



# **BO'NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021** **Conducted via Digital Media**

### **1. Welcome**

Madelene extended a warm welcome to the meeting and wished Councillor Ann Ritchie a speedy recovery.

### **Sederunt**

Madelene Hunt (Convenor), Stuart McAllister, Siobhan Samson, (Vice Convenor), Owen Griffiths, (Vice Convenor), Valerie Spowart, Lennox Ainslie, Austin Reid, Brian Laird, Chloe Whyte and Ashley Sneddon

**In attendance** Councillor David Aitchison, Councillor Lynn Munro, Adrian Mahoney

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Wendy Turner (Minute Secretary)

### **3. Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Meeting**

Minutes read and proposed by Austin Reid and seconded by Siobhan Samson

Page 2. AOB – Contact the Anti Social Team at Falkirk Council

Page 3. This is a Police matter. Contact P.C. Graeme Mc Dougall, Community Police Team

### **4. Matters Arising**

Page 1. The FOI request is ongoing. Madelene thanked Siobhan for drafting information. Joan mentioned that depending on the area of request a response could take between 20 and 60 days according to the Scottish Government Website.

Page 3. Regarding the noise from Bakkavor, Falkirk Council has received no complaints from any members of the community.

Page 3. Falkirk Future Plan consultation – it was commented that not everyone is on-line and the timing is difficult for us getting information out to members of the community.

It was agreed that regular non-attendance by members would have to be looked at.

## **5. McLaren Trophy**

The vote for this year's winners took place and the award will be made jointly to the Bo'ness and Blackness Community Pantry and Storehouse in recognition of the response to our Community during the COVID pandemic.

## **6. Reports**

Madelene Hunt and Val Spowart attended the Falkirk Council Budget meeting. The most recent meeting concerned the Capital Expenditure. There is Financial Flexibility however the Chief Financial Officer is not yet aware of how this can be used. This looks like it will be the hardest budget Falkirk Council communities will have ever experienced. The next Falkirk Council meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 and can be viewed on U-Tube. Madelene also commented that there has been no Participatory Budgeting for two years now.

Library Project – There will be six weekly progress update meetings from now onwards. Currently there is a hunt for additional funding and consideration about new floor coverings and interior painting.

The Community Trust have suggested that the table and chairs gifted to the Community Council, be removed from the small Library room to allow for the room to be utilised more flexibly. Following discussion it was agreed that we wish to retain these items given their representation of Bo'ness heritage. It was suggested that we should ask the Trust how they plan to utilise the room. We discussed where the items could be resituated and how they could be utilised elsewhere given that the window in the Library will have to be removed as the table cannot be dismantled. We also discussed where we might be able to hold our meetings elsewhere in the Town.

A general discussion took place about the Library Project, Town Centre Funding, empty shops, the Hamilton building and the hope that the implementation of Wi-Fi will be utilised by the businesses for on-line sales. There was also comment about the merit/less merit of Falkirk Council Housing and TSB staff using the small room in the Library to provide services to the community. In particular, the handling of cash is a concern. In addition, unless individual cubicles could be partitioned off within the room, how would privacy be achieved?

Stuart McAllister confirmed that there is one planning application related to The Corbie Inn wishing to purchase land to be used for Car Parking and a building for storage of the Trishaws. As the land has been used for car parking for some time and the storage of the Trishaws would be of advantage to the area, it was felt there was nothing controversial about this application.

Brian Laird commented about complaints that the salt bins are all empty. Councillor Aitchison commented that this could be reported via [gritbins.falkirk.gov.uk](http://gritbins.falkirk.gov.uk).

There was also comment made about the lay-by going out of Bo'ness with regard to rubbish being left around and that the large lorries were chewing up the grass verges. In general all the verges need tidying up. Councillor Aitchison stated that there is a new mobile CCTV facility checking verges.

There was general discussion about the state of the verges in Borrowstoun Road as a result of housing being built and a suggestion that, with more traffic on the road, it should be widened.

Councillor Munro commented that the Miller development will be looking at this aspect. The developer is to come back to planning and it is envisaged work will take place. In particular, comment was made about the verges up at the bad bend near the back entrance to North Bank Farm. The issue can be taken back to planning. Councillor Munro will look at the road when the weather improves.

Chloe Whyte advised the meeting that a Freedom of Information request to Falkirk Council had been made in regard to Mosquito Magnet Machines being used in Falkirk Council Schools. The response received stated there was not a single machine in any Falkirk Council School. Chloe challenged this and as a result the Council confirmed that there were machines which would now all be removed.

Councillor Munro advised the meeting that the appointment of a new Head Teacher had been made and would be advised shortly.

**The date of our next meeting is 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm on Zoom**