



Linlithgow & Bo'ness Probus Club

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Minutes of Meeting held on: Wednesday 19th February 2025 at Linlithgow Rose Club

WELCOME: Neil welcomed all the members and new member John Crighton.

APOLOGIES:

George Bird; Anne Duncan; Bill Duncan; Julie Laurie; Bob Ross; Janice Tidswell;
Pete Tidswell

ALMONERS REPORT

Gary reported that Anne Duncan was still in hospital. He had also been advised that Raymond Corr had suffered a coronary event at the end of last year. He was now home from hospital
Ross had no report from Bo'ness

MATTERS ARISING

As the speaker for today was on a very restricted time, it was agreed that the rest of the agenda would be dealt with after her talk.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

David introduced our speaker for today. Sally Pattle was the owner of the Linlithgow independent bookshop "Far from the madding crowd" and was also West Lothian's only Lib-Dem Councillor.

Sally took us through the history of her shop, starting in very cramped premises on the High Street and moving to a 2 storey Georgian building later. Sally demonstrated her enthusiasm for reading and encouraging children to see the fun in browsing.

She then moved on to her life as a councillor. Being very careful to remain apolitical, she told us how she became involved in politics at university. When she moved back to Linlithgow to take over the shop from her mother, she tried to join the West Lothian Lib-Dems, only to find it moribund. From that difficult start she progressed to become the only Lib-Dem councillor in West Lothian. She talked about the advantages – and disadvantages - of not having to obey a party machine and making up policy herself.

A number of questions were asked that Sally answered, albeit she was constrained by time.

VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was given by Alan Hannan and supported by the members in the usual manner.

AOCB

The meeting then moved to discuss the summer outing. David Elliot had proposed Falkland Palace as a venue as that had come very high on the list proposed at the AGM a couple of years ago. When put to the vote 9 people voted for it and 4 against. It was agreed that this would not be a sufficiently democratic majority and so it was decided to delay discussion until the next meeting. Meantime, members were asked to forward their suggestions to the Secretary who would collate them.

It was agreed that anywhere had to satisfy the following criteria

- Within 1hr to 90 minutes by bus
- Accessible for those members who had difficulty climbing stairs (i.e. most of us!)
- Have a café/restaurant

Members were reminded that the AGM will take place in a fortnight and members were asked to consider whether they were prepared to take on membership of the Committee, particularly the Events Committee

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 5th March when Bruce Jamieson will be entertaining us by talking about “James Buncle – Linlithgow Eccentric”

Chris Collen
Secretary
19/02/2025

