



Bo'ness Networking Group (Bo'net)

Draft minutes of Annual General Meeting of Bo'net, held on 6 June 2024 at the Food @34a Café, Bo'ness

1. Welcome

Chair Madelene welcomed everyone and expressed her disappointment on the lack of members attending the AGM.

2. Sederunt / Attendees

- Madelene Hunt, chair, Bo'net
- Lynn Munro, vice-chair, Bo'net
- Adrian Mahoney, vice-chair, Bo'net
- Stuart McMartin, treasurer, Bo'net
- Maria Ford, trustee, Bo'net
- Stuart McAllister, First Responders
- Tony Beekman, Falkirk Council
- Pauline Grandison, Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- Beth Cowen, CVS Falkirk and District
- Elizabeth Cunningham, member of the public

Madelene noted the death of volunteer Jean Scobbie, who was a supporter of Bo'net.

3. Apologies for absence:

No apologies were intimated at the meeting. However, Brian Holmes of Kinneil Band emailed in apologies for the band and his thanks for the ongoing work of Bo'net.

4. **Minutes of last AGM (2023) were circulated by email to local groups and at the meeting itself.** No matters were arising. The minutes were approved without changes.

5. Reports

Chair Madelene Hunt reported on the past year, noting Bo'net organising a Volunteer Fair in Bo'ness Town Hall in September 2023. She noted a good turnout of more than 20 groups attending the Fair. Pauline Grandison also remarked that the Fair offered good networking opportunities to attendees.



Bo'ness Networking Group (Bo'net)

Madelene expressed concern at the delays in re-opening the upstairs rooms at Bo'ness Library (well used by community groups in the past). She said she had attended several meetings with Jacqui McArthur from Falkirk Council about the library and other regeneration work in Bo'ness town centre.

She also noted Bo'ness Community Safety Group's decision to wind up its activities and transfer its funding of £3472 to Bo'net. Bo'net will ring-fence this money and use it for related community safety activities. She noted that the Safety Group had sold its cabin, off Boundary Street, Bo'ness, to another charity, Bo'ness Car 4U.

Madelene noted the Secretary, Adrian Mahoney, had regularly sent email newsletters to local groups and contacts.

She also noted Bo'net's work to revamp the garden at ward one of Bo'ness Hospital (Bo'ness has been trying to start at Friends group to support the garden.)

Madelene praised the work of the charity Sustrans to improve the Bo'ness Foreshore. Bo'net was one of the partners in the project (which has delivered new signage, interpretation and play spaces).

She talked about the King's visit to Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness, last summer – which she attended. "Many community groups got together to see the King," she said.

She concluded by noting the sudden death of [Robert Jardine](#), a local historian and a stalwart of Bo'ness Town Trust.

Financial statements from Bo'net's accounts were circulated before the meeting and to attendees on the night.

These showed Bo'net had £1,130 of expenses in the year ending in April 2024. Bo'net ended with a surplus of £2342 and a bank balance of £5038.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Jim Ford, who acted as an independent examiner of the accounts. The statement will now be submitted to OCSR, the charity regulator. The treasurer, Stuart McMartin, noted there had been some recent expenses from the Secretary, including for web hosting the Bo'net website. It was noted Stuart had provided free hosting for the site for the past 10 years. Stuart was thanked for his support.



Bo'ness Networking Group (Bo'net)

Mr McMartin also intimated his decision to step down from the role as treasurer. However, he was asked if he could stay in the role for the time being.

On the subject of money, Beth Cowen from CVS circulated information on free first aid training for local groups, being held in Bo'ness on 11 July. This training would normally cost £180.

The Secretary, Adrian Mahoney, reported on his work to attract a banking hub to Bo'ness. He said it would be up to the banks to decide on its location and delivery in Bo'ness, but the hub would offer personal and business banking. (Full details on the concept are available at <https://bit.ly/bankinghubinfo>)

6. Election of office bearers.

All the existing office bearers were re-elected.

- Chair Madelene Hunt. Proposed by Lynn Munro, seconded by Maria Ford.
- Treasurer Stuart McMartin. Proposed by Madelene Hunt and seconded by Stuart McAllister.
- Secretary Adrian Mahoney. Proposed by Maria Ford and seconded by Stuart McMartin.
- Vice-chair Lynn Munro. Proposed by Maria Ford. Seconded by Adrian Mahoney.

7. AOCB

There was a discussion with Tony Beekman from Falkirk Council on the work of community learning and development.

8. Guest speaker

The meeting ended with a talk from Pauline Grandison, of the charity Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT). Pauline asked for Bo'net's support to create a "Place Plan" for Bo'ness. This will help steer a future Local Plan (the planning blueprint) for the area. She said CRT would help facilitate the creation of a plan, working with groups like Bo'net and the Community Council. CRT had previously produced action plans for Bo'ness.

The meeting agreed to support the creation of a Place Plan.