



## MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2015 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

**In Attendance:** Councillor Ian Muirhead, Stephen Chambers (Digital Scotland), Jim Burns, Viv Casteel, David Douglass, David Duckett, Andrea Gabriel, John Hamilton, Erik Johnston, Stan Stannard

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Kieran McHale and John Nicholson.

### 2. Minutes of Previous meeting 6 August 2015

Addendum: It was agreed to pay for repair to Donaldson Park car park. Subject to the above alteration, Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Laura Elder.

### 3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. The electricity supply for the Christmas tree lights has been renewed. The meeting noted the excellent work contributed by CDL Electrical to make this possible. The old tree will now be felled with a temporary tree in place for Christmas. Alice Wheeler of Wonderland has offered to provide lights and decoration.
- 3.2. The fence around the Donaldson Park play area has been measured with 56 panels and 30 metres of fencing to be repaired and self-closing gate installed by Stirling Council.
- 3.3. Colin Cameron attended the "This Place Matters" event. This was a good opportunity to explore how Balftron Community Council (BCC) could work together with neighbouring community councils.
- 3.4. The BCC post on the Community Futures Trust board has been taken up by Kieran McHale.
- 3.5. Pam Campbell is pursuing a meeting with BCC and the car park owners to address parking issues at the Co-op.
- 3.6. A constructive response was received from Stirling Council regarding local residents' concerns about the Dunmore St and Banker's Brae traffic calming proposals.
- 3.7. The issues raised previously regarding the new council flats in Buchanan St have been taken up by Pam Campbell but no update is available as yet.

### 4. Police Report

A Police report was received by BCC noting a range of incidents in the Balftron area. The lack of Police presence at the school and the proliferation of Police vehicles parked on Buchanan St have been raised with Inspector McMenemy. Colin will respond to the report to highlight community concerns about Police engagement with the community.

## 5. Stephen Chambers, Digital Scotland

Stephen Chambers presented on the roll out of fibre-optic broadband to the Balfron area. The aim of Digital Scotland, a joint project by BT and the Scottish Government, is to provide fibre-optic broadband access to 95% of Scotland by the end of 2017. This will build on previous activity which has covered roughly 66% of the country, mostly in urban centres. The main benefits are increased download speed, increased upload speed, greater capacity and consistency on the line. However, improvements in speed may vary depending on the distance to the exchange or local distribution cabinet. The last section of the connection between the cabinet and the home will remain as is, using copper cabling.

Stephen Chambers pointed out that the rollout will provide the technical infrastructure for superfast broadband but it will not automatically be available to each household. That will depend on the various internet service providers (ISPs) making deals available to purchase for residents in the Balfron area. This will be a commercial decision for each ISP. Consumers will then have a choice of either buying the new service or staying with their existing internet service. This could involve an increase of £5 - £10 per month in subscriptions. Speeds of the existing service may improve as customers migrate to fibre-optic, thus freeing up capacity on the original cabling.

The rollout of fibre-optic broadband will cover 881 homes in Balfron, of which 319 are currently connected via a cabinet (expected to go live by December), and 562 directly to the exchange. These will be connected between January and June 2016. Households can get information about how the project will affect them from the Digital Scotland website [www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen](http://www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen) and entering their postcode.

A wide range of questioning from the floor led to a lively session. The Council thanked Stephen Chambers for his contribution, and will be keeping a close eye on progress.

## 6. Councillor's report

- 6.1. A community conversation to consult on Stirling Council's Priority Based Budgeting proposals will take place on Mon 28 Sept 7-9pm at Balfron High School. Email responses to the consultations are also invited via [shapingstirlingsfuture@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:shapingstirlingsfuture@stirling.gov.uk)
- 6.2. The Local Delivery Plan was reviewed due to Scottish Government pressures to provide more housing land supply. Four potential sites were put forward for Balfron but rejected in the plan. Jim Burns highlighted difficulties with local people getting a council house.
- 6.3. A local government boundary commission consultation is open until 22 October. The proposal is to increase the Strathendrick ward to include Cambusbarron and increase elected members from 3 to 4. The concern is that Cambusbarron is considerably more urban than the rest of Strathendrick, which may dilute the rural identity of the ward and make effective representation of rural concerns more difficult. **ACTION:** Colin will respond to the consultation on behalf of BCC.
- 6.4. Cllr Lambie is pursuing a solution for the Barnwell Drive waste land. He is awaiting a response about Stirling Council funding of £7,000 to go to maintenance for the land. This solution needs a residents association to administer the money.
- 6.5. Station Road will be closed for resurfacing between 7 and 11 September.
- 6.6. The Forth Valley Division of Police Scotland are consulting on Police deployment and are inviting community feedback on their proposals, which includes a proposal to have a local ward officer. **ACTION:** Laura and Alison to attend the meeting on 7 September.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Bill Noblett provide an update on BCC finances.

- 7.1. BCC has received contributions of £200 and £1,300 respectively from the Stirling Council Community Pride Fund for donations towards the cost of the junction box re-connection and the cost of manufacture and promotion of road signs.
- 7.2. Susan Nisbet received £250 from the Voluntary Action Fund for Incredible Edibles Balfron.
- 7.3. BCC sold 49 handprints at the Bash and received £246.50. The cost of materials for promotion together with paint, paper etc amounts to £433.13, so at present, in the road signs account, there is a balance of £1,133.17. It was proposed to sell more hand prints, perhaps with a stall at the Tontine Corner, perhaps in conjunction with the Incredible Edibles Harvest Party (October week). It was also suggested to contact Angus Black regarding fund-raising at the Primary School Christmas Fair. The High School could also be approached about sponsorship of the road signs, perhaps funded by a non-uniform day.
- 7.4. The surplus from the Bash currently stands at £241.87.
- 7.5. Information was received about the Town Centre Communities Capital Fund. A potential future application should be explored with Balfron Community Futures. The Shared Space working party will be reconvened to look at next steps and develop a local action plan.

## **8. Balfron Bash Review**

- 8.1. The 2015 Balfron Bash was very successful and well attended. There was significant interest in the BCC stall and the Shared Space / Buchanan St consultation.
- 8.2. A magnificent response to the 'Cost A Packet' initiative was made, with 160kg of food being donated to the Start Up Stirling food bank.
- 8.3. A question was raised whether the vintage bus could have a pick up point in the village to bring in those who could otherwise not get to Donaldson Park. Jim Burns confirmed this should be achievable.

## **9. Planning and Correspondence**

- 9.1. Kieran McHale and John Nicholson will attend the Stirling Council Parks Summit.
- 9.2. Correspondence was received from the Church of Scotland Minister enquiring about a BCC presence at the Clachan War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. BCC members will attend in an individual capacity.

## **10. Business from the Floor**

Jim Burns highlighted the impact of overhanging branches at poorly maintained hedges and trees, causing damage to the windscreens and paintwork of buses.

## **11. Any Other Business**

Bill Noblett drew attention to the Community newsletter advice on online security and asked for this to be promoted on the BCC website and Facebook page.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 1 October 2015, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus