



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2015 IN THE McLINTOCK HALL DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Carsten Mandt (minutes), Gregor Stewart

1. Welcome and Apologies

John Nicholson sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 4 June 2015

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

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. On 25 August SSE will connect the electricity supply for the Tontine Christmas lights. No date has been set yet for the existing tree being felled.
- 3.2. No funding application was submitted by the High School for outdoor gym equipment.
- 3.3. Bill said that there is no update yet on the installation of a self-closing gate in Donaldson Park.
- 3.4. The Paul Charitable Trust has generously agreed to donate £1,000 towards the manufacture of the new village signs.
- 3.5. Colin Cameron will attend a Stirling Council community development event, 'This Place Matters', on 27 August.
- 3.6. A response supporting Stirling Council's approach on wind energy was submitted.

4. Police Report

No Police report was received by Balftron Community Council (BCC) this month.

5. Councillor's report

No Councillor's report was received this month.

6. Chair's report

- 6.1. Colin met with Bruce Crawford MSP to update him on activities and issues in Balftron. Among a range of issues they discussed the plans for new village roadsigns; Shared Space; and the provision of high speed broadband in Balftron.
- 6.2. On behalf of BCC, Bill thanked Graham Rose and Carsten Mandt for their contribution in progressing the Design-a-Sign and Shared Space work.
- 6.3. Colin reported on further discussions regarding Shared Space. The next step is to consult widely with the community to identify their thoughts and issues. The start of this process

will be a display at the Balfron Bash focusing on Buchanan Street as the main thoroughfare and commercial centre of Balfron. Colin has raised the Shared Space concept with Stirling Council's Chief Executive whose initial response was very supportive. He will also be presenting on Shared Space to the next Balfron Community Futures Development Trust (BCFDT) meeting.

- 6.4. The BCFDT board has a space reserved for BCC representation, which is currently vacant. Colin invited all BCC members to consider taking up this position to ensure that there is an effective link between the two organisations.
- 6.5. Bill and Colin have met with John McMillan from Stirling Council housing and have reached agreement on the future use of the 'bunker site' in Buchanan Street, pending an assessment of the building and any necessary reinstatement works by Stirling Council. The use will include two spaces for commercial rent at the north and south end of the building and a space for community use in the middle.
- 6.6. Stephen Chambers from Digital Scotland will attend the next BCC meeting to update on the provision of high speed internet. The estimated delivery date for Balfron is currently projected to be December 2015.
- 6.7. The Clachan Oak has been shortlisted for Scottish Tree of the Year for a second time.

7. Treasurer's Report

Bill provided an update on recent expenditure. He noted that Stirling Council would consider funding the manufacture of one road sign under Community Pride funding, in addition to the agreed funding for the installation of all four signs. Pam Campbell suggested alerting elected members to this as they are routinely asked to comment on applications. **ACTION:** Bill.

8. Planning and Correspondence

- 8.1. A planning application was received for a wind turbine at Balgair Farm. The BCC response asked for the planning application to be rejected. Bill suggested inviting comments on such planning issues more widely in future e.g. via Facebook or the BCC website.
- 8.2. A further complaint regarding car parking at the Co-Op was raised, highlighting problems caused by the garage frequently taking up a disproportionate amount of space in the car park. Pam Campbell will raise this with Stirling Council Trading Standards. Colin asked if it was feasible to arrange a meeting between Stirling Council, the Co-Op and the garage to discuss these issues. Laura Elder and Kieran McHale also highlighted the abuse of disabled parking spaces in the car park. **ACTION:** Pam; Colin
- 8.3. Local residents have raised concerns regarding the Dunmore Street and Banker's Brae traffic calming proposals, which Colin will take up with Stirling Council.
- 8.4. Feedback was received on the BCC response to Stirling Council's Priority Based Budgeting consultation on (a) Decriminalised Parking Enforcement – it is proposed that 5 enforcement staff be deployed across the whole Stirling Council area; (b) installation of a bulk fuel tank for the Stirling Council fleet at Lower Polmaise - this proposal only applies to diesel vehicles and petrol vehicles will continue to refuel at local petrol stations. Stirling Council therefore estimates a minimal impact on Balfron. Questions over the efficiencies that can be achieved through increased centralisation of the Stirling Council fleet were raised. It was agreed to ask Stirling Council for their cost-benefit analysis and impact assessment to ascertain if they have considered whether there could be additional savings from having a more de-centralised approach to fleet

management which better utilises local depots in rural areas like Balfron, and also whether such a centralised policy meets Stirling Council's sustainability policy as regards environmental impact.

ACTION: Colin

9. Balfron Bash Preparations

- 9.1. Balfron Bash planning is progressing well. The setup will commence on Friday 14th at 7pm and on Saturday 15th at 8am.
- 9.2. BCC will have 3 activities at the Bash: hand prints to support the signs, other fundraising initiatives and community engagement regarding Shared Space.
- 9.3. A wide range of prizes have very kindly been donated by various local businesses.

10. Local Development Plan

A consultation on the proposed new local development plan for Stirling is currently open until 9 October 2015, with a range of local meetings coming up (the nearest ones being in Kippen or Strathblane).

11. Business from the Floor

Gregor Stewart highlighted a number of issues with the new Stirling Council flats in Buchanan Street, e.g. a lack of carbon monoxide monitors, no drying green being provided, and keys to the lockable windows not being handed out to residents on health and safety grounds. Pam Campbell will clarify these issues with relevant colleagues in Stirling Council and she will include Colin and the local elected members in the correspondence. **ACTION:** Pam

12. Any Other Business

Bill highlighted that new waiting signs have been installed at the library / pharmacy car parking bays. However, there is still no disabled parking. Laura added that local residents are concerned about the lack of car parking in that part of Buchanan Street, frequently compounded by Police vehicles parked on the street. She also pointed out that the double yellow lines at the post office are still not being enforced.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 3 September 2015, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus