – Irene spoke about this event coming up in 8th – 10th May 2020 and Community Councillors agreed we could support this. Alan volunteered that he would speak to his Church about this (Trinity Church Cowdenbeath). Irene suggested getting back to Christine with any thoughts or ideas of celebrating this.

Woodmill School/Beath High School – Woodmill had praised our High School for their efforts and warm welcome when accommodating some of the teachers and pupils.

Noticeboard – Diane asked if there was an update of the possibility of a noticeboard in the green square. It was deemed unlikely due to a lack funding but Irene said that she would look into this.

Art Exhibition – “Folk Who Paint” are having their first Exhibition on *Saturday the 12th October* at the Maxwell Centre..

11.Date of Next Meeting – *Thursday 17th October* at 6.30pm at the Maxwell Centre. The format may change given Mossmorran have asked to address the Community Council.