



## BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2014 IN BALFRON CAMPUS

#### DRAFT MINUTES

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

**In Attendance:** Jim Burns (First), Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Jason Hackett (First), Carsten Mandt (minutes), Councillor Graham Lambie

**Apologies:** John Nicholson

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as stated above. Sandrine Gardener's resignation from BCC was noted.

#### 2. Minutes of Previous meeting 2 October 2014 and Matters Arising

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Graham Rose and seconded by Kieran McHale.

Matters arising:-

- 2.1. A date has yet to be agreed for a representative from Stirling Council housing department to attend a BCC meeting to discuss the Cala developments in Kiltrochan Drive and Dunmore Street.
- 2.2. Action against Japanese knotweed has been taken by Stirling Council. The sightlines at the Balfron Station junction are also being addressed.

#### 3. Police report

A written Police report was received. BCC noted the continued lack of Police representation at meetings, recognising the competing demands on Police officers' time.

Cllr Lambie mentioned that he had recently asked for the relevant Police officer to be named on the Police report, along with their direct contact details. Pam Campbell mentioned that Cllr Earl has been tasked with investigating possible solutions to common concerns regarding Police engagement with Community Councils. Colin Cameron confirmed that BCC had received a letter from Cllr Earl regarding this matter. **ACTION:** Colin Cameron will respond to this on behalf of BCC.

Laura Elder raised concerns over the Police Station not being manned during core hours.

Cllr Earl had also raised the Community Payback Service with BCC, asking for suggestions of opportunities to use the service within the village. Any suggestions should be made to Norrie Gilmour. Pam Campbell clarified that suitable initiatives exclude those that would overlap with the remit of paid members of Council staff.

#### **4. Councillor's report**

- 4.1. Cllr Lambie updated BCC on recent changes to the structure of Stirling Council.
- 4.2. He highlighted the upcoming priority based budgeting meeting on 25 November, 7pm at Balfron High School to engage with the local community on future budget priorities for the Council.
- 4.3. Cllr Lambie asked BCC to send in a list of road maintenance issues that need addressed which he can raise with the roads officers. This approach has been very successful in other areas.
- 4.4. Cllr Lambie updated BCC on progress with issues that have been raised regarding Barnwell Drive. He highlighted that there is still a lack of clarity over ownership of the land. The Council will not take on maintenance responsibilities for privately owned land. Pam Campbell added that suggestions have been made to possibly create a Tenants and Residents Association for the area. However, an offer to facilitate a meeting to explore this proposal further has not been taken up to date. Laura Elder pointed out that there had been communication from Stirling Council previously which suggested that the Council would take on maintenance of this land. **ACTION:** Pam Campbell and Laura Elder will liaise to clarify the current situation.
- 4.5. Jim Burns asked that the Council carry out maintenance work at the old bunker site, which the Council owns. He also asked for local residents to be consulted on any plans to develop the site.

#### **5. Road Safety Measures**

The Stirling Council roads department have advised that the congestion at the Dunmore St / Buchanan St junction is being worked on. It has been proposed to extend the double yellow lines on the north side of Dunmore St to accommodate vehicle movement in both directions. Jim Burns highlighted that he also raised issues with visibility and safety at the Balfron Station junction. These are also being looked into.

Jim Burns mentioned that traffic speeds near the bus depot have reduced to an average of 28 mph. There is an aspiration of perhaps including this in a 20mph zone. He suggested that the Council should approach Cala to explore options for traffic calming measures.

Colin Cameron mentioned that Alan Ogilvie from the roads department has agreed to attend a future meeting to discuss BCC concerns regarding road safety.

Jim Burns pointed out that there is scope for A4 sized community notices to be displayed on First buses. **ACTION:** Graham Rose will liaise with Jim Burns to display Design-A-Sign posters.

## 6. Treasurer's report

A written report was submitted by Bill Noblett:

- 6.1. Monitoring Report Forms for the Community Pride Grants received for the Baton Relay/Balfron Bash and for the Balfron 2014 Finale Concert have been sent to Stirling Council. As per the Council's request a refund of £313 with regard to the joint underspend from the Baton Relay and Bash is being processed.
- 6.2. Confirmation has been received from Stirling Council that the BCC grant application for £596 for the Design-a-Sign competition has been approved.

## 7. Planning and Correspondence

- 7.1. Angus Black, Headmaster of the Primary School, has advised of a travel to school meeting on 17 November. John Nicholson will attend on behalf of BCC.
- 7.2. Stirling Community Health Partnership will hold event on 19 November to inform the community about Stirling Community Hospital and A&E and out of hours services.
- 7.3. Correspondence was received asking for suggestions of possible housing development sites for the Local Development Plan.
- 7.4. BCC was informed of a campaign to open a new train station near the Allander Centre in Milngavie to relieve congestion at existing station car parks.
- 7.5. Stuart Ballantyne advised that the new defibrillator is now installed at the High School.

## 8. Chair's Report

- 8.1. Colin Cameron noted that the Clachan Oak has achieved a very creditable third place at the Scotland's Tree of the Year award.
- 8.2. The Design-a-Sign exhibition will take place on Saturday 15 November. Submissions can be handed in between 10am and 12 noon. A shortlist will be decided on the day with the shortlisted entries being displayed in the public library before a final decision is made by BCC in December.
- 8.3. Vacancy elections: Colin Cameron flagged up that the number of elected members has now dropped below the required number of 7. Vacancy elections will be required in January. A notice will be displayed before 26 January 2015, with nominations due in by 13 February 2015.
- 8.4. BCC attendance is required on Monday 17 November at the Rural Southwest Area Forum, to discuss the potential creation of citizen assemblies. **ACTION:** Kieran McHale and Alison Lamont Chalmers will attend.
- 8.5. Attendance is also required at the next AGM of the Balfron Futures group. **ACTION:** Colin Cameron and Laura Elder will attend.
- 8.6. The aforementioned Priority Based Budgeting meeting will be held on 25 November, 7pm, at the High School. This is open to all Stirling Council area residents. The remit of the meeting is to discuss the Council's draft budget plan, explain the various options presented in the draft plan, and get community feedback on the proposal. Community feedback is also being sought via a questionnaire (available on the Stirling Council website: <http://my.stirling.gov.uk/shapingstirling>). The deadline for comments is 9 January 2015.

Cllr Lambie emphasised the opportunity for possible spend to save measures to be included in the final plan.

- 8.7. A Review of Strategic Engagement Process meeting will take place on Saturday 13 December 2014 to review how the Council and the Community Councils can work together more effectively. **ACTION:** Bill Noblett will attend.

### **9. RHS Small Grant Funding for Scottish Community Gardens**

Bill Noblett flagged up an opportunity to apply to the Royal Horticultural Society for funding for community gardening projects. Applications are accepted until 8 December. Kieran McHale queried if the Eco School project could support Balfron in Bloom to submit a joint application.

**ACTION:** Kieran McHale and Bill Noblett will liaise to submit an application.

### **10. The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice Community Council Survey**

Community Councils are being asked to complete a survey about community concerns regarding crime and issues relating to youth justice. On consideration BCC decided the survey was too vague to be useful.

### **12. Community Concerns re Sale of Energy Drinks to Young People**

Kieran McHale mentioned that a parent had raised concerns over the effect of energy drinks on young people. The High School have subsequently banned all energy drinks from the Campus. David McGowan and Laura Elder confirmed that these drinks are not age-restricted products and the decision to sell them is up to individual retailers. **ACTION:** Pam Campbell will clarify with trading standards colleagues if this is a commonly raised concern. She also advised that parents / the school should contact trading standards directly about any concerns they may have. **ACTION:** Alison Lamont Chalmers will write to the Co-op and the newsagent to highlight concerns that had been raised. She will copy her letter to the GP for information / comment.

### **13. Business from the floor**

None.

### **14. AOB**

Bill Noblett mentioned the AGM of Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society which will be held on 22 November in Perth.

Graham Rose queried if there was local support available for elderly residents attending Larbert hospital to visit family and friends. Pam Campbell explained that the Royal Volunteer Society provide door to door volunteer driver service. Rae Wilson at the lunch club will be able to advise of the detail. Individuals may also wish to register with Stirling Carer's Centre for additional support.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 4th December 2014, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus