

BO'NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 14 June 2023

St. Catharine's Church Hall

1. Welcome:

Madelene welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting.

Sederunt:

Madelene Hunt (Convenor), Jaine McLean (Secretary), Brian Dempsey (Treasurer), Lennox Ainslie, Stuart McAllister, Matteo Petruzzo, John Ogden, Gordan Clarke, Stephen Baird, Billy Horn, Brian Laird and Val Spowart.

In Attendance:

Councillor David Aitchison, Councillor Ann Ritchie, PC Graeme McDougall.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Stacey Devine, Wendy Turner.

3. Minutes of meeting Wednesday 10th May 2023:

Minutes were accepted.

4. Matters Arising:

Malcolm Bennie to be invited to next BCC meeting. The 10-year anniversary of the Kinneil Advisory Group is due take place soon and they're holding a meeting of Stakeholders on 20th June at 10.30am in the Town Hall to engage for the first time since lockdown and try and get re-established. Both Stephen and Val were keen to attend and Madelene was on group.

5. Police Report:

Please refer to the written monthly report provided by Police Scotland.

Stephen Baird enquired about the levels of cyber-crime in Bo'ness in comparison to other towns and it was considered to be a contentious issue?

Someone had noticed underage drinking and reported it to the Police. They have a method of proof testing retailers to try and catch them and their licence to sell alcohol can be suspended and they can also be fined.

6. Reports

Chairperson

Madelene advised everyone that she had ordered another cheque book from the bank which was due to arrive within 4 working days.

Since Madelene had received notice that Vice Chairperson Owen Griffiths had decided to resign, this vacant position must be filled by another member of BCC. Stephen Baird accepted by a majority of votes with 2 candidates being proposed.

Secretary:

Jaine received an email notifying that Planning Permission on Borrowstoun Road for construction of new housing was due to end soon.

A local group had been awarded £1k from Tesco and funding from Miller Homes for projects within the town. There had been requests benches in Grangepans and flower baskets.

Treasurer:

Brian mentioned that the Coalfields Regeneration Trust may be an option for funding his gym equipment proposed for the foreshore.

Other possibilities: SEPA, CVS Falkirk & District, BAKKAVOR, BO'NET

Ann Ritchie will contact Stewart Lawless regarding the Kinningars play park project.

Website:

Brian Dempsey has been trying to contact Owen to get access to the website. He's not happy with the situation at present because we may have to pay a bill of approximately £400.00. Madelene is going to contact Owen.

Stephen Baird:

There is a factors fee for the Drum of £250.00 per annum. Certain other areas also require a factors fee.

Planning:
Stuart McAllister
No report

It was decided that Sustrans should be invited to a future BCC meeting. Jaine is going to contact them.

Billy Horn

Regarding the funding to get the toilets open again we've managed to secure 6 months of funding. Now we need to go to the Common Good Fund and make an appointment with the council surveyor and hopefully we can agree a peppercorn rent and get it open. We also need to provide a business plan.

Ann Ritchie mentioned a not-for-profit scheme whereby certain groups can be reimbursed for road closures etc. The Common Good Fund has many guidelines. Someone enquired who has the keys for the foreshore access?

For events you're organising, you'll need to notify Falkirk Council, NHS and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor Aitchison:

No report.

Lennox Ainslie:

Shocked how the younger generation is not willing to assist and raise funds for the Bo'ness Children's Fair. We need their help with costs increasing year upon year funding more difficult to accrue.

Brian Laird:

Noticed potholes of tarmac road below the Town Hall. Ann Ritchie replied that they were currently being repaired. It was also mentioned that trees along Bridgeness Lane were an issue because they're close to the edge of the road.

Val Spowart:

Val enquired about the area of the land that had been fenced off opposite the Police Station. Ann Ritchie informed everyone that it's planned to build council flats there.

7. Correspondence

Only correspondence received was letter of resignation from Owen Griffiths.

8. AOCB

Apologies from Billy Horn and Stephen Baird for the next meeting.

Next meeting on 12th July at 7.30 pm in St Catharine's Church Hall