

FALKIRK ARCHIVES

Local authority records

Falkirk Police and Burgh Commissioners Finding Aid

Falkirk Burgh Commissioners were established as a result of the Falkirk Police Act of 1859 and they were also known as Falkirk Police Commissioners. The Burgh Commissioners had responsibility for water supplies, lighting and policing. Their powers were transferred to Falkirk Town Council in 1900.

Falkirk was erected a Burgh of Barony in 1600. It became a Parliamentary Burgh in 1833 and was incorporated in 1900. Local government originated with two other bodies: the Stentmasters and the Feuars. They had no legal powers but they raised levies in the burgh and dealt with maintenance and improvements. Their powers were gradually replaced by the legal powers of Falkirk Town Council from 1833.

Falkirk as a Parliamentary Burgh was able to acquire police powers from 1847 by adopting the Amending Act, 1847, but this opportunity was rejected by the householders in 1848. In 1859 Falkirk adopted the 1850 Police Act which gave the Town Council authority to appoint a Superintendent of Police, take over the water, sanitation, street cleansing, public works and improvements from the Stentmasters and various other powers. In 1873 Falkirk adopted the 1862 General Police and Improvement (Scotland) Act which gave additional powers in lighting, cleansing, improvements and police matters. The Town Council (Scotland) Act of 1900 provided for the incorporation of burghs and was adopted by Falkirk in 1900.

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Description</i>
A066.022	1858-1859; 1869-1871	Minutes of Committee on Police Bill and accounts of Police Committee
A812.001/08	1859-1869	Minutes.
A812.001/09	1887-1897	Minutes.
A812.001/10	1897-1900	Minutes.
A812.001/11	1883-1885	Minutes (scroll)
A812.001/12	1885-1889	Minutes (scroll)
A812.001/13	1889-1895	Minutes (scroll)
A1140.001	1869-1879	Sederunt book vol 2
A1140.002	1879-1889	Sederunt book vol 3
A066.023	1860-1873	Letter book, Town Clerk and Secretary to Falkirk Burgh Police Commissioners
A066.025	1881-1888	Letter book of Town Clerk
A066.030	1881-1882	Index to Commissioners Letter Book

Financial records

A066.018	1860-1876	Cash Book
A1140.003	1877-1886	Minutes of Finance Committee
A1140.004	1883-1887	Treasurer's Ledger
A1140.005	1880-1883	Cash book - roads
A1140.006	1880-1883	Cash book - drainage
A1140.007	1880-1883	Cash book - general purposes
A1140.008	1891-1897	Cash book - Police Commissioners and Town Council

A1140.009	1886-1898	Accounts rendered
A066.024	Feb 1860- May 1880	Cash book of Treasurer
A066.032	1878-1879	Falkirk Burgh Commissioners Accounts (printed)
A066.093	1878-1879	Falkirk Burgh Commissioners Account, 1878-79
A856.008	1893-1894	Ledger No 3*
A856.009	1895-1897	Ledger No 4*
A856.010	1897-1899	Ledger No 5*
A856.011	1899-1900	Ledger No 6*

**Note: These records are held in an off-site store and three days notice is required for access*

Miscellaneous records

A066.167	1861	Minute of Agreement between James Wyse, Preses and on behalf of the Feuars of Falkirk and the Commissioners under the Falkirk Police and Improvement Act, 1859, leasing large hall in Corn Exchange to the Commissioners
A066.131	20 May 1874	Specification for the lifting and relaying of the Causewaying of part of the High Street of Falkirk
A066.147	29 Nov 1878	Minutes of meeting on progress of drainage scheme for Falkirk
A066.149	29 Nov 1878	Draft minutes of meeting of Falkirk Police Commissioners as the local authority under the Public Health Act, 1867, concerning objections to the Falkirk drainage scheme
A066.175	28 Jan 1878	Report, Drainage Scheme Committee of the Police Commissioners, concerning work in progress
A066.128	12 Dec 1878	Minute of meeting of the Commissioners of Police of the Burgh of Falkirk relating to a proposed alteration of Arnothill Rd
A066.184	1878	List of proprietors who have commented on proposed drainage scheme
A066.182	1879	Report to the Board of Supervision on the drainage of the Burgh of Falkirk outlining necessary improvements.
A066.146	1879	Contract between Falkirk Police Commissioners and J & A Reid, builders, relating to drainage improvements for Falkirk
A066.177	22 Jun 1882	Draft letter, Robert Henderson, Burgh Clerk, to the Local Government Board concerning expenses incurred in carrying out the burgh drainage scheme and request for loan to complete works
A066.178	29 Dec 1882	Letter, John Aitken, Gartcows, to Robert Henderson, Clerk to Police Commissioners, claiming compensation for damage to boundary wall caused by the flooding of the town's reservoir.
A066.180	29 Dec 1882	Letter, John Gibson, Camelon Iron Co, complaining of damage to goods caused by a culvert overflowing and flooding warehouse
A066.181	06 Jun 1882	Letter, Local Government Board to Falkirk Town Clerk, concerning request from Police Commissioners for loan and requesting further details of drainage scheme
A066.179	27 Mar 1883	Letter, William Black, civil engineer, to Town Clerk, concerning details of proposed diversion of water course at Falkirk Upper Station [High Station]
A297.01	(Circa 1883) {nd}	Falkirk Water Supply reports and correspondence printed for ratepayer consultation. Considers proposed schemes at Greencraig, Auchengean, Denny Hills and Camelon and gives analysis of water from these sources.
A2175.001	1885	Plan of Proposed Falkirk Water Supply, 'showing the proposed reservoirs, filters, pure water tank and line conduit or pipe track in connection with Bills of Parliament, Dec 1884 and Dec 1885. Showing Loch Coulter as the main storage reservoir. This scheme known as the Loch Coulter Scheme was not adopted..

A066.150	14 Jun 1888	Extract minutes of meeting of Falkirk Sanitary Committee concerning the extension of drainage pipe to Parkfoot
A066.148	1889	Report on the progress of Falkirk Drainage Works from the date of acceptance of Mr Gall's offer to 31 March 1889
A066.176	1890	Report to sanitary committee, estimated cost of improved drainage proposals for the southern portion of Falkirk Burgh
A066.129	15 Sep 1891	Agreement between property holders on Arnothill Rd and Falkirk Police Commissioners concerning the widening of the road and the rebuilding of walls
A066.183	1891	Report, William Neilson, Sanitary Inspector on Howgate drainage
A066.036/01	1894	Book of maps and plans showing works, lands and property belonging to the Falkirk Joint Stock Gas Co Ltd, produced in arbitration proceedings between the foresaid company and Falkirk Commissioners. Includes Grahamston Gas Works, East Bridge St property and Governor House at Bankside
A066.036/02	1894	Plan of Grahamston Gas Works, the property of Falkirk Joint Stock Gas Co Ltd, produced in arbitration proceedings between the foresaid company and Falkirk Commissioners.
A066.121	19 May 1897	Notice to Robert David of compulsory purchase of property for street improvements at Burnfoot Lane, Falkirk
A066.127	1897	Copy Memorial and Queries for the Commissioners of the Burgh of Falkirk for the opinion of counsel relating to compulsory purchase of land for street improvements)
A066.169	1911	Analysis of sewage contamination of River Carron and water analysis. (Pages torn from larger document)
A066.170	1911	List of privies and ashpits in the districts of Larbert, Stenhousemuir, Carron and Laurieston, compiled for the promoters of the Falkirk Burgh Extension Order, 1911. Includes information about condition of privies and ashpits, and name of owners.