



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

Present: Colin Cameron (Chair), Laura Elder, David McGowan, Kieran McHale, Carsten Mandt (minutes)

In Attendance: Sandra Akhurst, Doug Akhurst, Colin Campbell, Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Councillor Graham Lambie, Jan Macdonald, Carol Murphy, Daryn Piper

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Alison Lamont Chalmers, John Nicholson and Bill Noblett.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 5 November 2015

Laura Elder proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Kieran McHale.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. Co-op car park: This will be addressed in the new year.
- 3.2. Christmas switch-on: Colin Cameron has written to the Primary School to thank them for their excellent participation.
- 3.3. Buchanan St flats: Stirling Council and Fire Department advice has been communicated to the tenant who raised concerns about security and the lack of drying facilities.
- 3.4. Colin and Kieran attended the Community Futures AGM. A new director has been appointed, but more are still required.
- 3.5. Leaking bus shelter: Stirling Council has asked their contractors for a costing on repair.

4. Police Report

The meeting took note of the written Police Report. There was no officer in attendance. Colin and Graham Lambie expressed disappointment, having hoped that the new Community Policing arrangements might get off to a more constructive start. Cllr Lambie has written to the Community Inspector asking why, as there was no evident operational reason for their absence. He also raised the lack of a police presence at the Balfroon Bash, as a missed opportunity for community engagement.

5. Speeding Issues in Balfroon

- 5.1. Colin Campbell presented an analysis of the Printer's Row speeding survey carried out by Stirling Council for one week in April and May 2015. On average 2,646 cars were recorded per day, with morning peaks around 9am. The total number of vehicles measured 16,300 vehicles over the course of the week. The average speed on leaving the village was 29mph, with 37% exceeding the speed limit; on entering the village the average speed was 33mph, with 70% exceeding the limit. In total, 49% of vehicles were speeding - a total of 7,975 speeding vehicles per week.
- 5.2. Suggestions for traffic calming were discussed. Cllr Lambie suggested that communities are entitled to a 40mph buffer zone on an A-road. Proposals have been made to look at chicanes and

move the 30mph sign further out of the village. Cllr Lambie will liaise with the Stirling Council roads department to request that roads officers visit the village to discuss detailed proposal for traffic calming in Printer's Row.

- 5.3. Speeding in other parts of Balfron was discussed. Dunmore St and Roman Rd were highlighted. As part of the new development in Dunmore St there are plans for traffic calming but these are currently limited to the stretch facing the new development. Cala Homes' Kiltrochan Dr development is to include a roundabout at the Dunmore St / Roman Rd junction. The question was raised if this could be brought forward to aid with speeding issues.
- 5.4. Colin Campbell will produce a summary of the speeding report. BCC will publicise the issues via the Facebook page and website, the forthcoming newsletter, and contact with both Primary and Secondary Parents' Councils.

6. Bus Timetable Consultation

- 6.1. Responses to BCC on the current consultation on reductions in subsidised bus services to/from Balfron are being collated. Whilst there is an appreciation for the need to cut subsidised bus services given the current financial climate, there is a wide range of views on what the most appropriate solution would be. For some bus users, the current bus services are the only means of accessing work. Any reductions in these services would potentially stop these individuals from being able to work. The high cost of public transport compared to private car use was highlighted as an important factor in the low uptake of bus services.
- 6.2. Other proposals included the use smaller vehicles appropriate to passenger numbers; and the creation of a proper transport hub at Milngavie linking all public transport (e.g. at the old bus station site at Hillfoot).
- 6.3. It was agreed that the BCC response to the consultation should recommend that Stirling Council do a more extensive survey of how the affected bus services are being used and what the impact of any service change would be (e.g. on regular commuters v occasional; those needing links to Larbert; night service users), before making a decision on any reductions or cuts in services. This should take into account the extent to which users of these services will be able to switch to alternative modes of transport.

7. Councillor's Report

Cllr Lambie provided a report to BCC, highlighting:

- Stirling Council needs to make £25m savings over the next 5 years.
- Increased consideration is given to income generation, e.g. car parking charges at Mugdock.
- The possible relocation of the Library to rationalise the number of Council premises. The feasibility of moving the library into the Register Office was discussed. The meeting recognised the budgetary pressures facing Stirling Council, and the need to find imaginative ways of configuring Council properties and income. There was consensus that the strong community preference is to keep the status quo, but if this was not possible then there would be support to look at the feasibility of moving the Library into the Register office. The key concern is to protect the vital services provided to the community by the registrars and the Library.
- An official 40mph limit at Glengoyne distillery may not be possible but it has been suggested to place an advisory speed limit sign instead. Similar signs are being tested in Arnprior and Boquhan.
- Views are being sought on how best to develop the Killlearn Hospital site.

- The reporter approved the Craigton and Spittalhill windfarm development after initial rejection by Stirling Council.

8. Planning and Correspondence

- 8.1. Colin Cameron mentioned that the national speed limit signs that had been erected in Dunmore St have been removed. These were put up in error by the subcontractor working for Cala Homes.
- 8.2. A letter was sent to Nigel Mottram regarding BCC support for the church roof fundraising.
- 8.3. A letter was received regarding dog mess at the primary school. It was agreed that a new campaign to highlight the issue should be considered in the New Year.
- 8.4. Colin noted that from 2016 there will be a charge to the Balfron 10k for 50% of road closure costs.

9. Treasurer's Report

Bill Noblett submitted a written report to the meeting:

1. An application has been processed for a grant from the second round of the Council's Connect Fund for a total of £620 comprising: £120 for production and distribution of a BCC newsletter; £200 for further redevelopment of the website; £300 for a new external noticeboard to replace the one outside Doyle's.
2. Monitoring report forms have been sent to SC re the grants received for Incredible Edibles, Balfron Bash and the Junction Box reconnection.
3. We have received notification from the Co-op Foundation informing us that we will receive some money for our application in respect of the road signs. BCC is in competition with the Bowling Club and Strathcarron Hospice and the amount we receive depends on the size of the public vote.

10. Business from the Floor

Daryn Piper asked for an update on the Cala Homes contribution towards the play facilities at Donaldson Park. Pam Campbell explained that discussions are ongoing about consulting with play park users. Stirling Council maintains the play park but the site is owned by the Donaldson Trust. Daryn Piper reiterated concerns raised during the initial discussion of the planning application that the contribution would be used to a large extent for consultation rather than actual play park development. Pam Campbell explained that the decision how to consult on this will be up to BCC. The play park in Killlearn was cited a good example. It was agreed to liaise with Killlearn Community Council to find out what lessons can be learnt from the play park in Killlearn.

11. Any Other Business

Colin noted out that there are currently three vacancies on BCC. A new election procedure is beginning in early 2016. He invited expressions of interest for the elections.

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday 4 February 2016, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus. **NOTE THERE IS NO MEETING IN JANUARY.**