



## BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

#### DRAFT MINUTES

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

**In Attendance:** Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Councillor Ian Muirhead, Carsten Mandt (Minutes), George Brown, Mr. Campbell, Amanda Quinn, Susan Nisbet

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from John Nicholson.

#### 2. Minutes of Previous meeting 5 Feb 2015

Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Kieran McHale.

#### 3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. [Re 2.2] No update has been received yet regarding legal options to address the car parking issues at the Co-Op.
- 3.2. [Re 2.4] Laura Elder informed BCC that she is awaiting three quotations to carry out electrical works for the Christmas tree. A suggestion was made to have an annual cut tree rather than a planted one. This would avoid the tree outgrowing its useful life as at present, but it would rely on trees being donated by local businesses.
- 3.3. [Re 3] Bill Noblett confirmed parking restrictions at the library as 20mins waiting time, but added that the signs are no longer legible. The proposed meeting with Chief Superintendent Davie Flynn has been superceded by Police Scotland's attendance at the last Rural South West Area Forum. Further contact with Police Scotland will be welcomed to ensure that there is a Police presence at BCC meetings.
- 3.4. [Re 7] A response from Alan Ogilvie is still outstanding on the proposed plans for the new village signs.
- 3.5. [Re 8] The 2015 Balfroon Bash is now confirmed for 15 August. Pam Campbell confirmed that there is no requirement for a license if the event has fewer than 300 attendees but public liability insurance will be needed. Regarding Hogmanay, it was proposed to focus on creating an event at the Co-Op car park. Any such gathering will be raised early with neighbours and the car park landowners. **ACTION:** Laura Elder
- 3.6. [Re 10] Further correspondence was received regarding Barnwell Drive, which confirms that any resolution to the issues is the responsibility of the owners/residents. Pam Campbell noted that she has offered to help create a residents' organisation but this has not yet been taken up. CC said that this was now out of the hands of the Community Council.

- 3.7. John Nicholson, Amanda Hillis and CC met with Stirling Council over complaints that the local bus timetables are difficult to interpret. New timetables are now being installed to address these issues. BCC will review these and also flag up other examples from neighbouring areas that work well. The leaking bus shelter opposite the Co-Op was also raised.
- 3.8. Pam Campbell asked that the monthly community police reports be shared with neighbouring Community Councils. This was welcomed.

#### **4. Police report**

A written Police report was received, highlighting current issues in Balfron regarding road safety and community engagement.

#### **5. Road Safety – Printer’s Row**

Community concerns have been raised over parking at Printer’s Row. Local residents present explained that these changes were made at the request of the Police following a complaint about the previous pavement parking on the opposite side of the street. They added that an aggravating issue with the new arrangement is the speed of some vehicles leaving or entering the village.

Carsten Mandt queried if the Police had considered moving the on-street parking to the other side of the road as this may provide better visibility for cars trying to get around the parked vehicles. Mr. Campbell added that there may also be an option to park on the pavement outside No 1 Printers Row, but the Police have confirmed this would also be illegal. **ACTION:** Pam Campbell will explore the feasibility of creating bollarded parking spaces.

The meeting agreed that traffic calming measures at the village entrance should be looked at as a priority. **ACTION:** CC will seek a meeting with both Police Scotland and Stirling Council to resolve the immediate issue.

#### **6. “Shared Space” – Planning for the Future**

- 6.1. Following discussion at a previous BCC meeting Graham Rose and Carsten Mandt gathered further information on the concept of “shared space” as part of an overarching strategic plan for Balfron. Carsten gave brief presentation and demonstrated an example of the use of shared space in Poynton (a video is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vzDDMzq7d0>). The meeting agreed that it would be worthwhile exploring options for applying this approach in Balfron.
- 6.2. Pam Campbell confirmed that shared space schemes had been discussed previously within Stirling Council but lacked buy-in from local communities. A local action plan had been developed by Balfron Community Futures in 2011, but does not make reference to shared space. This would need to be updated and consulted on widely across the community. **ACTION:** CC will follow this up with Balfron Community Futures Group. **ACTION:** Pam Campbell will share work from other community council areas on their local development plans and community engagement.

## **7. Councillor's Report**

- 7.1. Cllr Muirhead noted Stirling Council have approved the budget for next year. A number of Priority Based Budget proposal for cuts have been removed from the final budget, following the engagement with local communities.
- 7.2. £100k funding is available for community pilots and £240k for civic realm improvements.
- 7.3. There is also ring-fenced funding for safer route to school developments. This will need a coordinated approach between school travel planning and the Community Council. There may be scope to apply the shared space approach to safer routes to school in Balfron.
- 7.4. Cllr Muirhead confirmed that the road resurfacing budget was reduced substantially.
- 7.5. The contract between the Scottish Government and BT Open Reach was extended provide the roll out of superfast broadband. Progress and timelines are available on [www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen](http://www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen)
- 7.6. Cllr Muirhead has been asked to respond to a stop and search consultation from Police Scotland by 17 March. The meeting advised that this was not known to be an issue within Balfron.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

- 8.1. Bill Noblett welcomed a donation of £160.75 from Balfron 2014.
- 8.2. No confirmation yet of the application process for Stirling Council's Connect Fund. As soon as it is received BN will proceed with the application based on the quotations for the construction of a BCC website.
- 8.3. As intimated at the last meeting, flyers about the Balfron in Bloom meeting were ordered and passed to the Beavers for distribution. Confirmation of the success of the application for funding of this through the Community Pride Fund has not yet been received.
- 8.4. Susan Nisbet said that she was starting an "Incredible Edibles" community group to take over small spaces for growing edible plants. Stirling Council has offered the use of a small bed in front of the registry office and at the Tontine corner. Pam Campbell explained that BCC can apply for funding on the basis of the group being constituted as a formal sub-group of BCC. She also pointed out that seeds and seed potatoes are available from Stirling Council through the edible borders programme. BCC agreed to support the Incredible Edibles group as a sub-group of BCC and will submit a Community Pride funding application.
- 8.5. In anticipation of this year's Balfron Bash, BN obtained a quotation for the hire of Spider Mountain and an inflatable for under 10s. BCC approved the booking.
- 8.6. BN spoke to Tina Morrison, Secretary of the Donaldson Trust, about the Section 75 funding for play areas discussed at the last meeting. This will be discussed at the next Trust meeting.

## **9. Planning and Correspondence**

John Nicholson shared a written update on planning matters:

- 9.1. The planning schedule from Stirling Council has no current developments in Balfron.
- 9.2. There has been no follow-up as yet regarding Cllr Lambie's road and pavement issues report, which he raised at the last BCC meeting.

- 9.3. JN will confirm ownership of the grass verge at the Co-op car park with a view to proposing the erection of a bus shelter.
- 9.4. CC queried ownership of the land around the Haven SUDS as the current open access is potentially dangerous. This appears to reside with Stirling Rural Housing Association amongst others. BN queried if there is a responsibility for either Stirling Council or Scottish Water to address this. Pam Campbell suggested asking Stirling Rural Housing Association and local elected members to take this forward. **ACTION:** Cllr Muirhead will follow this up.
- 9.5. Stirling Council has confirmed its interest in bringing the basement space adjacent to the former 'Bunker' building back into use. CC highlighted potential community and commercial opportunities for its use. These need to be explored. However, a budget for refurbishment of the building would be required.
- 9.6. Invitations have been received to two Stirling Council events: an Introduction to Employment Law on 17 March (*since cancelled*); and a debate on the future of Local Government Funding on 26 March. BN will attend the latter.

#### **10. Business from the floor**

None.

#### **11. AOB**

None.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 2 April 2015, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus