



**BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH JUNE
2014 IN BALFRON CAMPUS**

Present: Colin Cameron; Mary Young; Ann Johnston; Bill Noblett; Laura Elder;
Alison Lamont Chalmers; Dave McGowan; John Nicholson

In Attendance: Councillor Alastair Berrill; Brian Wilson (Trading Standards, SC); Pam Campbell
(Community Engagement Team Stirling Council); Kieran McHale; Robert
Murphy; Carol Murphy; angie Dewar; Frances Dewar; Mr & Mrs Mair.

Apologies: Sandrine Gardner

1. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting: Proposed by Bill; seconded by Laura

2. Matters Arising:

2.1. Bill confirmed that the admin. grant has been received.

2.2. Defibrillator: Robert Murphy stated that four people had offered to pay towards the 24 hour defibrillator and that this totalled £480. Colin confirmed that BCC would be fundraising at Baton Day and at the Balfrom Bash and would continue on with further fundraising efforts. Colin suggested that the Sandpiper Trust be approached and this was agreed. Mention was made of the possibility of the Co-op Fund being approached if necessary. **Action: Bill and Ann to pursue funding opportunities for the defibrillator including The Sandpiper Trust.**

3. Trading Standards:

Brian Wilson, Trading Standards Officer with Stirling Council, had asked to speak to BCC about issues which require awareness within the local community.

3.1. Ongoing investigation: A court case resulting from bogus work which had been carried out in Drymen had shown that work also appeared to have been carried out in Balfrom. This was principally roofing work for which large sums of money had been obtained from householders. Brian asked that BCC highlight this to the community so that if people had been scammed they could come forward.

3.2. Rogue Workmen: Brian warned the community about the various scams operated by rogue traders – for example work carried out on a roof after which time the workmen would reappear stating that more work was needed. He reiterated that Balfrom is a 'NO COLD CALLING' community and he provided more door stickers, and a booklet on Doorstep Advice, all of which are available in the box in the Library.

3.3. Window Cleaners: Brian also informed the community that window cleaners must each have a current Stirling Council licence which must be on their person and be provided to anybody who asks to see it. He confirmed that if there is a refusal to show the licence or anybody is concerned that window cleaners are scamming people – for instance asking for monies which have already been paid – they should contact the police. Employing a non- licenced operative could leave you without insurance cover in case of accident.

3.4. Scam Mail – ‘Think Jessica’: Brian left booklets and told us about the ‘Think Jessica’ campaign. Jessica was a chronic scam mail victim, tricked into spending cash over a five year period. Brian explained that scammers quickly learned who was vulnerable to being scammed and lists of people were compiled, which were then passed on to other scammers, thus creating a vicious circle for the victims. The booklets are available in the Library box.

3.5. ‘Buy With Confidence’: Brian told the meeting of the scheme ‘Buy With Confidence’ to which Stirling Council have signed up. This is a UK-wide scheme whereby bona fide traders, who have to be police vetted and whose ethos is fairness to customers, sign up. Firms must be trading for six months before they can join.

4. **Police Report:**

There was no police officer present, neither had a report been handed in. BCC expressed its surprise and concern as we have been given to understand that the recent restructuring had been designed to ensure a police presence at CC meetings. It was noted that since the formation of BCC in March, police feedback had been very good, until the reorganisation. **Action: Colin will follow up the lack of attendance with Police Scotland.**

5. **Treasurer’s Report:**

The balance in the bank account as at 31st May stands at £1,720.78 of which the following has been allocated: WW1 events £819 .00 and £400.00 for the Balfron Bash.

A grant application for £680 to cover the cost of the Commonwealth Games Baton Relay Street Party has been submitted to The Community Pride Fund. We will be advised of the outcome of the application after 25th June.

6. **Planning:**

Mary confirmed that she had e mailed Stirling Council to support the designation of the Kilpatrick Hills.

Mary and Colin attended a Stirling Council Planning & Licensing Seminar which revealed very little not already known.

7. **Correspondence:**

7.1. A copy of Stirling Council’s planned roadworks for the area for 2014/2015 is available in the Community Council’s information box in the library.

7.2. A letter has been received from Mr R.A. Sparkes Secretary of The Communities, Recreation and Tourism Sub-Group of the Casrse of Stirling Stakeholder Panel, seeking BCC's support for a Cycle route connecting Balfron and Stirling. BCC agreed to support the proposal although it was noted that there is no representation on the panel from the area west of Buchlyvie. **Action: Ann to reply to Mr. Sparkes.**

7.3. Stirling Council is holding a 'Conversation' for Community Councils on 14 June to give feedback on community engagement. Pam said that it was expected that Stuart Carruth would be in attendance. **Action: Colin and Mary will attend.**

7.4. BCC had received an invitation for two people to an event in the Smith Museum to mark the opening of The Bannockburn Exhibition. **Action: Colin to attend.**

8. Baton Day:

The Baton will come through Balfron in the afternoon of Sunday 6 July. Those relaying the baton by car will stop for lunch in Killearn somewhere between 1-3 pm.

Permission has been granted to hold the Baton Party in the Co-op car park and this has been booked from 12 noon – 4 pm.

Laura is pulling together plans for the afternoon and she let us know the people who have already been booked for the event and those from whom we are awaiting confirmation.

Action: Colin to contact Jim Thomson re. leaflets to advertise Baton party. Dave and others will distribute leaflets in the village.

Bill will speak with Stuart McKay, Balfron High School regarding pupils being notified and spreading the word.

Laura will speak to Angus Black, Balfron Primary again, especially with regard to the children making their own posters.

Mary will speak with David Hopper to see if we can obtain waste bins.

9. Councillor's Report:

9.1. Councillor Berrill stated that this is his first visit since Balfron Community Council has been reformed and he congratulated everyone.

He said that in the past there have been complaints regarding ward councillors not being good at passing on information between the three of them. Councillor Berrill will be working on this to improve the working relationship.

9.2. The new Stirling Council Chief Executive, to replace Bob Jack, will be Stuart Carruth.

9.3. The Priority Based Budgeting process has not restarted yet but should soon.

9.4. The A811 will be closed at Gargunnoch from 9am – 9 pm on 28th June for the Armed Forces Day – substantial tailbacks are expected.

(Rab Murphy enquired whether cognisance had been taken of the weight restrictions on the bridge on the A875. Alistair said that he would check).

10. Community Action Plan:

Colin confirmed that the Action Plan was a work in progress aiming to identify priorities over the next four years. The draft list was discussed and the work needing to be done over the summer was identified and allocated.

11. Updates from the Chair:

11.1. Clachan Oak – The shortlisting for Scotland's Tree of the Year will take place on 16th July.

11.2. Buses meeting – Jim Burns and Jason Hackett have been invited to attend the next BCC meeting; we are awaiting a response.

12. AOB

12.1 Balfron in Bloom: Ann confirmed that over £500 had been raised at the Balfron in Bloom coffee morning, which had enabled the grass-cutting and plants to be paid for and she proposed a vote of thanks to Balfron in Bloom. Ann also mentioned that one lady had single-handedly planted out all the tubs. Most of the volunteers were getting on in years and younger people are being sought to help out. If you can help contact please any member of BCC.

12.2. Balfron Bash: Alison gave an update on preparation for the Balfron Bash. If anyone knows of any organisations or charities who would like to be represented at the Bash they should contact Alison. BCC will take a stall at the Bash. It was considered a good idea to share with BCFDT and the Heritage Group. **Action: Ann will speak to Pat Thomson.**

12.3. The Bunker Building: Pam will contact Tony Cain regarding the Bunker Building to see if the Council is intending to develop, and whether there is a possibility of using the building on a temporary basis.

12.4. Balfron 2014: The Balfron 2014 events are doing very well with the exception of the ceilidh/disco planned for 21st June. Some debate took place as to possible reasons for the lack of interest in this but it was accepted that Balfron 2014 will probably have to cancel the event.

12.5. Balfron Community Futures Development Trust: Ann and Mary reported that there is an open meeting on 18th June at 7.30 in the McLintock to restructure the Trust. BCC recognises that a Community Council and a Trust can and should work well together as evidenced in Killearn, in particular enabling their new Village Hall to be built.

13. AOB from the floor

13.1. Robert Murphy raised concerns about roads being closed for days at a time and suggested that crews start work earlier and finish later on summer evenings. Councillor Berrill said that there had been no positive suggestions regarding road closures in past CC meetings in any village but he would raise, with the Roads Department, the potential benefits of adding more crews and working longer days.

13.2. Carol Murphy raised concerns over parking at the Library as there are sometimes no spaces or a disabled bay, thus leaving no space for Library and chemist customers. There is currently a car for sale in the layby. She felt that Library customers were going to Libraries elsewhere. Mary made the point that there were cars owned by Haddens contracts, police cars and staff's own vehicles but by far the worst offenders were police vehicles because of numbers of them and the large distances left between vehicles. She said that, over the years, she had written to the Police several times to ask them to park with consideration for the neighbourhood. She also said that several weeks ago she had spoken with the Haddens Site Manager who had said that he would ensure that contractors' own vehicles would be parked in the Co-op car park.

13.3 Robert Murphy raised concerns regarding the local fire station manning plan which has a crew of four sitting in a station and no driver. A fire at a local farm recently had to await a crew coming from Balloch to control the fire whilst four members were sitting within Balfron Fire station but could not attend as they had no driver.

The next meeting of Balfron Community Council will be held on Thursday 4 September 2014