

Cowdenbeath Community Council

Minutes for 17th October 2019

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

Co-opted Members

J Young

Elected Members

Cllrs A Campbell, G Guichan, A Bain & D Watt

Police

Members of the public

B Kay, L Kay, J Glen, C Graham, H Anderson, M Stokes, J Robertson, A Robertson, A Ennis

Guests

Exxon Mobil Reps came at second part of the meeting

2. **APOLOGIES**

Community Councillors

I Burt, I Cuthbertson, S McGillivray and W Aitchison

Elected Members

Co-opted Members

Police

L Wallace, G Gardiner

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Proposed: D McLean

Seconded: A McGillivray

Amendments to Sept minutes:

- Item 6 . Civic Wk 5k Run – Joint venture with Cowdenbeath FC, Civic Week Committee, Jog Cowdenbeath and G Greig who sponsored event. Medals donated by Jog Cowdenbeath
- Item 6 . Councillors report: problems with steam generators and discussions were ongoing....Flaring would continue as Shell. £140m was being invested into the plant in the future and there would be one stack for flaring when required.
- Item 9. 4 Wind Trust – CACA did not receive any funding

4. **MATTERS ARISING** - License for Green Square – CG attending meeting on Monday coming. Concern expressed about the number of licenses needed to put events on (Entertainment License, Traders License, Section 89 (Stages) License, Green Space License. Could one group acquire one license for Green Square.?

5. **POLICE UPDATE** - Report produced by PC Gardiner and sent into CC.

In total there have been 317 calls to the Cowdenbeath area. Calls of note to the area is a number of Public Nuisance and disturbance calls, the majority of which include youths. There have been 8 assault calls, 25 concern for person and missing person calls and 39 Road traffic calls.

Of these there have been 47 recorded crimes including 1 incident of indecent exposure which is currently being investigated, 7 thefts including theft by shoplifting and 3 vandalisms and as always an array of domestic related crimes.

Of note in the area is Youth problems, most notably in the woods behind Gleaner Gas on Broad Street, Cowdenbeath, the Marsh at the back of Hill of Beath and across from Moss Side Road and the wooded area to the rear of Netherton Road. Problems in these locations seem to be the same group of around 50 youths aged between 12-15 who have been known to steal wheelie bins to set them alight and drink causing some mess. In order to tackle this, PC Wallace is leading conversations with both the Council and the Fire Brigade as well in order to prevent this from happening further. We will be putting leaflets through doors at the worst affected areas to make them aware of the problems and what they could do to help us combat it, dedicating resources from other areas on a Friday and Saturday night to try and flood the area with Police to send the youths away. We have also identified a number of the children involved and will continue to work with Beath High School to raise awareness and attempt to nip it in the bud. Any residents in that area should contact the Police the moment a group of youths go into the wooded area so we can try and flush them out early.

AD confirmed that he'd been on a site visit to the Community Woodland with PC Wallace. PM confirmed that police had been at Leuchatsbeath advising residents to put their bins away.

Note: Sometimes when residents phone, those at the other have no idea where Leuchatsbeath is. Perhaps local authorities should ensure their maps of the area are up to date.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Dementia Training** – Community Councillors and Civic Week Committee are scheduled to go through training on 23rd October
- Mossmorran Windfarm Community Fund** – This panel is due to sit on 6th November. There are 15 applications from local groups in the Cowdenbeath, HoB and Crossgates and Mossgreen areas.

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6 **CORRESPONDENCE (continued)**

- **Civic Week Committees Christmas Programme of Events:**

Sunday, 24th November Christmas Lights Switch On, Childrens Christmas Party/Fair at BHS on 7th

December, Christmas Community Choir at BH on Sunday 15th December.

Final details will be ironed out at next Civic Week meeting. Confirmed the Scottish Night will be early next year sometime.

- **Incidents at Community Woodlands – see Police report for details**

- **Beath Cemetery/Community Action Day – Group of pop**

Community members will be holding a day of action at Beath Cemetery in Cowdenbeath, picking up litter and sweeping leaves and debris from the paths and roads. If anyone is free on the day, why not join them

The day of action follows months of complaints about potholes, dog mess, litter, overflowing bins and uncut grass at the Fife Council-run cemetery. Matters have begun to improve following a number of meetings between bereavement services staff, the community and local councillor Darren Watt.

- **Road at the side of the Library**

All four elected councillors are trying to find a solution to the problem with this road. The expectation is that on completion of the works, the contractor shall make good any damage on the private access to the housing association flats caused by the construction traffic. The contractor, Muir Construction, carried out a pre-start photo dilapidation survey of the private access, which FC has a copy of. FC Clerk of Works also took some photos a short time later. Most of the damage on the private access pre-dates the start of the construction works. On completion of the works, the contractor intends to make good any damage caused by the construction traffic. This will be mainly filling in the pot holes, but they should be leaving it in a better condition or at least no worse condition than when they started works.

The existing vehicular access serving the flats is not adopted by Fife Council and is not owned by Fife Council. The footpath between the flats and the High Street is adopted. Fife Council does not have any information relating to the ownership of the private access. I expect that the housing association may have an interest in it, but as it provided vehicular access to the former North End Park the developer has a right of access over the private access. I had no objection to the existing private access being used as the construction vehicle access as there was no alternative until the new vehicular access from the High Street/Foulford Road junction was formed .

Parking and Transport Bill

if you want to know more about the bill, here's the link to the website

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/transport-scotland-bill/parking-and-the-transport-scotland-bill/>

General discussion on Transport (Scotland) Bill which will introduce a national ban on pavement and double parking to make it easier for local authorities to ensure our pavements and roads ... a consistent approach in how they enforce the new parking restrictions ...

Questions asked about how Fife Council will enforce this. There are already issues in most towns re parking on the pavements, how can Fife Council enforce it. Lots of ideas suggested, but until FC has the chance to decide what they are intending to do.

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Passenger Transport Services. Fife Council is starting a long-running engagement exercise to try and increase public participation in designing core services and deciding how a significant portion of its budget is spent.

They are asking residents to find out more about the passenger transport services they provide, which help lots of people travel around Fife for a variety of reasons. They invest £22million each year in these services.

Over the year ahead, they want Fifers to help them explore whether their resources could be used differently, for better results. This is about working together to design the best solutions for the future.

A range of information has been published online at <http://our.fife.scot/transportingpeople> to help people understand what they invest in at the moment, and why they think it's important. This includes supported local bus services, rail concessions, school transport and demand responsive transport.

- Right now people have a chance to understand the impact these services have on Fifer's lives, how much they cost and to tell the council what they think already works well, or to ask questions about the services.
- In October and November, we'll ask what solutions people would like to see in an ideal world. This will involve an interactive online conversation where residents will be able to rate and comment on each other's ideas, as well as face to face conversations with transport users.
- Early in 2020, we'll start to consider how 'the dream' matches up with policy, legislation, existing contracts and other practicalities, so that we can refine ideas and gather some more specific feedback.
- Later in 2020, we'll put some concrete options up for a vote.

This is not a traditional consultation process. Several phases of engagement, including opportunities to get involved offline as well as online, will explore a complex set of services, which are inextricably linked to other public services and wider aspects of community life. This is one of the ways in which FC are taking forward participatory budgeting (PB) in Fife. This is a new approach for councils and will be learning from it as they go. You can find out more about PB, and what they are aiming to achieve through <https://pbscotland.scot/charter>

7 COUNCILLORS REPORT

See items under correspondence ...Road at side of library, public transport bill, beath cemetery action.

8 OTHER REPORTS

Treasurers Report (spreadsheet distributed before meeting). Update on monies paid out/into account advised
Balance in CC's account as at **17th October 2019 : £22,141.91**

Amount	£ 2,952.37	ringfenced for CRT underpass project (£3000recd Mar 2019)
	£ 2,200.00	ringfenced for CRT sculptures project (£3000recd Mar 2019)
	£ 3,270.00	ringfenced for CRT mens shed
	£ 5,665.00	ringfenced for CRT communications
	£ 3,000.00	ringfenced for Mural at Green Sq (recd from 4 winds trust)
	(£ 17, 087.37)	
	£ 250.00	ringfenced for Remembrance Day Services (<i>money recd from WW1 memorial sponsors</i>)
	£ 2,000.00	ringfenced for Micro Grant Scheme
	£ 377.29	ringfenced for Beath Bulletin
	£ 19,714.66	
Balance	£ 2,427.25	available to the Community Council.
TOTAL	£ 22,141.91	

Note: End figure was correct (£22,141.91) on original Oct minutes. However, the totals were added up incorrectly and were £1000 out in that it was shown that £3427.25 was available to CC. Error mentioned at CC meeting in November and adjusted

9. AOB This part of the meeting came to a close to allow us to meet with Exxon Mobil reps

10. Next meeting will be Thursday 21st November @ 18.30 in the Maxwell Centre.

After this part of the meeting closed, there was a question and answer session with ExxonMobil representatives

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Discussion with ExxonMobil representatives including Stuart Neil, Jacob McCallister, Catherine Cubitt + 1 other representative

The representatives advised that ExxonMobil wish to engage with local communities. They are currently going round local Community Councils to understand what matters to them and give residents the opportunity to ask questions directly. ExxonMobil want to hear from residents and want to know what areas they need to improve upon

Before question and answer session JM gave background information to himself and the plant and an update on what has happened recently. After the 'intro', there were questions from those in attendance. The questions covered flaring, the BAT test, recent explosions, noise/light issues, why Cowdenbeath was selected when the plant opened, compensation...etc... Some of the questions/answers are detailed below. The intention going forward is for ExxonMobil to continue dialogue with local communities. Hopefully they will be able to attend other cc meetings in the future. Reference was made to the recent communications of an investment of £140m....didn't go into low level detail of what the money would actually be spent on. (eg repairs or upgrade)

Q. How do you see this going forward?

A. Couple of things – more education of what ExxonMobil do. Anyone is more than welcome to visit the site. Hoping to get out to talk to communities a few times each year

Q. Talking about the lifespan of the plant. Do you have an idea of how long you will be in the community?

A. Fife is one of the youngest plants. Simple answer is we don't know how long we will be here. We will maintain as long as in operation

Q. It has been mentioned that ExxonMobil are open to discussing what the communities want. Recent articles online and in the press indicate that local communities want more Air Quality Monitors. Can we have them?

A. There is no evidence to support the need to have more air quality monitors. Air Quality monitoring is done by an independent source and their data is available. .

Q. What do you say to people who have been complaining about illnesses, noise issues, light issues?

A. We understand people have been complaining. We are improving the steam injection process to the stack which will reduce the noise and vibrations. A new ground flare is being introduced which means less light pollution. We need to build trust by action and listen to what the residents are saying.

Q Why does there need to be flaring

A. The flare is designed to burn to make the plant safe. Doesn't matter whether it's a ground flare or a high flare

The meeting closed with the representatives confirming there has to be better communication with local residents, better relationships with the local residents and they have to do better.