



## BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2015 IN BALFRON CAMPUS

#### DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Colin Cameron (chair), Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, David McGowan, Kieran McHale, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Graham Rose

**In Attendance:** Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Councillor Graham Lambie, Carsten Mandt (Minutes), PC Alan McCallum (Police Scotland), Elaine Whyte (Rural Stirling Housing Association), Rae Wilson, Amanda Quinn, Gladys Farquharson, Janet Rutherford, Morven Linter, Bill Astley Jones, Duncan & Katriona Gilmour, Luci Rooney

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

No apologies were received.

#### 2. Minutes of Previous meeting 4 December 2014 and Matters Arising

Alison Lamont-Chalmers proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Laura Elder.

Matters arising:-

- 2.1. [Re 4.4] Colin Cameron informed the group that no further information has been received to date regarding the traffic calming measures for the new Cala developments.
- 2.2. [Re 4.7 and 4.8] Stirling Council are currently in the process of clarifying the available legal options to address car-parking issues at the Co-Op.
- 2.3. [Re 5] CC thanked Stirling Council for agreeing to cover the cost of installing the new village road signs.
- 2.4. [Re 7.4] CC mentioned that Tim Craig of Craig Tree Services has agreed to cut down the existing Christmas tree at cost. Pam Campbell mentioned that Stirling Council Land Services have agreed to pay for the new Christmas tree. Laura Elder will obtain a quote for the electrical work required. **ACTION:** Laura Elder.

#### 3. Police report

A written Police report was presented by PC McCallum. He highlighted an ongoing operation targeting travelling criminals operating in the area.

CC queried if action could be taken on vehicles that are parked in such a way that they force other vehicles on the other side of the road, e.g. parking on double yellows outside the Post Office, and a new occurrence of vehicles parking in Printer's Row on the left hand side as you enter the village. It was suggested from the floor that these vehicles had been moved from the

other side of the road at the suggestion of the police, to provide clear sight-lines from the cottage on the right. LE also highlighted ongoing issues at the McIntock Hall causing obstruction at the Dunmore St/ Buchanan St junction due to drivers ignoring the double yellow lines. Bill Noblett mentioned over-staying in the library parking bays, which are limited to 40 minutes maximum. He also pointed out that the disabled parking bay markings are no longer visible. **ACTION:** Pam Campbell will follow this up.

CC flagged up a letter raising the centralisation of Police Control Room operations. He also mentioned ongoing discussions with Police Scotland to discuss their engagement with Community Councils. A meeting has been proposed but no firm arrangements have been made to date.

#### **4. Fairtrade Fortnight**

Rae Wilson reminded the meeting that Balfon is a Fairtrade Village and she asked if there was scope to add "A Fairtrade Village" to the new village signs. She explained what Fairtrade Village status means and encouraged the community to consider Fairtrade products in their shopping. She also highlighted Fairtrade Fortnight, which runs from 23 February to 8 March.

#### **5. Elaine Whyte – Deputy Director, Rural Stirling Housing Association**

- 5.1. Elaine Whyte updated the group on the allocation process for the 8 new properties being built for social rent in the Cala development in Dunmore Street.
- 5.2. Elaine explained that Rural Stirling Housing Association (RSHA) was established by local residents 25 years ago as a membership organisation to address rural housing needs in the Stirling area. Membership is open to anyone who supports the objectives of the organisation. RSHA currently has 40 properties in Balfon.
- 5.3. RSHA operate an open list for tenants, i.e. anyone aged 16 or over and living in the UK can apply. The list currently includes 545 applicants but RSHA only has 40-45 properties available to let. There are 178 applicants for Balfon, 50 of whom have a direct connection with the village.
- 5.4. The RSHA allocation policy is based on housing need, in line with Scottish legislation. However, for new builds in local areas, a local letting initiative is set up to give greater weighting to local residents than would ordinarily be afforded by the allocation criteria. Other priority candidates come from internal transfer (existing RSHA tenants) and those nominated by Stirling Council (usually 50% of places).
- 5.5. Elaine Whyte mentioned that information would be sent to all applicants on the Balfon list to advise them of the process.
- 5.6. She confirmed that there are no further plans for RSHA developments in the village.

#### **6. Community Council Newsletter**

CC thanked BN for producing and disseminating the BCC newsletter. There are plans for a dedicated BCC website to support communication with the wider community. An offer has been received from the Beaver Scouts to help with the future distribution of the newsletter.

## **7. Design-A-Sign Update**

CC and Graham Rose updated the group on progress with developing the final design specification and ascertaining cost for the signs. **ACTION:** Pam Campbell will liaise with Stirling Council colleagues to clarify the regulatory requirements for street furniture. Bill Astley Jones said that the Strathendrick Rotary Club are interested in contributing to the funding of the signs, depending on cost and creditation.

## **8. Event Planning 2015**

- 8.1. CC noted the Balfronde Cycle Race (11 April), and the Balfron 10k (26 April) as upcoming village events.
- 8.2. Planning for this year's Balfron Bash (15 August (tbc)) is about to begin.
- 8.3. Events for Christmas and Hogmanay were discussed. Bill Astley-Jones said that the Rotary Club and the High School have agreed to hold a charity Santa Claus run through the village. The date is likely to be 11 December but that is to be confirmed.
- 8.4. It was also agreed to set up a planning committee for a Hogmanay event. This should include broad membership from the community. LE agreed lead on this. Lucy Rooney shared her experiences from previous Hogmanay events and offered to advise.

## **9. Community Council Vacancy Elections**

CC noted that elections are open for 4 vacancies on the Community Council. The 4 places include the existing two co-opted members. Nominations are to be submitted by 13 February. Application forms are available from the Stirling Council website, or from CC.

## **10. Councillor's Report**

- 10.1. Cllr Lambie shared an update report, informing BCC of new Stirling Council appointments and key points from the recent NHS Forth Valley Health Board meeting.
- 10.2. He highlighted ongoing discussions regarding the unused land in Barnwell Drive. Pam Campbell confirmed that the land in question is jointly owned by the 17 local residents. Cllr Lambie queried if a possible solution might be to build 2 houses on this land. He asked BCC to consider this and advise on this suggestion. A suggestion was made to explore the option of creating a community garden on the plot.
- 10.3. Bill Astley-Jones asked Cllr Lambie to feed back to Stirling Council a suggestion for making savings by streamlining the identification of sunken drains and manhole covers.

## **11. Treasurer's Report**

Bill Noblett presented a report, updating on BCC funding and recent expenditure. It was agreed to pursue RHS funding to support Balfron in Bloom. **ACTION:** BN will create a leaflet for distribution around Balfron and submit a funding application to Stirling Council.

Bill highlighted the availability of additional funding through the Connect Fund. This is a Stirling Council fund to help Community Councils communicate more effectively with local residents. The deadline for applications is 15 April. It was agreed to pursue this funding. As a first step the

commissioning of a BCC website will need to be costed before an application can be made.

**ACTION:** Bill Noblett.

## **12. Planning and Correspondence**

- 12.1. A number of comments were made about the poor design of the bus stop timetables, which are difficult to interpret. **ACTION:** Pam Campbell will query this with relevant colleagues in Stirling Council.
- 12.2. John Nicholson said that notice was given of planned works to upgrade existing telecommunication sites in Balfron to provide 4G-network coverage.
- 12.3. An invite was received to a conference on planning democracy on 25 April 2015.
- 12.4. A confirmation letter was received about disabled parking being created at 27 Dunkeld Court.

## **13. Feedback: Rural South West Area Forum; Community Council Conversation; Consultation on Health & Social Care Integration**

- 13.1. Alison Lamont-Chalmers and Kieran McHale fed back on the Rural South West Area Forum where the concept of Citizen's Assemblies was discussed. These would allow wider discussions with the public on pertinent issues of concern. The next meeting will focus on Police Scotland developments locally and nationally.
- 13.2. BN fed back on the Community Council Conversation event. The key discussion point was the lack of youth facilities, especially play areas for children. Bill mentioned that he has been invited to represent BCC at the Donaldson Trust where he will be able to raise this issue. Pam Campbell emphasised the limits of Stirling Council funding for play areas. **ACTION:** JN will contact the Planning Department for an update on Cala's developer contribution for play areas, as mentioned at the October BCC meeting.
- 13.3. Carsten Mandt mentioned that he responded to a recent consultation on the integration of social work and community health services, highlighting that current proposals needed more emphasis on patient safety.

## **14. Business from the floor**

None

## **15. AOB**

- 15.1 JN noted that a planning application has been made for 9 wind turbines in Clackmannanshire.
- 15.2 BN queried Stirling Council's plans for clearing leaves next autumn. He commended the efforts to grit roads and pavements during the recent bad weather, although it was recognised that not all pavements had been sufficiently treated.
- 15.3 KMCh mentioned the High School received funding for a large poly tunnel.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 5th March 2015, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus