



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 MAY 2015 IN BALFRON CAMPUS

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Colin Cameron (Chair), Laura Elder, Bill Noblett, David McGowan, Alison Lamont Chalmers

In Attendance: Gladys Farquharson, June Taylor, Sheena Leith, Sarah Jane Black, Amanda Quinn (Stirling Low Carbon Future), Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), PC Graham (Police Scotland)

1. Welcome and Apologies

John Nicholson, Kieran McHale, Carsten Mandt

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 2 April 2015

Bill Noblett(BN) proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Laura Elder(LE).

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Donald MacLeod has looked at the Christmas tree electrical box and will send a quote to LE. LE will chase up other contractors for quotes.

4. Police Report

A written Police report was presented by PC Graham. He highlighted the recent vandalism to a polytunnel at the high school and informed the meeting that two suspects had been seen on CCTV.

Colin Cameron asked if the Police report would be compiled by the same Sergeant every month. PC Graham replied that this could change week by week and would be produced by the on-duty group sergeant.

5. Design-a-Sign Sponsorship

Colin Cameron (CC) reported that we had now received two quotes for the cost to make the road signs with a third in hand. He reiterated that Stirling Council will cover the cost of installation. Cala Homes and Scottish Water had both said no to contributing to the cost as they had already committed to various good works within the community. There was a discussion around what other businesses could be approached for funding and how this could be broken down.

6. Stirling Low Carbon Future – Amanda Quinn

Amanda Quinn (AQ) explained that the Stirling Low Carbon Future group is an environmental body born out of the Fintry Development Trust and Transition Stirling. They aim to give energy advice to home owners and businesses Stirling wide and are looking to upgrade five businesses in the area. They can give advice on the siting of photovoltaic solar panels and are interested in installing two of these at the High School polytunnel if these could be sited safely.. They can also give advice on funding upgrading of buildings e.g. village halls and installation of biomass boilers. As part of the team they also have a wood upcycler who, for example, can turn wooden pallets into raised planting beds. They will have an information stall at the Balfron Bash this year.

7. Balfron Bash

CC updated the group on the progress made on the planning of this event. There have been two meetings now with the numbers of people who want to take part looking good. Staging is required for the musical entertainment on the day and this is proving difficult to obtain. Alison Lamont Chalmers (ALC) agreed to ask Denver about this again. PC suggested an alternative could be a flat bed truck. Boquhan Estates has provided one of these for events in the past.

BN will speak to Tina Morrison of the Donaldson Trust re written confirmation of the Trusts permission to use the park on the day.

8. Balfron Community Council website

CC was concerned that unless notices are delivered door to door around Balfron, Community Council communication is restricted to two village noticeboards, Facebook and an area of the Balfron.ning site. Funding has therefore been secured from Stirling Council for a BCC website. This has now been created by local designer Derek Townsend, and should go live shortly.

9. Councillor's report

No Councillor was present at the meeting and no report was forwarded for inclusion.

10. Treasurer's report

BN confirmed that a Connect fund grant had been received to pay for the website and an application for a Community Pride grant for this year's Bash had been submitted. Another donation of £100 had been made by a local couple towards Balfron in Bloom. Incredible Edibles had received a Community Pride award of £395. The group have launched successfully with vegetables being planted in open areas around the village. To facilitate the planting, a number of rose bushes had been removed from the Tontine which has caused some comment, but Gladys confirmed these plants were old and had not been well looked after. CC said the Community Council was very supportive of this initiative, and would review its success at the end of the year.

BN and CC will take along Design-a-sign leaflets to a Funding Fair in the Albert Halls, Stirling on May 13th to see if any help with funding the signs can be obtained.

Addendum to above: BN actioned payment of £80 for Balfron 2014 Photo Album. The Community Council had agreed this would be paid out of a donation recently received from the Balfron 2014 group.

11. Planning and Correspondence

Alteration to 19 Buchanan St, Balfron, and an extension to Indian's Cottage, Balfron Station have been posted. No petitions have been received on either.

12. Business from the Floor

Sarah Black (SB) told the group about her long term foster child who is autistic and needs a physical boundary to stop him running off. To this end she had approached the Donaldson Park Trust to ask if self-closing gates could be fitted to the enclosed play area of the park. Unfortunately, the Trust had turned down this request as they were concerned that gates would not stop the child escaping. Sarah has since contacted Stirling Council Land Services who have been supportive of her case. PC asked if Land Services had allocated some of the Section 75 money to the cost of gates but this was not known. She explained that this would have to be clarified as the money is unlikely to go as far as the residents would expect. If all of the money was spent in Donaldson Park, could this be justified to the rest of the community? It was agreed that representatives from the Community Council meet with Stirling Council representatives at Donaldson Park re Cala funding commitment to play area development under Section 75 agreement. JN and BN will attend on behalf of BCC, and PC will organise.

13. Any Other Business

The next Rural South West Forum meeting is on May 18 in the High school. ALC will attend with one other from the Community Council.

Stirling Council has identified three areas suitable for their Community Planning and Regeneration pilot. These are Strathblane, Killlearn and Balfron and are now known as test areas. There has been no discussion re what the purpose of this is with the communities. It is expected that a meeting will be called to discuss this with the Community Councils of the areas concerned prior to the Rural South West Forum.

PC will organise a workshop to explore the Shared Spaces concept between Stirling Council officials, Balfron Community Council and other interested parties as discussed in the Community Council meeting of March 2015.

June Taylor (JT) asked if alongside Cala homes obligation to commit funds under Section 75 to play area provision, was Stirling Council also committed under Wider Role funding to make a contribution to the area. PC confirmed that money had been committed to Arts projects but this had been allocated to Stirling City centre as this would be accessible to all residents in Stirling area. She did, however, state that she would ask Stirling council member, John McMillan about this funding and will feed back.

Gladys Farquharson (GF) reminded the group about the Balfron in Bloom plant sale and coffee morning on Saturday 9 May to raise funds to pay for replacement planters and tubs around the village. Incredible Edibles are taking a table at the event.

14. Date of next meeting: Thursday 4 June 2015, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus