



# BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2015 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

**In Attendance:** Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Cllr. Alisdair Berrill, Sgt. Ray McNally, Susan Nisbet (Incredible Edibles), Ray Power (Balfron Primary School Parent Council), Jim Burns, F. Crawford, Gladys Farquharson, Jan MacDonald, Amanda Quinn.

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from John Nicholson.

### 2. Minutes of Previous meeting 1 October 2015

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

### 3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. Bill has spoken to the Co-op manager about the ongoing issues with the car park. He has discussed the parking issues with Stirling Council and the owner of the garage adjacent to the car park, but without resolution. BCC has undertaken to arrange a meeting with all parties concerned.
- 3.2. The pop up Incredible Edibles event was a great success.
- 3.3. The Christmas decorations stored in the McLintock Hall are broken and have been disposed of. Alice Wheeler is donating lights for the Christmas tree opposite the Co-op. The current tree will be taken down by Tim Craig before 25th November. The switching on of the lights is planned for 4.30pm that day. The Primary School choir will sing.
- 3.4. Pam Campbell reported that the Fire and Rescue Department had advised against providing window locks for the new flats on Buchanan Street and Stirling Council advised that there was insufficient space for outside clothes drying facilities. One of the residents would like lack of drying lines pursued. Concerns over the strength of the boundary area had been raised but the system used is extremely common with a life expectancy of 60+ years. There is also a utility cupboard that residents cannot access. This is to avoid storage of any materials that might be hazardous.

### 4. Police Report

- 4.1. Colin Cameron welcomed the return of Sgt David McNally to the village who informed the group that there had been a number of cases of car vandalism locally.
- 4.2. Police officers have been patrolling Balfron as darkness falls and are concerned by the number of houses in darkness, highlighting the fact that nobody is home. They are advising residents to leave a light on in the house or have a lamp on a timer.

4.3. Policing delivery has been reviewed and Balfron will have two community police officers, Stephen Graham and Raymond Murphy. One of these officers will be a regular attendee at the Community Council meetings.

#### **5. Councillor's report**

Councillor Berrill had been in attendance at a meeting regarding crime statistics that he said had been very informative. He reminded the group about the Priority Based Budgeting Community Consultations coming up this month (Tuesday 17 Nov from 7-9 pm in Balfron High School). Stirling Council has to find a saving of £3.5m out of a budget of £325m.

#### **6. Planning and Correspondence**

- 6.1. The results of the Printer's Row speed survey are complete. One of the residents will be invited to attend the next Community Council meeting to review this. It was agreed that there are speeding issues around the village, particularly from the Clachan to the bank.
- 6.2. The Balfron Community Futures Development Trusts AGM is on 23 Nov at 7pm in the McLintock Hall.
- 6.3. Colin raised a complaint concerning the leaking bus shelter opposite the Co-Op, which was to have been repaired some time ago. Colin and Pam will pursue.

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

Bill provided an update on BCC finances:

- At the pop-up event at the Tontine on Saturday, 31st October, 14 handprints were sold, adding £70 to the fund for the Balfron village signs.
- The Balfron village signs application for a grant from the Co-op Foundation has been shortlisted. Further information was sent to the Co-op Foundation and BCC should receive final word within the next 10 days.
- BCC expressed their gratitude towards Balfron Golf Society and the Buckingham Clinic, who have both donated £250 towards the cost.
- The Connect Fund is now open again for applications. Last year BCC received support to issue a community newsletter. It was agreed to pursue this again for this year. Bill asked for additional suggestions for applications.

#### **8. Digitally Thinking / Killearn CC Broadband Event**

- 8.1. Bill reported on a recent event on digital awareness among community councils. He asked if there was a need to make the BCC website more mobile friendly and accessible to visually impaired users. Additional expenditure required to carry out this work could be requested from the Connect Fund.
- 8.2. Bill questioned if it was appropriate to record non-member contributions in the BCC minutes to ensure data protection and confidentiality. It was agreed that as the meetings are public any contributions made during the meeting are assumed to be for inclusion in the minutes. However, a disclaimer will be added to the sign-in sheet to clarify this.
- 8.3. Jim Burns asked how best BCC could link up with other community councils, perhaps via links on the website or Facebook pages.
- 8.4. Bill reported that the Killearn Community Council broadband event was very informative. It highlighted the limitations on any potential benefits being realised by moving to fibre-optic broadband, which in practice will depend greatly on current ADSL lines and the distance of the

home from the exchange, which in the case of Balfron is situated behind the bus garage. The recommendation was to check current broadband speed before signing up to superfast broadband.

## **9. Stirling Council: Bus and DRT Consultation**

A consultation is currently taking place on future options for subsidised public transport and demand responsive transport in the area. Responses can be submitted until 18 December 2015. The online survey is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/supportedpublictransport> Paper copies can be obtained from David Brown or Pam Campbell at Stirling Council: 01786 237 505.

The potential impact on current bus users was discussed if bus services to and from Balfron were reduced or withdrawn. The importance of ensuring that users are fully made aware of the consultation was stressed so that they have a genuine opportunity to respond. Bill will collate a summary of the issues for BCC to take a view at the next meeting in order to submit a formal BCC response to the consultation.

Jim Burns mentioned discussions with Glengoyne distillery about speed restrictions at the distillery and potentially constructing a bus stop lay-by.

## **10. Christmas**

The switching on of the Christmas lights will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

## **11. Business from the Floor**

- 11.1. Ray Power mentioned that the Primary School PTA will be at meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the Stirling Council budget proposals.
- 11.2. A garden is planned to be built in the Primary School playground, in conjunction with Incredible Edibles. This project will be eligible for funding opportunities that may require to be administered via BCC.
- 11.3. It was suggested to fundraise for the village signs at the Primary School Christmas Event on 5<sup>th</sup> December and the High School event on 11<sup>th</sup> December. The Strathcarron fundraiser on 14<sup>th</sup> December was also mentioned as a potential opportunity for further fundraising.
- 11.4. Jim Burns flagged up unresolved issues with overhanging branches damaging buses and asked Stirling Council to pursue this.
- 11.5. The need to re-mark the speed bump at Donaldson Gate was raised as an urgent matter to address road safety issues.

## **12. Any Other Business**

None.

## **13. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 3 December 2015, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus