 **BO’NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th JANUARY 2020**

**IN THE SMALL UPPER ROOM IN BO’NESS LIBRARY**

**Welcome**

Madelene extended a warm welcome to the room and wished members a Happy New Year.

The Community Council held a minute of silence to remember a former secretary who sadly passed away towards the end of 2019.

**Sederunt**

Madelene Hunt (Chair), Len Ainslie (Vice Chair), Owen Griffiths (Vice Chair), Joan Boyd (Secretary), Stuart McAllister, Ashley Sneddon, Siobhan Samson and Robyn Adamson.

**In Attendance:** Councillor Lynn Munro and Adrian Mahoney

**Apologies for Absence**

Ian Don (Treasurer), Val Ferguson (OBE), Val Spowart.

**Police Report Officers in attendance: P.C. Gary Deans and P.C. Graeme McDougall**

The purpose of this report is to provide the local community and local stakeholders with information on policing issues affecting the Bo’ness & Blackness ward area.

**Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence & Disorder.**

* **Drug Dealing & Drug Misuse**
* **Road Safety**
* **Dishonesty Crimes**

**Questions and Answers**

No questions raised at this meeting

**5. Minutes of Wednesday 11th December 2019**

**Proposed by Len Ainslie and seconded by Joan Boyd**

**6. Matters Arising**

Sadly, Bo’ness Community Council has received a letter of resignation from Alan Gilbert, who unfortunately has to give up his place due to commitments with Bo’ness United Community Football Club. We wish Alan every success with the Club.

Joan Boyd has written to Julie Seidal of Falkirk Council regarding the Miller Homes appeal for the second development at Northbank Farm. There was no written objection,however the original objections, concerns and comments from BCC at the Predetermination Determination Hearing (PDH) still stand. ACTION: Siobhan will look at the DPEA website to ensure that the comments are logged on the minutes from the PDH. With a view that if the comments haven’t been covered in the minutes we follow this up with a letter to the DPEA.

After the report of the broken defibrillator at the bottom of Harbour Road, Stuart McAllister reported that he followed up with Annie Meikle from the First Responders. Unfortunately there is no resolution to the broken unit as of (12th Jan 2020). ACTION - BCC will follow this up with a letter to Annie.

**7.** **Reports**

**Siobhan Samson** – Siobhan presented the reply from the Scottish Parliament Petitions Clerk to the meeting and asked for approval to submit the petition to the Scottish Parliament's Petition Committee. The CC agreed and said that they would also inform Grangemouth CC of our intention to proceed. Once the petition is submitted the Clerk of the committee will consider the details and revert to us with any changes they wish made. After that, the petition will join the queue for consideration. Siobhan suggested that once the petition is on the Parliamentary website that we open it for signatures of support by other CCs and individuals. This was agreed by the CC.

**Councillor Lynn Munro** – Falkirk Council currently has a £20.5 million deficit. The cost of the planned Art Centre are still increasing. The Council reserves are being eaten into to keep the Council going, this is not sustainable.

Question - Adrian Mahoney questioned Councillor Munro following the report on the Art Centre and New Council Building. This is now estimated at a £57 million spend with £2.1 million on the library aspect of the Centre. This seems an extravagance when Bo’ness are only granted £200,000 for much needed library renovations. If there are concerns within political groups in the Council on the spiralling costs why isn’t this being brought together as a collective to address the concerns? The money spent within the Falkirk Council area is inconsistent. Places like the Mariner Centre are being focussed on and having improvements applied to those already recent improvements.

Capital money seems to be found for new projects and improvements in Falkirk but not the outlining areas. The frustration comes when a £300,000 commitment is given to the Zetland Park fund which allowed a lottery fund to be submitted. Whereas Bo’ness continues to get no investment. Our library continues to be at risk until the improvements proposed by Falkirk Council are agreed by Falkirk Community Trust who still have to make the final decision as part of the strategic building review.

Question Response - Groups cannot come to a definitive decision on the Art Centre. The general view is of deferment or not to progress based on the escalating costs. However, this is not any particular party view and more general whispers. Councillors in Bo’ness continue to stand and speak to the interests of the Community at Council meetings. Friday will be a session for Councillors to fully understand the implications of the strategic property review before a final decision is made.

Question - Siobhan Samson - People in Bo’ness are paying more and more for less frontline service, with a reduction in bin collection and the state of the local roads which are littered with potholes.

Response – The money from the Scottish Government has not been in line with the Barnett Formula and although there is an increase in the Council Tax it hasn’t been in line with inflation, so the Council continue to have less spend to provide frontline services.

There was further concern raised by members of BCC on the transparency of the communication from Falkirk Council and Falkirk Community Trust in terms of what’s being proposed. Other areas appear to be engaged with by both Falkirk Council and Falkirk Community Trust but again this falls short in Bo’ness.

**Ashley Sneddon** – Unfortunately the Buzzness event planned for Hogmanay 2019 in the Douglas Park was cancelled due to a number of factors.

**Stuart McAllister** – No planning Applications

Question – A question was raised relating to the land south of Register Street, behind Tesco, following the demolition of the old structure and red brick wall.

Response – The wall was taken down due to it bulking and being deemed unsafe. Further demolition took place to the remainder of the site. No planning has been submitted for this area.

**Joan Boyd**

**Correspondence. (Secretary) Joan Boyd.**

**E-mail** – Neighbourhood Watch giving a link to Forth Valley Police Division Facebook video giving advice about the Banking Protocol which is an initiative between the Police, banking institutions and Trading Standards.

<https://www.facebook.com/ForthValleyPoliceDivision/videos/2587708854658262/>

**Email** - from Madelene enclosing a report from COSLA which details the requirement for Fair Funding for Essential Services 2019/20.

**E-mail** - from Alan Gilbert giving his resignation due to heavy commitments at Bo’ness United Community Football Club.

**E-mail** – Emily Rose, who is studying Media at the City of Glasgow College, is required to submit a project of any Media and has decided to film a short documentary on the history of Bo’ness. She is seeking contacts who can help her learn more about the Hippodrome, Bo’ness Fair, the Bo’ness and Kinneil Railway and the Kinneil House/Estate. ACTION: In view of Data Protection we cannot give any personal contact details without permission, so Joan Boyd will respond giving details of the relevant websites from where Emilie can make contact with the relevant organisations.

**Madelene Hunt (Chair) –** Replacements will need to be sought for the recent resignations, BCC will require a further 2 co-opted members and one nominee. BCC will place an article on their website and share via social media to gain interest from the community.

Bo’ness Community Council/Bonet are hosting a free training event on Monday 27th January from 10am-12.30pm in Bo’ness Library on raising profile and publicity of the groups within the community. If you represent a local group and want to attend tickets for the event can be gained by email [adrain@theprstore.co.uk](mailto:adrain@theprstore.co.uk)

**9. A.O.C.B.**

No other competent business was raised.

The meeting was closed with a vote of thanks for the Chair.

**Date of Next Meeting 12th February at 7pm.**

**APPENDIX 1**

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| Name of  Community Council: | **Monthly ward report:** Bo’ness Community Council  **Date of meeting:** 08/01/2020  **Author of report:** PC Graeme McDougall  **Report presented by:** PC Graeme McDougall  **Reporting period:** 01/12/2020 – 31/12/2020  Force Production  Register No: |

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| --- | --- |
| Foreword: | This monthly report is intended to provide the local community with information on local policing issues and local police activity. Following consultation with the local community, the local priorities for the Bo’ness & Blackness ward area are:   * Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence & Disorder * Drug Dealing & Drug Misuse * Road Safety * Dishonesty Crimes   Please note that any data presented within this report has been extracted from internal systems within Police Scotland and should not, in anyway, be interpreted as official Scottish Government recorded crime statistics. |
| Ward Priorities | **There has been a total of 24 crime reports raised by Police this month.**   * **Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence & Disorder**   There have been 12 crimes of ASB over the previous month.  4 of which were Vandalisms, none of which were repeat locations or part of a pattern.  There was 2 crime of serious violence such as Attempted Murder, Serious Assault or Robbery, namely a Robbery and a Serious Assault both were part of the same incident which has been detected. There have been 8 minor Assaults, 1 of which was on a Police Officer.  Other offences relate to minor disorder offences.   * **Drug Dealing & Drug Misuse**   Over the previous month, no Drug Search warrants was enforced within the Bo’ness area.  There have been no offences in relation to possession of controlled substances detected over the past month.   * **Road Safety**   There has been 1 offence of Dangerous Driving, 1 offence relating to No MOT, and 3 offences of Failing to Stop at a Road Accident.   * **Dishonesty Crimes**   There has been 2 Housebreaking offences over the previous month. 1 relates to a residential property. There are no patterns or repeat locations. There has been 3 minor Thefts.  There were no offences relating to Theft from a Motor Vehicle or Theft of a Motor Vehicle  Other offences relate to minor and miscellaneous crimes. |

**APPENDIX 2**

Bo’ness Community Council Meeting

Wednesday 8th January 2020

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM**

**ASB Reports** Please note, figures relate to the previous full calendar month.

**Period: 01/11/19 – 30/11/19**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total ASB Reports**  Falkirk Council Area | **Breakdown of 3 geographical areas** | | |
| **108** | **EAST-**Grangemouth, Bo’ness, Braes | **WEST-**Denny, Dunipace, Bonnybridge, Haggs, Banknock | **CENTRAL-**Falkirk North and South |
| **29** | **34** | **45** |

**Hotspot Patrols**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Issues** | **Actions** |
| NONE |  | We identify hotspot areas through a multi-agency tasking group involving Police Scotland, Falkirk Housing, SACRO and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. These are areas experiencing high levels of antisocial behaviour. |

**Investigations: Period 01/11/19 – 30/11/19**

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| --- | --- |
| **ASB Concern** | **No of reports** |
| Dog Fouling & Control of Dogs | 6 |
| Litter & Fly Tipping | 21 |
| Youth related disorder | 0 |
| Other | 2 |

**Current EE activities in the area**

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| --- |
| **The Environmental Enforcement Team continues to monitor for Litter, Dog Fouling, Fly- Tipping through patrols and reports received from the Local Community.**  **We are monitoring and patrolling a number of streets and parks in relation to dog fouling, litter and fly tipping. If you have any information relating to those responsible in the areas (or any other), then please do not hesitate to get in touch via the details below. All calls are confidential** |

**Contact Us**

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| **Phone** | 01324 506070 |  |
| **Email** | community.safety@falkirk.gov.uk |  |
| **Online** | Falkirk Council Website | [www.falkirk.gov.uk/do-it-today](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/do-it-today) |