



## **Linlithgow & Bo'ness Probud Club**

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Minutes of Meeting held on: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 at Linlithgow Rose Club

WELCOME: President George Bird welcomed all the members and visitors Margaret Rutherford and Jim Thomson.

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Donald Macdonald; Stuart Smith; Murdoch Kennedy; Bob Ross; Janice & Pete Tidswell; Randolph Murray; David Olwa; Gary Withnell

#### **ALMONERS REPORT**

No reports from either Almoner. George highlighted that anyone who wanted a lift to Probud should get hold of the Secretary and arrangements would be made to car share.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

The Secretary reported on the Summer Outing to the Burrell Collection. Unfortunately, David Elliot was unable to be with us, but we ended up with a full coach. The visit proved very successful.

A meal had been organised to fill the gap between meetings over the summer. 19 members and guests had gone to the Corbie Inn in Bo'ness and been well fed. It was hoped to organise more of the same next year.

#### **AOCB**

In the past, the club had sponsored prizes at both Bo'ness and Linlithgow Academies and we had approached them over the summer. They were delighted to accept and it was proposed that the sum of £100 would be donated for their Awards days, both of which were due to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

There will be a training session organised for John Aitken to pass on his expertise on setting up the sound and screen to members of the committee. Members who would like to help were invited to make themselves known.

The laptop will lose support from Microsoft during October. John Aitken and the Secretary will look at options and bring them to the next meeting.

There are plans to have another group photo, this time taken by a professional, to be used for publicity during our Golden Jubilee year, 2026.

A small group will be formed to discuss changes to the Constitution. It was proposed that it would consist of the Office Bearers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary plus a further 3 people. Members interested to be part of the group were invited to give their names to the Secretary.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

George then proceeded to introduce the speaker, Mike Dunning from Linlithgow Civic Trust. Mike had been involved with several others, in editing the late Laurie Alexander's book 'The Changing Face of Linlithgow'. He led us in a fascinating trip down both sides of the High Street, showing photos of the current buildings with their original form overlaid. The High Street had started out quite wide but most buildings had extended forwards, over the street, until parts of it were only 19 feet wide – not ideal for what was the main A9. Much of it was demolished during the 1960s, leaving us with the monstrosity that is the Vennel. Mike tactfully avoided going into too much detail about the gap sites!

The book is available [here](#)

The number of questions and comments reflected the interest that the presentation had gathered.

#### VOTE OF THANKS

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

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 when Phil Dodsworth will be talking about Blood Bikes Scotland.

Chris Collen  
Secretary  
03/09/2025

