



MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 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: Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Councillor Graham Lambie, Jim Burns, Jan MacDonald, Susan Nisbet (Incredible Edible Balfron), Craig Potter (Balfron Community Futures Development Trust)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Kieran McHale and John Nicholson.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 3 September 2015

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

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. The meeting welcomed the very generous donation of £250 towards the village signs from Balfron Community Futures Development Trust (BCFDT). The cheque was presented by Craig Potter on behalf of BCFDT.
- 3.2. Craig said BCFDT own the sign outside the chemist's, which is now out of date and not very visible, and they wish to renovate or replace the sign. BCFDT are keen to link with BCC's work on improving Buchanan St. Bill noted that residents have raised concerns over the trees and underfoot conditions outside the chemist's. There will need to be further community consultation to determine the best course of action. The school have expressed an interest in tidying up the beds as part of their gardening project. Stirling Council have also been considering rationalising their current public building stocks, notably the library and registry office, with a view to potentially house both functions in one building. Cllr Lambie emphasised that the Council are always open to hear from communities about ideas for better use of public buildings, including 'spend to save' proposals.
- 3.3. Pam Campbell has raised the issue of selling of vehicles in a public space with Trading Standards. She also highlighted parking issues at the Co-op to colleagues within the roads department. Bill and Colin will also be contacting Co-op management.
- 3.4. Pam was advised that the issues with the new council flats in Buchanan St are now being raised with the tenants.

4. Police Report

A Police report was received noting a range of incidents in the Balfron area. The imminent arrival of Sergeant David McNally to the Balfron office was noted and welcomed. Laura Elder reported on a meeting with Police Scotland to discuss future plans for community engagement. Proposals include the introduction of named officers for each ward to provide effective liaison with the local community.

5. Councillor's report

- 5.1. Road end collections – Cllr Lambie asked for feedback on any local roads impacted by the new collections approach.
- 5.2. Glengoyne Distillery has asked for traffic calming outside the distillery to make road crossing safer. BCC are supportive of extending the 40mph zone to include the distillery.
- 5.3. Killearn hospital site – an asbestos consultant is to be commissioned to assess the site. Stirling Council is looking for creative ideas on how best to develop the site.
- 5.4. Priority Based Budgeting – more detailed proposals are due to be available in November with another event being planned for Balfron around mid-November to discuss these proposals with the community.
- 5.5. The wind turbine proposal at South Ballaird Farm in in Buchlyvie was refused.
- 5.6. Concerns have been raised regarding local government boundary changes which would add Cambusbarron and Carron Valley into the Forth and Endrick ward. Cllr Lambie highlighted the importance of community feedback to the Council on these proposals.
- 5.7. There has not yet been any progress with the self-closing gates in Donaldson Park. Donaldson Trust has yet to submit the funding application for the gates. Stirling Council is committed to covering the cost of installation.

6. Treasurer's Report

Bill Noblett provided an update on BCC finances:

- 6.1. We have now received the Community Pride grants of £200 and £1,300 respectively from Stirling Council towards the cost of the junction box re-connection and the cost of manufacture and promotion of road signs.
- 6.2. A total of £2,750 has been received in donations for the road signs, leaving a shortfall of £1,400. Cllr Lambie will explore the possibility of Civic Realm funding to support this. An application for a grant from the Co-op Foundation for funding of one road sign has been submitted.
- 6.3. Gecko Ventures has been emailed regarding the invoice needed for the accounts and also with comments about the bouncy castle – no response as yet.
- 6.4. Bill will be representing BCC at the Donaldson Trust meeting on 20th October.

7. Planning and Correspondence

- 7.1. John Nicholson attended the Stirling Council Parks Summit. Stirling Council highlighted plans over the next five years to reduce staffing and funding for parks management. This will in turn lead to a greater reliance on local community involvement to maintain local parks.
- 7.2. Colin highlighted the ongoing vote for the Scottish Tree of the Year award, which will close on midnight 11 October.
- 7.3. Susan Nisbet updated the group on Incredible Edible Balfron, which has been going very well over the summer. There are plans to hold a pop-up harvest festival for Halloween. Bill suggested running this as a joint event between BCC and Incredible Edible Balfron. Winter workshops will be available on preserving and on building bee and insect hotels.
- 7.4. Jim Burns will forward a report on problem hedges for Stirling Council to look into in more detail.

8. Christmas and New Year

It was agreed to focus this year's planning for the festive period on Christmas. An exact date in early December for the switching on of the Christmas lights has yet to be set. It has been proposed to have the Primary School choir sing at the ceremony.

The existing tree is due to be felled shortly. Stirling Council will provide a plantable tree next year. Laura will make enquiries about a temporary tree for this year. Bill will explore the decorations that are in the McLintock Hall.

9. Business from the Floor

Jim Burns will donate a whisky barrel for Balfron in Bloom. He also flagged up that there will be an Open Day at Bannockburn bus depot on 18 October, 10am-2pm.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date of next meeting

Thursday 5 November 2015, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus