 BO’NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting 8th November 2023**

**St. Catharine’s Church Hall 7.30pm**

1. **Welcome**

Madelene welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Sederunt**

Madelene Hunt (Convenor), Jaine McLean (Secretary), Brian Dempsey (Treasurer), Lennox Ainslie, Brian Laird, Gordon Clark, Val Spowart, Billy Horn, Stuart McAllister, Wendy Turner

**In attendance**:

Councillor David Aitchison, Councillor Stacey Devine

1. **Apologies for Absence**

John Ogden, Matteo Petruzzo

1. **Minutes of the 11th October 2023 meeting**

Minutes were accepted. With one amendment about the Library

1. **Matters Arising**

**Public Toilets** – there is a gmail account for the Public Toilets. There is now a Whats App group for the volunteers (John, Jaine and Billy are in this group).

Clarification is needed about when the legionella test is due.

Community Asset Transfer needs to be applied for by a charity. Bloomin Bo’ness could take on the Public Toilets. The Community Council can continue as the umbrella organisation until Charity Status is confirmed. The rental continues on a rolling monthly basis. Billy suggests an umbrella account via Bank of Scotland.

Madelene Hunt is concerned about the bank account.

A meeting to discuss the Public Toilets will be arranged by Councillor Devine – BCC rep, Toilet Rep, Councillor Devine and John Smith (Falkirk Council).

**Recreation Centre –** a meeting will take place at the Town Hall on 28th November. Madelene Hunt asked as many people as possible to attend. Councillor Aitchison reported that many classes have been moved from Bo’ness to Grangemouth and this has led to a drop in visits.

Councillor Devine reported on usage figures:

30k Bo’ness

69k Grangemouth

67k Mariner Centre

There is a £500k deficit – expenditure £764k income £200k. It needs 75k visits to breakeven.

The Compliance Report is awaited to understand the work required.

A report on Community Centres and Stores will come to Council in December.

Paul Kettrick is the Director of Invest Falkirk.

1. **Police Report**

The Police Report was presented by PC Dean McKinnon. He reported that he had been closely involved in working with Bo’ness Academy.

He reported there had been 57 incidents. In terms of Road Safety fixed penalties are not reported within this figure if they are paid immediately. The minor thefts reported are mainly youth offences; youth disorder is a big issue with shoplifting and abuse of shop staff. There are marked and unmarked car patrols happening. Plain clothes officers are also on patrol and youths have been arrested. Billy Horn asked about thefts from Farmfoods. There will be a shop safe radio scheme rolled out. There is currently no CCTV in the shop. Jaine McLean reported that Bloomin Bo’ness lights had been smashed. PC Mackinnon recommended reporting all crimes. There have been sporadic reports of Off Road vehicles behind the Academy; Jaine also reported a motorized scooter on Hadrian’s Way. Brian Dempsey asked if there had been any incidents with fireworks. PC Mackinnon reported there had only been one incident and it was resolved without police intervention.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Nothing to report.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

There are two vacancies on the BCC. One application has been received so far – Lorna Weir of Bloomin Bo’ness. A deadline of 30th November will be added to the website for applications.

1. **Project and Community Ideas**

Madelene Hunt asked for ideas for Projects within the Community.

Jaine McLean – Speed Limits around Bo’ness and suggested asking the Community about areas where this is an issue. Councillor Devine raised the issue of trucks going through the town centre and being directed down Carriden Brae. This issue has been raised by Councillor Aitchison. Hotspots identified at the meeting included Bo’mains Road, positioning of bus stops, outside Belgica.

Billy Horn recommends a Campsite at the Foreshore. There is now only one hotel left in the Town. Under 15 pitches does not need planning permission. The Parks department are keen on the idea and the Camping and Caravanning Club could be contacted for support. It was agreed a trial event could take place in 2024.

Gordon Clark – reported that HES are filming at Kinneil about Bo’ness History which will make improvements.

Val Spowart – suggested that we contact Sustrans about the Whale Trail. Janie McLean will make contact. Wendy suggested that we could also contact Forth Environmental Link about the project idea. Brian Laird suggested the Falkirk Community Schools Fund.

Brian Dempsey reported that the Gym Equipment is likely to be available in 2024.

Wendy Turner suggested Walking Tours of the Town.

Councillor Aitchison spoke about HES and a Blackness and Bo’ness Tourism Strategy

Lennox Ainslie – suggested having a Town Crier for events. He also mentioned the weather Station at the Upper Forth Boat Club.

1. **Reports**

Stuart McAllister – reported on an application to change a shop front at 16 North Street; and an application for solar panels on Bo’ness Community Hospital.

Brian Laird asked about water at the Cemetery which has been turned off. Councillor Devine will follow this up.

**We**ndy Turner reported on the CVS AGM and encouraged attendance. She will be meeting Beth Morton of CVS (Volunteer & Participation Officer).

1. **Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

1. **AOB**

No AOB

**The date of our next meeting is Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm at St Catharine’s Church Hall**