



BO'NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2020 **Conducted via Digital Media**

1. Welcome

Madelene extended a warm welcome to the last meeting of the year. Thanks to Owen for setting up the meeting.

Sederunt

Madelene Hunt (Convenor), Joan Boyd, Stuart McAllister, Siobhan Samson (Vice Convenor), Owen Griffiths (Vice Convenor), Valerie Spowart, Wendy Turner (Minute Secretary), Chloe Whyte, Brian Laird, Lennox Ainslie, Austin Reid and Stuart McAllister.

In attendance Councillor David Aitchison, Councillor Lynn Munro, Amber Lee (Bo'ness Academy)

2. Apologies for Absence

Ian Don (Treasurer), Gael MacFarlane, Robyn Adamson and Ashley Sneddon

3. Minutes of the 11th November 2020 Meeting

Minutes read and proposed by Lennox Ainslie and seconded by Stuart McAllister

4. Matters Arising

Madelene Hunt reported that all correspondence concerning the path at the back of Braefoot Road has been passed to Siobhan Samson. There has been no further correspondence.

Val Spowart reported on the proposed Xmas Card Project. Unfortunately, the time available is insufficient to allow this to happen this year. It was agreed that this should be remitted to 2021 and that planning should begin in September. Wendy Turner reported that Church at The Barony had delivered Xmas cards to the area surrounding the theatre. Val Spowart reported that the Foodbank will be including an Xmas card in with food parcels.

Madelene Hunt reported on an update from Jackie McArthur of Falkirk Council on Town Centre improvements.

- Library accessibility and enhancements now costed.
- We await the programme of works
- Secured additional Town Centre Capital Fund to support additional Library works
- We are about to procure specialist conservation consultants for South Street/East Partings Grant Scheme
- Fund also to be used for Council to acquire a long-standing vacant property in town.

- New Ebikes to be installed at Union Street Carpark (image attached) (also funded via TCCF)
- Infrastructure work now commenced for Public Wifi

It is hoped there will be another meeting before 16th Dec. Madelene also reported that the Bandstand Project will start shortly at a cost of £27k.

Remitted from previous minutes: Joan Boyd suggested that in the future a group should be put together to respond to the Supplementary Guidance. There is a lot to read and therefore this would mean everyone would not need to read everything. Joan Boyd and Madelene Hunt will send out what they wish the Committee members to read. Discussion followed about Affordable Housing and Social Housing. The definition of what is meant by this should be clearer and Chloe Whyte asked about accessibility in these types of housing.

5. Community Consultation Falkirk Future Plan – Bo’ness

Members of the Committee had attended the initial meeting of the Falkirk Future Plan Community Consultation meeting. Amber Lee (Bo’ness Academy) reported that the School Captains would like to be further involved in these discussions; and that would contribute to their Saltire Awards. She welcomed the opportunity to attend the BCC meeting.

Joan Boyd reported from the meeting and explained that BCC would need to speak to the Community to find out what they want in terms of recreation and their thoughts on a Campus approach at Bo’ness Academy. Austin Reid how we will ask what the Community want?

Siobhan Samson raised the issue of the backlog maintenance and energy efficiency at each of the schools in the report. She raised the issue of the funding Falkirk Council received from builders in Bo’ness and the fact this funding could be invested in local schools. Lynn Munro explained the maintenance backlog stretches across the whole of the Falkirk Council Estate and that the plan involves divesting itself of properties beyond repair. Bo’ness needs to decide which buildings it wants to retain.

It was agreed that a FOI request should be put into Falkirk Council to ask where the Section 75 money has been spent and what the capital expenditure in Falkirk East Ward has been in the past 10 years.

Brian Laird reported that there had been discussion about Community Asset Transfer for the Town Hall. It had been given to the town of Bo’ness by Carnegie and should remain a Community Asset. However, it now has a backlog maintenance issue.

FCT would expect the Recreation Centre and Town Hall to create income. Lynn Munro agreed to ask for details of income generated from these two assets.

After discussion it was agreed the two main issues are:
Schools Maintenance and the Strategic Property Review and which buildings are at risk.

It was agreed that a sub-meeting of BCC would meet on 10th December to discuss the issues raised and to prepare for the next meeting in January. Consideration would be given to how to communicate with the wider Community on this Plan.

Lynn Munro advised that a balance needs to be found between what the Council needs and what the Community wants. David Aitchison advised that it was likely there would be additional cuts needed in the future.

6. Reports

Lennox Ainslie reminded the Committee that someone is needed to join the Taxi Licence Forum. In the meantime, Lennox will continue to attend.

He commented on the positive Police Report from November.

He reported that West Lothian Golf Club has a new Studio open to the public; and that membership has increased during lockdown.

Stuart McAllister reported on the application from Miller Homes for 178 houses, an extension to Kinglass Fields. Response is expected by 18th Dec. The only other application was for four industrial units at Carriden Garages.

Lynn Munro reported on the project to install gates at Kinneil Walled Garden. It is understood that the project worth £46k had been awarded to Johnston & Co of Ratho. This project had not come to elected members for a decision. Madelene Hunt agreed to ask Maria Ford for an update.

Brian Laird reported on the tree surgery work undertaken in the Cemetery and the mess that was left behind. Lynn Munro agreed to ask for an update on this.

7. Correspondence

Madelene Hunt has been contacted about the SRPS Wagons that are on the line opposite the flats in Union Street. The gate at the Baptist Church is locked again. These issues will be looked into.

Madelene Hunt reported that there had been discussion on Facebook about the state of the drainage and paths at Kinneil Woods.

8. A.O.C.B.

Siobhan Samson raised the issue of INEOS and how the former EU Carbon Trading Scheme would operate following Brexit. It is likely that the UK Government would step in from 1st January. Siobhan Samson suggests asking INEOS how they are spending the grant of £300m and how it is being used to benefit the local community. Austin Reid suggested writing to ask about conditions attached to the grant and what results had been achieved. Additional suggestion was to write to Falkirk Council Environment Officer. Siobhan Samson and Wendy Turner to write a letter for Madelene to send out.

Thanks were given to David Aitchison for getting the Town Clock working again.

Madelene asked that Siobhan Samson and Wendy Turner be added to the info@ email list.

Madelene suggested that the Community Council should send a letter to The Journal to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and acknowledge the challenges of the past year.

Lennox Ainslie gave thanks to the Chair.

The date of our next meeting is 13th January 2021.