**BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2015 IN BALFRON CAMPUS**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present**:  Colin Cameron (chair), Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, David McGowan, Kieran McHale, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett
**In Attendance**: Councillor Alistair Berrill, Jim Burns (First Bus), Gladys Farquharson, Carsten Mandt (Minutes), Alison Smith, PC Burns and PC Munro (Police Scotland)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**
No apologies were received.

**2. Minutes of Previous meeting 5 March 2015**
Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Kieran McHale.

**3. Matters Arising**
3.1.   [Re 3.2] Laura Elder said she hopes to have three quotations for the Christmas tree electrical work for next meeting. Nothing has been heard as yet regarding the felling of the current tree.
3.2.   [Re 3.3] Parking signage at Library will be replaced or restored.
3.3.   [Re 3.8] It is unclear who is to action the sharing of Community Council Police reports.
       **Action**: Alison Lamont-Chalmers
3.4.   [Re 5] A site visit of Printer's Row was conducted which has resulted in parking being moved to the other side of the road. This appears to have improved traffic flow and traffic speeds. However, speeding remains a concern. PC Burns confirmed that the police are carrying out frequent speed checks in the Balfron area.

**4. Police report**
A written Police report was received, highlighting current issues in Balfron regarding road safety and community engagement. The report notes that if a car is stopped for a defective light, if the driver has spare bulbs and is able to effect a roadside repair, the Police will take no further action. Variations in response times from the centralised Police contact centre were also noted. PC Burns also asked hill walkers to take account of changing weather conditions.

John Nicholson raised community concerns about an increase in empty alcohol bottles found in Donaldson Park. Bill Noblett flagged up concerns raised over illegal parking opposite the bank. The concerns were noted by PC Burns and PC Munro.

## 5. Design-a-Sign Sponsorship

Colin Cameron informed the group that the total cost for the fours signs is £12,000 (incl VAT). Initially fundraising efforts are focused on securing substantial sponsorship from major organisations in the area before widening this out to community fundraising efforts. Contacts have already been made with the Rotary Club, Cala Homes and Scottish Water. Other organisations that may wish to support the initiative were discussed and approaches will be made. Various community fundraising ideas were also discussed. Stirling Council has confirmed they will cover the cost of installation.

BCC thanked Graham Rose, Dawn Cullen, Louise Craig and Carsten Mandt for their substantial contribution to the Design-a-Sign initiative.

## 6. Alison Smith, Chair, Balfron Community Futures Development Trust

6.1. Alison Smith explained that the Development Trust is both a commercial business as well as a charitable trust. Its focus is very broad on generating community benefit for Balfron, and any commercial activity can be pursued by the Trust as long as it meets the criteria of community benefit. She underlined that all profits are re-invested in the community.

6.2. Discussions are ongoing as to the best approach to take for delivering the Trust's core aims and objectives, e.g. in other areas the local development trust operates as an umbrella organisation for local projects and groups, which applies for grant funding and then disseminates this among the various local projects.

6.3. A survey was carried out at last year's Balfron Bash to identify community priorities, e.g. children's play areas, especially for older children and environmental issues such as improving access to the paths network.

6.4. Alison pointed out that the Trust is currently looking for additional directors, Directors can either come from the Trust's membership or be appointments (for 1 year at a time) from the following community organisations: BCC, Donaldson Trust, Heritage Group and McLintock Hall Trust.

## 7. Balfron Bash

7.1. The 2015 Balfron Bash has been scheduled for 15 August.

7.2. BCC will take the lead on the event planning. The next planning meeting is on 15 April, 7.30pm.

7.3. Local community organisations will be offered stall space free but commercial organisations will be charged a stall fee. JB queried if there will be a charge for organisations having their logo on the flyer as for the Balfron 2014.

7.4. Options to hire or buy staging are being considered.

7.5. Bill Noblett will prepare a bid to the Community Pride Fund.

## 8. Councillor's Report

8.1. Cllr Berrill mentioned that the Council's roads maintenance budget includes funding for road and pavement works in Station Road and Roman Road.

8.2. JB highlighted concerns over the safety of the Balfron Station junction. He urged that road resurfacing improvements be considered to improve the safety of the junction.

8.3.  CC highlighted the positive and prompt engagement by Stirling Council officials to address a number of concerns that had been raised by the Community Council.

## 9. Treasurer's Report

9.1.  Two donations of £100 each were received from residents for Balfron in Bloom.

9.2.  A remittance advice was received for the grant of £110 for the printing and distribution of the Balfron in Bloom leaflets.   The meeting called to discuss the future of Balfron in Bloom was not successful with only 2 attendees, other than Kieran McHale and Bill Noblett.   Offers of physical support have been received from 3 others.   Gladys Farquharson will make arrangements for the annual plant sale in the McLintock Hall on Sat 9 May at 10am.   Bill will produce a flyer for the 9 May meeting.

9.3.  Details and Application Form regarding Stirling Council's Connect Fund was received. The Application Form for funding for the website development will be sent to Stirling Council by the deadline of 15th April.

9.4.  BCC was invited to subscribe once again to the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society – subscription rate for Community Councils £20.  This was agreed.

9.5.  Bill Noblett will prepare a Community Pride Fund Application Form for this year's Balfron Bash after the next 'Bash' meeting.   Following advice from Pam Campbell Bill sent an application for a grant for 2 event shelters to the CSFLA Lottery Committee.

9.6.  BCC received guidelines for this year's Community Pride Fund and Community Grants schemes from Stirling Council, with monthly deadlines.

9.7.  Bill Noblett will attend the Donaldson Trust AGM in May to join the Trust as the Community Council's representative.

## 10. Planning and Correspondence

10.1. John Nicholson reported that to date there has not been a response yet from Cllr Muirhead's office about progressing the Section 75 agreement with Cala, in particular in relation to their funding commitment for children's play area development.

10.2. He also pointed out that there is no clarity as yet about the land ownership of the grass verge at the Co-op car park. This was being queried with a view to potentially install a bus shelter.

10.3. Colin Cameron mentioned the Rotary Club newsletter, which confirms plans for the Santa Claus fundraising run.

10.4. On Saturday 11 April Balfron will be hosting a road cycle race. Further marshalls are still being sought.

## 11. Business from the floor

None.

## 12. AOB

Kieran McHale passed on concerns regarding the under-16 fare rise on the route to/from Balloch. JB explained the commercial rationale for the rise to ensure continuation of the route. He also explained that further discounts using the Young Scot card are available and information on where to obtain this was provided at the time of the far rise.

JB highlighted concerns regarding the increase in traffic volumes, especially in Dunmore St, adding that further traffic calming was required to manage traffic. CC pointed out that such concerns are part of the rationale behind exploring the potential for applying "shared space" principles in the village, as discussed at the March BCC meeting.

**Date of next meeting**: Thursday 7 May 2015, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus