



BO'NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

1. Welcome

Madelene extended a warm welcome to the meeting. She re-iterated the following:

- Politics must not feature in Community Council discussions and decision making
- Members must respect other's point of view
- Meetings are to be conducted through the Chair

2. Sederunt

Madelene Hunt (Chair), Joan Boyd, Stuart McAllister, Siobhan Samson, Robyn Adamson, Owen Griffiths, Valerie Spowart, Wendy Turner, Adrian Mahoney, Austin Reid, Gael MacFarlane, Chloe Whyte, Brian Laird.

3. Apologies for Absence

Ian Don (Treasurer) and Lennox Ainslie

4. In attendance Councillor David Aitchison

5. Minutes of the 12th August 2020 Meeting

Minutes read and proposed by Robyn Adamson and seconded by Wendy Turner.

6. Matters Arising

Around private ownership of part of the path. In view of the level of objections related to previous closures, there is potential for a DPEA Hearing/Appeal occurring. It was agreed that we should contact the owner and ask if he is prepared to share the paperwork, related to ownership, provided to Falkirk Council. **ACTION** – Joan Boyd to contact the owner and report back.

Stuart McAllister – There was nothing of significance related to the Planning this month.

Adrian Mahoney – Adrian spoke about Bike Links. He suggested that it would be useful to have these to use on the John Muir Way and that we could ask Falkirk Council about doing that. Austin mentioned the Electric Bike Scheme across Falkirk Area and that Bikes are available elsewhere.

Robyn asked about a Survey of what people want on the foreshore. Sustrans give grants up to £100,000 which could be used for improvements to the foreshore. Adrian explained that Bo'net are speaking to Sustrans /re-opening dialogue with them through Mandy Brown.

BCC could ask Falkirk Council for support.

Friends of Kinneil – Kinneil House is still to remain closed. There are challenges with distancing. A new title for the masterplan of Kinneil “Transformation” i.e. a property which is of special significance. Other areas like Grangemouth are getting support.

Robyn Adamson – A member of the public has raised concern about the condition of the flagpole at the Chance Park. He e-mailed Falkirk Council in March regarding it being unsafe. **ACTION** – Councillor Aitchison will take this up and report back.

Another member of the public has raised concerns about the level of rubbish left lying in Gauze Road. It is being suggested this is coming from pupils at the Academy and would like to have additional rubbish bins placed along the Road. Gaele suggested that we could arrange a Litter Pick but there are challenges in ensuring people maintain distance so we are currently not arranging any.

Chloe Whyte – Has picked up on a campaign to ban Mosquito Devices. She e-mailed Falkirk Council as there is one in Boness Academy which is now being taken down.

There has been a complaint about the parking at RS McColl. This is an accident waiting to happen. Big Lorries are parking on Bo'mains Road near the bus stop. **ACTION** – Councillor Aitchison will get Falkirk Council Roads to look at it. The extra traffic and Lorries delivering is creating problems. Val mentioned that it would help if the parking was one way.

Siobhan also mentioned that there are similar problems at the car park in Linlithgow Road where the Barracuda and other outlets are based. It was suggested that making this a one way entry system would assist to alleviate the problem. **ACTION** - Councillor Aitchison will take this forward.

Wendy Turner – The Barony Theatre are still on-line however, there will be no pantomime this year due to the current pandemic.

The old Bo'ness Pottery Building has been demolished as the building was ‘too far gone’ to be saved. When we were made aware that this was happening, Councillor Ritchie, Madelene and Wendy all went down first thing in the morning to see if they could save the three stones large stones that formed the name. They managed to do so and it is hoped they can be utilized on the Foreshore to maintain some of the Town’s heritage.

Val Spowart – Three Church of Scotland churches in Bo'ness are to be merged into one. It is not decided yet what will happen.

Siobhan Samson – Background to our Petition to Scottish Parliament. The petition to the Scottish Parliament was the result of a Public Enquiry regarding the closure of Boness Road. Two reporters decided with us that the road should not be closed but a Scottish Minister decided in favour of INEOS. Our petition asked for a separation of duties when calling in a decision by the same Minister. There could appear to be bias if the Minister who calls the application in also makes the decision on appeal so our petition asked that the remit of the Scottish Land Court be expanded to making the decision in those circumstances. Our petition was rejected and closed. We cannot apply again for another 365 days.

Incident of Flaring – There was an incident of flares roaring on 2nd September at INEOS which resulted in SEPA complaints. SEPA was informed that there was an emergency and INEOS needed to Flare as a field was coming back on line. There was a lack of communication. A webinar took place on 4th September 20 and a report from the University of Warwick should have been sent. INEOS will invest in Plant. There has been no meetings of the Community Liaison Group since the start of COVID.

Austin commented on the Liaison Committee and who attended. He suggested that we e-mail David East to suggest a Zoom Liaison meeting. A discussion ensued regarding a number of aspects related to relationships with INEOS, SEPA, the recording of Liaison Meeting discussions, lack of support from our MSP and the views of local communities not being represented. Comment was also made about how twice recently there have been problems with the road connections. INEOS need to be a much better neighbour. **ACTION** – Madelene to contact David East asking for a Liaison Meeting to be held via ZOOM or some other digital media.

Siobhan asked about the Grangemouth Chemical Zone. As Joan has been unable to find/view a copy on the COMAH website it was agreed that we ask Bernard Whittle at Falkirk Council for a link or copy. **ACTION** – Joan to contact Bernard and obtain a copy of the MAP.

Madelene Hunt – For our new members Madelene explained the Strategic Property Review and the timeline of our requests to meet with the CEO of Falkirk Council and the Director of Falkirk Community Trust since last year. We find it very odd that Falkirk Council and the Trust are not prepared to talk with us and share their vision for Bo’ness given we have five assets under review. We may well end up being disproportionately disadvantaged because of that which is of real concern to us. We want to meet them and continue to do so but keep being referred to the next phase or wait until after the property review.

At Cowdenhill Community Centre, which is currently run by community volunteers, Falkirk Council are keen for The Cowdenhill Community Group to take over this facility.

A discussion took place around the continuance of the Emergency Executive Committee until the end of September and the erosion of the democratic rights of our members which is something that also concerns us greatly.

Madelene advised the meeting that we have been gifted three paintings by local George Gould. These were gifted to BCC by G. Callander the son of Dr. John Callander. He would like them to remain in Bo’ness. We have a letter confirming they are now the property of the Community Council as custodians for the Community.

The date of our next meeting is 14th October 2020.