



# **BO'NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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

### **1. Welcome**

Madelene extended a warm welcome to Allyson Black (Labour candidate for Falkirk East).

#### **Sederunt**

Madelene Hunt (Convenor), Stuart McAllister, Joan Boyd, Owen Griffiths, (Vice Convenor), Valerie Spowart, Lennox Ainslie, Robyn Adamson, Austin Reid, Brian Laird, Chloe Whyte, Gael Macfarlane

**In attendance** Councillor David Aitchison, Allyson Black (Labour candidate Falkirk East), Adrian Mahoney

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

None received

### **3. Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Meeting**

Minutes read and proposed by Brian Laird and seconded by Chloe Whyte

Page 2. Councillor Aitchison stated that there will be new portable CCTV cameras becoming available which can be used as a deterrent against fly-tipping.

### **4. Matters Arising**

Page 1 (January meeting) FOI enquiry re: housebuilding contributions – Madelene has received a reply which explains the furlough scheme means that a response will be delayed.

Page 2. Item 5 – The McLaren Trophy winners will be notified by telephone by Madelene Hunt. The Award will have to be presented in a Virtual manner this year.

### **5. Reports**

Wendy Turner reported that she has been invited to be a member of the Advisory Panel which will look at applications to the Falkirk Council Community Choices funding. As far as she knows she is the only person on the Panel representing Bo'ness and Blackness Ward. Madelene Hunt reported that BCC had submitted applications for funding for an All Ages Park at the Foreshore and Funding for the Lift and new flooring at the Library.

Wendy reported Church@TheBarony will re-start on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Wendy reported that she is a member of the Bo'ness Community Clean Up Group and that they have a "Spring Clean" for Bo'ness arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April. This will encourage everyone to do a litter pick in their local area. Alongside this Anne Travers arranges regular litter picks in the town.

Brian Laird reported on recent activity on Facebook about litter and the profile of BCC. Austin Reid asked whose responsibility is litter in front gardens. Councillor Aitchison explained that unless the litter is causing vermin and can be reported to Falkirk Council, it is the householder's responsibility.

Stuart McAllister reported on Planning Applications – Lidl have put in an application to improve the shop frontage and trolley shelter; and to make alterations to the car park. He had received a phone call asking about the Crawfield Road application; and he recommended contacting Madelene Hunt. He had received a letter from INEOS about the piling work which will be taking place from 15<sup>th</sup> March to autumn 2021. There are a number of applications for house extensions but nothing untoward.

Val Spowart reported that Churches will be reopening from 4<sup>th</sup> April. The Old Kirk Sunrise Service may take place as it is an outside service.

Councillor Aitchison reported on the Falkirk Council budget meeting. There will be a freeze on Council Tax for 2021/2022. He reported that Craig Walker will be taking over as Chief Inspector and suggested that should be invited to a BCC meeting. David reported that Culross CC had contacted Blackness CC about the INEOS flaring but had not contacted BCC yet. The flaring affects communities on both sides of the Forth.

Owen Griffiths asked about the Community Survey re: Community Conversations. He offered help in creating the survey but would not have time to create the content.

Chloe Whyte reported on the death of a Learning Support Assistant from Carrongrange School and asked what action is being taken when positive Covid cases are reported in a school. Councillor Aitchison reported that guidelines would be followed including deep cleaning. Chloe suggested that some support may be needed by the pupils. Chloe will monitor the situation.

## **6. Correspondence**

A letter had been received about the upgrade to the mobile mast at Bo'ness Motor Museum. This should allow 5G and enable GPS services. It is just an upgrade to the existing mast.

## **7. Community Conversations**

Joan Boyd reported the Falkirk Council presentation had been sent out to participants. She reported that the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February had gone well. Falkirk Council had stated that they would be consulting communities in May. It was agreed that BCC should also consult the local community before this, using an online survey and Zoom meetings. We must also find a way to include people without access to computers or older people who might prefer a telephone conversation. Falkirk Council had said they would help facilitate any survey we wished to send out. It was agreed that the sub-group (Joan, Wendy, Brian, Val, Chloe, Robyn and Gael) would meet to prepare a proposal for the survey and how to facilitate it.

Brian Laird reported that a Trust now successfully run the Dobbie Hall in Larbert and this might be a solution for the Bo'ness Town Hall.

## **8. Library Project**

Madelene Hunt reported that a new boiler is being installed. However, there is no budget for re-decoration or new flooring.

## **9. AOCB**

Allyson Black reported that two new funds would become available from the Scottish Government, one to support Community Buy Out.

Lennox Ainslie suggested that groups with Annual Events should prepare for when current restrictions will allow them to go ahead.

**The date of our next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm on Zoom**