



MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2016 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Cllr Graham Lambie, PC Raymond Murphy, Gladys Farquharson, Janet Rutherford, Morven Linter, George Brown, Jim Leggate, Amanda Quinn, David Dougans, Christine Wilson, Stuart Youens

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from John Nicholson. Colin Cameron informed the group that Kieran McHale will be leaving BCC as he is moving from Balftron. He thanked Kieran for his committed and valuable input over the past two years. Colin highlighted the need for interested members of the community to come forward in the upcoming nominations to ensure that BCC continues to have a strong membership.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 3 December 2015

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

3. Matters Arising

All matters arising are covered under the agenda items below.

4. Police Report

- 4.1. PC Murphy and PC Graham are now the Community Officers for the Balftron area. PC Murphy presented the monthly Police Report, highlighting a number of issues relating to antisocial behaviour, road safety and theft. He explained the efforts being made to find the missing person, Billy Miller and thanked the community for their help with the investigation.
- 4.2. PC Murphy noted that there is a new school based officer, Tracy Diamond, working in Balftron and Callander. **ACTION:** PC Murphy will circulate her email address.

5. Councillor's Report

- 5.1. The Stirling Council budget is to be submitted on 25 February. This will include proposals to make additional savings of £2.6m, taking total savings required in 2016/17 to £6.3m. Cllr Lambie stressed the importance of community feedback before the deadline. **ACTION:** Bill and Colin will meet to formulate a response for circulation.
- 5.2. Income generation will be essential to meeting the challenging savings target. Cllr Lambie explained a range of proposed schemes for income generation.
- 5.3. As part of Stirling Council's efforts to reduce costs, there is a proposal to move Balftron Library to the Register Office.

- 5.4. A meeting regarding plans for Strathendrick Care Home was attended by both Colin and Cllr Lambie. While there is now no risk of the home closing, there are ongoing discussions about the future use of the site as a care hub providing a range of services. It was suggested that the original gifting of the property to Stirling Council was subject to a stipulation that it would be used for local residential care provision in perpetuity. **ACTION:** Colin will raise this with Stirling Council.
- 5.5. Stirling Council roads department have agreed to implement traffic calming at Printer's Row once the new village signs are installed. The aim is to achieve this by the end of March now that the funds have been raised. Discussion on the detailed traffic calming requirements will be needed.
- 5.6. No movement as yet on the proposed ward boundary changes, which are opposed by both community councils and the elected members. A decision is expected after the May elections.
- 5.7. Progress has been made regarding the Haven SUDS following a meeting between Colin, Bruce Crawford MSP, and Tony Teasdale of Rural Stirling Housing Association (RSHA): Scottish Water has agreed to pursue purchase of the land from Carvill's administrators, with the intention of taking on responsibility for the below-ground maintenance of the SUDS. Details of the responsibility for the above-ground maintenance have still to be agreed between Stirling Council and the affected property owners, including RSHA.

6. Treasurer's Report

- 6.1. BCC received the grant of £620 from the second tranche of the Connect Fund. The newsletter was printed and distributed, and a notice board to replace the one outside Doyle's has been purchased. Bill Noblett thanked the Scouts for distributing the newsletter.
- 6.2. A donation of £600 from the Co-op Foundation was received for the road sign project.
- 6.3. BCC agreed that Bill should submit an application to the Community Pride Fund for £400 on behalf of Incredible Edibles so that they can get next season's project underway.
- 6.4. Bill asked for ideas of organisations that could apply to the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund.

7. Dog Fouling

Colin highlighted serious concerns that have been raised regarding high levels of dog fouling in the village. He circulated a number of examples of preventative measures undertaken by other community councils and local authorities. The meeting agreed that dog fouling and failing to clean up was anti-social and poses a significant public health risk, especially for children. It was noted that free poo-bags are available from the library and the local office. The meeting agreed that education is key to improving the situation. Colin will liaise with Stirling Council and the head teachers for both schools to propose a poster competition and public awareness campaign. **ACTION:** Colin and Stuart Youens

8. Donaldson Park

John Nicholson proposed (by email) the creation of a Friends of Donaldson Park committee to progress the clean-up of the park and improve the play area. It was agreed that there was a need to liaise with the High School to identify the requirements of their pupils regarding the play park development, as well as those of smaller children. **ACTION:** Bill to raise with the Donaldson Trust.

9. Planning and Correspondence

- 9.1. Colin noted that he has started a trial of holding a BCC drop-in 'surgery' at Doyle's on the morning of a BCC meeting. At the first surgery today, broadband speeds and the Haven SUDS were raised by members of the community.

- 9.2. Roman Rd / Dunmore St: the planned roundabout is now being considered by the Roads Department for approval. The exact timescales for building the roundabout will be at Cala's discretion but Stirling Council will argue for this to be carried out as early as possible.
- 9.3. A refit of the Balfron Post Office has been agreed, which will provide longer opening hours and a modernised counter integrated into the retail counter.
- 9.4. Progress is being made to install a bus shelter at the Co-Op car park. The leak in the existing shelter opposite has apparently been fixed.
- 9.5. The two new Buchanan St business units have now been let to a barber's and a funeral parlour. The Council has received assurances that all preparations of the deceased will happen at the Callander base of the funeral directors.
- 9.6. Broadband update: no timescales are yet available for Balfron but superfast broadband is now available to 17 homes in Balfron Station, which connects to the Killearn exchange.

10. BCFDT Report

Colin updated the group on a recent report from Alison Smith, Chair of the Balfron Community Futures Development Trust. Kieran explained the work of two new BCFDT working groups: (1) the pathways group and (2) the environmental and wildlife group. He added that BCFDT are seeking additional directors. Kieran will continue as Director on the Trust. He said that he is in the process of applying for a grant from Climate Change Scotland and Keep Scotland Beautiful for a community project on reducing CO2 emissions, e.g. through encouraging more active travel and reduced car usage. Amanda Quinn offered to help with the emissions analysis.

11. Business from the Floor

- 11.1. The idea of a universal 20mph limit for the village was proposed. Colin welcomed the suggestion, but proposed it should be considered as part of the Shared Space thinking.
- 11.2. Two new disabled spaces in the Co-Op car park have suddenly appeared, and it was queried if this would allow some of the existing disabled parking to be re-purposed as general parking. The BCC was unaware of this initiative in advance, and it was speculated that they had been created specifically by the Co-Op to protect its loading bays. **ACTION:** Colin to talk to the Co-Op.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1. Colin highlighted key issues to be taken forward in 2016, including: Shared Space; replacing and landscaping for a new Christmas tree; the Co-Op car park arrangements; planning for the Balfron Bash; and updating a directory of local organisations.
- 12.2. Laura mentioned that there was appetite to organise a Hogmanay party. Colin confirmed that BCC would support this but that it would need others to plan it.
- 12.3. Colin thanked all those who helped with the Christmas tree. The aspiration is to get a planted tree in time for Christmas this year. Stirling Council had previously indicated they would fund the tree.
- 12.4. Nominations are now open for BCC elections. The deadline is 19 February.
- 12.5. Amanda Quinn advised that there will be a Food Festival on Good Friday at the High School.
- 12.6. Bill suggested making a donation to the church roof fund. The meeting agreed to donate the profit from the 2015 Balfron Bash.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 3 March 2016, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus