



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2014 IN BALFRON CAMPUS

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Colin Cameron, Laura Elder, Sandrine Gardner, Dave McGowan, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Mary Young

In Attendance: Jim Burns, Jason Hackett (First Group), PC Burns (Police Scotland), Carsten Mandt (minutes), Graeme Rose, Kieran McHale, Councillor Graham Lambie

Apologies: Alison Lamont Chalmers, Pam Campbell (Community Engagement Team, Stirling Council)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as noted above. CC highlighted the resignation from Balfroon Community Council (BCC) of Ann Johnston and Mary Young. He thanked Alison Chalmers for agreeing to take over as secretary.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 5 June 2014 and Matters Arising

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Bill Noblett and seconded by Laura Elder. Matters arising:-

2.1 Defibrillator: Money has been identified for a defibrillator to be situated in Balfroon Primary School. As the Primary School is not always accessible, the group agreed that a defibrillator was still needed in a more central location within the village that was accessible 24/7. Outside the police station or the old phone box next to the bus depot were suggested as potential locations. There is as yet no clarity regarding funding for this.

ACTION: Colin Cameron will follow this up with Stuart Ballantyne of Trossachs Search and Rescue.

2.2 Police Liaison: Colin Cameron highlighted that at the last meeting there had been a lack of representation from Police Scotland, which has now been addressed. The group welcomed that PC Burns was able to attend the meeting.

2.3 Colin Cameron and Mary Young attended the meeting of Stirling Council's Community Conversation in June. This proved both informative and an excellent networking opportunity.

2.4 Bunker building: This has now been demolished but Stirling Council have invited suggestions for community use of the basements underneath the tenements.

ACTION: Colin Cameron will follow this up. Jim Burns mentioned that Stirling Council have scheduled works to grass the bunker site and repair the railings.

2.5 Balforn 2014: Bill Noblett and Ann Johnston had submitted a grant application for funding for the Homecoming finale concert which was successful.

2.6 Community Futures Trust (CFT): Ann Johnston and Mary Young will remain with the CFT until it is restructured. The next AGM is currently proposed for the 2nd week of November. Mary Young highlighted opportunities for partnership working between BCC and CFT.

2.7 Fire Service: Colin Cameron mentioned that Pam Campbell had written to the Fire Service regarding staffing levels but no response has been received to date.

3. Jim Burns and Jason Hackett (First Group) – Q&A

Jim Burns provided an overview of the current provision of First Bus services to the village. The average age of vehicles has been highlighted by residents. He pointed out that rolling stock is expected to improve next year following vehicles used in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games being cascaded through First Group. Vehicles will also need to be updated over the next 3 years to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Jim Burns highlighted that a low fare commuter ticket was introduced (£28/week) for commuters to Glasgow. There is an aspiration to extend this to Stirling. The timetable is also being revised to better link up with connecting services, both in the morning and evening.

The Balforn bus depot has been nominated for as the best small depot in the UK.

Colin Cameron asked about the level of service uptake. Jason Hackett replied that passenger figures are declining and the Balforn depot is currently trading at a loss. However, through a greater focus on efficiency the depot is now turning the trend.

Bill Noblett pointed out difficulties in getting private hire buses and asked if there is scope for First to offer such a service again. Jason Hackett and Jim Burns explained that this would be unlikely to be commercially viable due to very different regulations to operate private hire, which would necessitate significant upfront investment.

Mary Young highlighted that bus stop timetable information is very difficult to understand and asked for this to be rectified. Jim Burns explained that this is the remit of Stirling Council, not the bus operators. He added that this is a known issue, which Stirling Council has now addressed. He pointed out that staff at the Balforn depot are also happy to assist with any timetable queries.

Jim Burns mentioned that he had observed cars exceeding the 30 mile speed limit on Dunmore St very significantly on a number of occasions. Traffic calming measures have been requested from Stirling Council to address this. He also highlighted difficulties for bus drivers in negotiating the Dunmore St / Buchanan St junction when cars are parked opposite the junction, and he asked for support from BCC to have the junction improved.

Colin Cameron thanked Jim and Jason for their very helpful presentation.

4. Police report

The group noted the Police report submitted by PC Burns and discussed the response to a recent house party, which was broken up and subsequently spilled over to other parts of the village. Colin Cameron suggested querying this with the Police representative at the next meeting.

5. Councillor's report

5.1 Councillor Lambie provided an update report. The Local Development Plan has been approved by Stirling Council. The petitions panel has approved repairs to the footpath at Boquhan. Councillor Lambie highlighted the Council's petitions panel as a very powerful mechanism for the community to have issues discussed by the Council. A minimum of 25 signatures is required to progress a petition to be discussed.

5.2 Colin Cameron passed on complaints from a Dunmore St resident about the work at the Cala building site frequently being started before the agreed 8am start time.

ACTION: Councillor Lambie will follow this up.

5.3 The as yet unresolved issue with the Haven SUDS and the land at Barnwell Drives was discussed. There is a lack of clarity over the land ownership. Laura Elder emphasised that there is a majority view among residents that the land should be taken on by Stirling Council to ensure it is maintained and kept tidy. However, in the past there was an objection to this, which had resulted in no action being taken. Mary Young mentioned that this land was included in the planning conditions for Phase 2 of the Endrick development. However, the builders involved in this appear to not have met all the required conditions.

ACTION: Councillor Lambie will investigate this matter further.

6. Treasurer's report

6.1 Bill Noblett reported on the financial situation of BCC. To date no business donations for the Baton Relay party and the Balfron Bash have been received. It was agreed that this should be pursued for future events.

6.2 Bill Noblett proposed that grant funding should be applied for to support the Design-a-Sign competition planned for launch in September. This could be approved by November if the application was submitted now. This was agreed by the Community Council.

ACTION: Bill Noblett and Colin Cameron will prepare an application.

7. Planning and Correspondence

7.1 Correspondence was received from Peter Lee highlighting that agreed working hours at the Cala development in Dunmore St are frequently violated. Sandrine Gardner also flagged up that works vehicles frequently speed in Dunmore St. Colin Cameron will pursue these issues with Stirling Council. Councillor Lambie asked for copies of the correspondence.

7.2 Colin Cameron mentioned that Stirling Council's Local Development Plan identified a new conservation area in the village. This is available at the website:

http://www.stirling.gov.uk/_documents/temporary-uploads/economy,-planning- and -regulation/ldp-final/con-apps-aug-2014/balfron-conservation-area-1.pdf

7.3 A response to the proposed Balfron Station development of "no comment" will be submitted.

8. Chair's report

8.1 Colin Cameron highlighted BCC activities over the summer, which were successful in raising the profile of the BCC.

8.2 The Clachan Oak has now been shortlisted for the Woodland Trust's Scottish Tree of the Year award. The public voting will run from 8th September to 26th October 2014. The competition is fierce, so everyone is encouraged to vote at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/scotland-toty-shortlist

8.3 The Balfron Bash was a great success for the community. Discussions are ongoing to establish the most effective working relationship between BCC and the Balfron Bash organisers for future events.

8.4 The Design-A-Sign competition for new road signs at village entrances. This is intended to launch on 24th September, followed by an open day and workshop on 4th October at the McLintock Hall and a public exhibition of all submissions on 15th November. The aspiration is to have the new signs in place for spring 2015.

8.5 The group agreed to develop a monthly newsletter for BCC. The Guides have indicated they would be happy to help with distribution. A volunteer to lead will need to be identified. Kieran McHale proposed liaising with the High School as some of the pupils who are interested in journalism may want to take this on.

8.6 Colin Cameron raised that a new vice chair and a lead for planning and licensing issues will need to be identified.

9. Consideration of Co-opted member

Colin Cameron proposed Graeme Rose as a new BCC member. This was agreed unanimously.

10. Business from the floor

None.

11. AOB

11.1 Persistent problems with dog waste were highlighted, especially in Donaldson Park.

11.2 Colin Cameron said two places are available for BCC at the First Aid training on 18th September in Killearn. Sandrine Gardner and John Nicholson will attend.

11.3 Bill Noblett mentioned that a new third signatory to the BCC bank account is needed.

ACTION: Bill Noblett will liaise with Alison Lamont Chalmers on this.

11.4 Colin Cameron, on behalf of BCC, thanked Mary Young for her long standing contribution to both the community and BCC, and wished her well in her new home in Killearn.

12. Date of next meeting: Thursday 2nd October 2014, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus