



## BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2015 IN BALFRON CAMPUS DRAFT MINUTES

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

**In Attendance:** Carsten Mandt (minutes)

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from David McGowan and John Nicholson.

#### 2. Minutes of 2014 AGM

Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Laura Elder.

#### 3. Chair's Report

Colin Cameron presented his chair's report about the past year's activities and achievements: The current Council was constituted in March 2014, so this is our first full year of operation, and it was a busy year: we played a significant role in ensuring the success of Balftron 2014, the village's contribution to the Homecoming celebrations, including the Balftron Bash; we created a wonderful party for the Queen's Baton Relay, which brought hundreds of people onto Buchanan Street to welcome the Commonwealth Games baton; we launched the Design-a-Sign competition which garnered sixty entries from all sections of Balftron life, and saw Louise Craig's design take top place through the acclamation of a public vote. We entered the Clachan Oak into Scotland's Tree of the Year competition, coming third overall; we supported the provision of a 24-hour access defibrillator at Balftron High School; and the establishment of the innovative Incredible Edibles project, to grow vegetables in available public spaces. We negotiated the removal of the so-called 'Bunker building', a long-standing village eyesore; and resolved various issues concerning car parking and bus timetabling. So thank you to all who were involved in every aspect of these events.

There were other causes for celebration too: our very own Ross Murdoch took gold and bronze at the Commonwealth Games, which we marked with banners in the village; Peggy Murray reached her 100th birthday; and Betty and Jimmy Rose celebrated their Diamond Wedding.

In our Council meetings, which were well-attended by a number of Balftron residents across the year, we had presentations from, amongst others: Stuart Ballantyne of Trossachs Search & Rescue; Brian Wilson, Trading Standards Officer; Jim Burns and Jason Hackett of First Bus; Alan Ogilvie of Stirling Council's Traffic Management department; Elaine Whyte, Rural Stirling Housing Association; Alison Smith, Chair of Balftron Futures Development Trust; and Amanda Quinn of Stirling Low Carbon Future.

One of our biggest concerns is communication with the wider community, and here we have made significant progress over the year. We produced our first Newsletter in January, which, through the hard work of many people, was distributed to every house in Balfron. We hope this is the first of an occasional series. Our new Facebook page now has over 300 'Likes', and is a valuable means of getting information out quickly; and, importantly for communicating with a wider audience, our new website, [balfroncc.org.uk](http://balfroncc.org.uk), is now live.

There are a number of areas where we still need to make progress:

- Car parking remains a troublesome issue, particularly in the so-called Co-Op car park, where thoughtless parking in disabled bays, and by the adjacent garage, has not been satisfactorily resolved. The sad accident to a young boy before Christmas highlights the need for constant vigilance about road safety;
- Attendance by Police Scotland at our meetings been fitful, but is now improving, and we are constantly seeking ways to ensure that communication between us is effective;
- We have made little impact into developing a Community Action Plan, including emergency resilience planning, and need to work to ensure this does not fall by the wayside;
- Our membership remains precariously low – we are at the lower limit of viability, and we need to work hard to encourage other people within Balfron to take an active part in our proceedings.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the tireless work of Pam Campbell of Stirling's Community Engagement Team, who is a vital link between us and the Council, and an invaluable fount of knowledge on all matters to do with the Council. Overall, there has been a significant improvement with Stirling Council's engagement with us, and I particularly commend the Priority Based Budgeting process, which appears to be genuinely transparent, and helpful in taking account of community priorities. The active engagement of our three Councillors, Graham Lambie, Alistair Berrill, and Ian Muirhead, has also been much appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to pay tribute to some departing members of the Community Council: in September we lost two veterans of the community scene – Mary Young, and Ann Johnston. Their unstinting commitment to the well-being of Balfron over many years must not go unrecorded. Sandrine Gardner also made the decision to step down, as did Graham Rose, a co-opted member. I'm delighted to say that he remains working closely with us, doing a huge amount of work on the designing and planning of the new Balfron road signs. We thank them all for the work they have done on behalf of the Community Council.

The roles of Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Planning have been ably filled by Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, and John Nicholson respectively; and Kieran McHale was voted on as a full member in January. I would also like to pay particular tribute to the work of Carsten Mandt in minuting our meetings so efficiently and unobtrusively.

As we head into our second year, we continue to have much to do to improve the quality of life of the people of Balfron, and we look forward to working constructively with all sectors of the village, with our local councillors, with Police Scotland, and with Stirling Council, to make this a vibrant and inclusive place to live, work, and play.

**4. Treasurer's report**

Bill Noblett submitted the audited accounts for BCC covering the fiscal year to 31 March 2015, which were accepted.

**5. Re-Election of Office Bearers**

The office bearers were confirmed as Colin Cameron (chair), Laura Elder (vice-chair), Bill Noblett (treasurer), Alison Lamon-Chalmers (secretary) and John Nicholson (planning).

**6. Any Other Business**

None.

**7. Date of next AGM: Thursday 2 June 2016**