 BO’NESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2025**

**St. Catharines Church Hall 7.30pm**

1. **Welcome**

Convenor Madelene Hunt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Sederunt**

Madelene Hunt (Convenor), Jaine McLean (Secretary). Brian Dempsy (Treasurer), Brian Laird, Stuart McAllister, Val Spowart, William Ballantine, Billy Horn, Gordon Clark, Lorna Weir, Wendy Turner (Minute Secretary)

**In attendance**:

Councilor David Aitchison (Falkirk Council), Jessica 7 Tom Workman (Riverview Church), Cathy Murray & Kerry Fleming (Bo’ness Foodbank)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

John Ogden, Lennox Ainslie, PC Graeme McDougall

1. **Minutes of 11th December 2024**

The financial contribution of house builders to Falkirk Council and how this money is spent was discussed but not minuted.

1. **Matters Arising**

The Foodbank can be contacted at any time even when it is not open. Bo’ness Natters sometimes have posts about food which are answered by the community.

Jaine McLean asked if a Community Larder could be looked into. The Foodbank would like this to be be looked into bt they do not currently have the capacity to take this on.

Val Spowart explained that the Salvation Army always has a supply of food and this can be delivered if needed.

Jaine McLean said that more publicity is needed to ensure people know what is available and how.

Cathy Murray explained that the Foodbank is a self-referral service. This is done by Sunday to ensure that a 3 day parcel can be delivered on Monday. Contact is by phone, website or social media. Donations of money and food continues and the Foodbank has been running for 5 years. Currently 20 – 50 parcels are delivered evry week.

In terms of publicity, it would be helpful if local businesses could advertise this service and have leaflets available. BCC will also publicise. The important points to note are the Food Bank is self-referral and there are no judgements made of people using it.

January and February are difficult times for donations. It was suggested that extra drop off points would be useful – Buzzness Charity Shop and maybe Riverview Church.

Jessica from Riverview Church spoke about their hub which is the building in the Seaview Car Park. It is called the Junction. This is a drop in café space where drinks and sup are free. She suggested that leaflets and emergency supplies could be kept here. The Junction will try a Pay It Forward scheme. They are currently seeking funding for 2 people so that it can be open full time.

It was agreed that Bo’ness Community Council would publicise the Food Bank and put information onto the BCC website.

Tom from Riverview Church asked about Bo’net and how it could support these initiatives. Dots need to be joined between all these organsations.

The Whits Happening in Bo’ness Facebook age is run by Lorna Weir and she will post on that site.

Actions:

Publicity to be increased via Facebook Pages; Bo’ness Community Council Website

Additional Collection Points to be identified

Investigate a Food Larder

1. **Police Report**

None

1. **Treasurers Report** (Brian Dempsey)

The current total is £3,962.22 (£2,924.97 is the Falkirk Council contribution and £1034.25 is income associated with the Community Toilets). £200 has been donated to the Community Toilets by Churches Together. Billy Horn will check whether this has arrived. Billy Horn reported that no electricity bill has been received for the Community Toilets.

1. **Secretary’s Report (**Jaine McLean)

See Correspondence Report.

1. **Reports**

**Brian Laird**

At a recent parent meeting of Bo’ness Children’s Theatre it was reported that there are no sanitary bins in the toilets. Contact has been made with the appropriate people but no response has been received. Councillor Aitchison agreed to raise this issue.

Action: Councillor Aitchison

Pavement parking continues to be a problem. This is particularly true of Dawson Place. There are only 6 parking attendants in the Falkirk Council area nd therefore it is unlikely this will be seen by them. The issue is both the responsibility of the Police and the Council.

**Billy Horn**

Asked about the lamp post in North Street. Councillor Aitchison will follow up.

Action: Councillor Aitchison

Donations have been received from Bridgeness Bowling Club (£300) and Branches (£500)

McLaren Trophy has not been presented yet. Madelene Hunt will progress this. Madelene explained that nominations come directly from BCC rather than from members of the public. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Madelene Hunt

The Buzzness Shop has opened and is now looking for volunteers to run it.

Car Boot Sale – the next Boot Sale on 2nd February.

Billy Horn raised the issue of contributions from Building Companies and its investment in Bo’ness. It was agreed that this had been discussed previously but no satisfactory answers had been received, Paul Kettrick (Invest Falkirk) and Richard Broadley (head of Service) should be invited to the next meeting to discuss this. Billy suggested that the three Councillors and Leader of the Council should be invited to discuss this.

**Gordon Clark**

The Annual Planning meeting of Friends of Kinneil has taken place. Historic Environment Scotland will have more open days in 2025. There is also a meeting with Mike Ewart to discuss Hidden History.

**William Ballantine**

Xmas was a busy ime nd the meal at The Corbie Inn was well attended and very enjoyable. Tesco vouchers were handed out. Funds are now very low.

**Stuart McAllister**

Application for three houses on Borrowstoun Road

1. **Correspondence**

Jaine McLean reported that emails had been received from Falkirk Forth Valley looking for Trustees; and from the Health & Social care Partnership asking for responses to their consultation.

1. **AOCB**

Lorna Weir asked about what the next project for BCC would be. She suggested Noticeboards on the Foreshore and a Community Noticeboard. Jackie McArthur will need to be spoken to again. Councillor Devine is also involved with this.

Action: Jaine to speak to Jackie McArthur / Councillor Devine for an update.

To save time prior to a meeting please check the minutes for accuracy and any changes to what has been recorded so we can quickly note these, adopt the minutes and move to matters arising.

**The date of our next meeting is Wednesday 12th February 2025 7.30pm at St Catharines Church Hall**