



Linlithgow & Bo'ness Probus Club

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Minutes of Meeting held on: 18th February 2026 at Linlithgow Rose Club

WELCOME: President George Bird welcomed all the members.

APOLOGIES:

Alan Bennie; Bill Duncan; Sheona Erskine; Jim Hannan; Randolph Murray; Meg McCormick; Donald Macdonald; Margaret Rutherford; George Wilson; May Wilson;

ALMONERS REPORT:

There was nothing to report. However, George reported that his wife had much appreciated the card and visit from Gary. She was recovering slowly from her fall that was described in graphic detail by her spouse.

MATTERS ARISING:

George highlighted the notice of AGM that had been sent out. Hard copies of the Agenda and proposed Constitution were available. It was emphasised that any additional Agenda items or comments on the Constitution should be passed to the Secretary by 3.00pm on Tuesday 3rd March at the latest.

AOCB:

Rebecca Holmes will be taking a group photo at the next meeting on 4th March. Tea and coffee will be available from 0930 in anticipation for the photo that will be taken at 10.30 sharp.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER:

George then proceeded to introduce our speaker for the day – Chris Long. Chris has been involved in the Linlithgow Burgh Trust in all its guises for many years and had written several books on the town. He proceeded to talk with great enthusiasm about his passion for maps, particularly the various maps of the locality, many of which were Estate maps. He explained that the lowland landlords had carried out their own Clearances before the Highland Clearances, many with similar brutality. This had resulted in many of the abodes scattered round the area being destroyed as the inhabitants moved into town and the landscape changing to the field structures we see today. Chris talked us through the various types of maps – ranging from Estate maps, through the Ordinance Survey and bringing us up to date with the likes of flooding risk maps created by SEPA.

VOTE OF THANKS:

A vote of thanks was given by John Aitken who had been involved in the writing of his most recent book “Putting Linlithgow on the map” and supported by the members in the usual manner.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th March where the Club photo will be taken and Peter Wright MBE will be talking about the Maasai Girls Education Project. Note, refreshments will be available from 0930 on that day.

Chris Collen
Secretary
18/02/2026

