



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2016 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Cllr Graham Lambie, Susan Nisbet, Janet Rutherford

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from David Dougans, John Nicholson, Amanda Quinn and Stuart Youens. Colin Cameron welcomed Ian Denvir as the new Community Link Officer for Stirling Council.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 7 April 2016

Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Alison Lamont Chalmers.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. Bunker site plans: A building warrant is now prepared. The two commercial properties need to be marketed to find tenants. The central area is earmarked for use by the community. The hope is to have the works concluded by the end of the summer. Further discussion is needed to identify where to move the equipment that is stored there currently, as well as how best to cover the running cost for the community area.
- 3.2. Colin, Alison and Viv Casteel need to meet to progress work on the proposed local directory.
Action: Colin
- 3.3. Christine Wilson pointed out that given the size of the root ball of a suitable Christmas tree an appropriate location needs to have a sufficient depth of top soil. Janet Rutherford queried if the tree location could be moved to the bed at the Tontine corner. This would need significant work to provide an extension of the electrical supply. Alternatively it may be possible to terrace the slope to create a suitable location for the tree. Laura Elder has received advice that a rooted tree would be no higher than 5ft initially and can only be planted after the growing season (Sept onwards). It would then not be viable for another year or two to hold Christmas lights. Laura will ask for cost of electrical works, and Ian Denvir will speak to Stirling Council colleagues regarding the terracing works. Christine will pursue the purchase of a suitable tree.
Action Laura; Ian; Christine
- 3.4. The Clachan Oak has been reviewed by Tim Craig and Alan Motion who confirmed it is in good shape. The dead wood will be partially removed, leaving enough as habitat. Tim Craig will also top up the mulch and remove brambles etc. Seedlings can be lifted and potted.
- 3.5. Funding has been received for the self-closing gates. The hope is to have the work completed by the start of holidays.
- 3.6. The Awards for All bid to purchase a staging system was rejected.
- 3.7. A campaign on dog fouling will be launched in September, based on the Primary School posters.

- 3.8. No progress to date on repairing the damaged car park exit sign. Bill is awaiting a reply from Alan Ogilvie at Stirling Council.
- 3.9. Stirling Council have reviewed disabled car parking at the Co-op. Guidance suggests that a car park should provide one disabled space per 20 spaces, i.e. the Co-op car park should have two disabled parking spaces. Stirling Council will approach the Co-op about the removal of the two spaces in the recently converted loading area. Two of the existing four disabled spaces will also be converted to standard car parking spaces.
- 3.10. A broadband event is scheduled for 15 June in Kippen. David Dougans will attend for BCC.

4. Police Report

PC Raymond Murphy provided a written update on recent Policing matters in the Balfron area. A summer drinks and drugs driving campaign is being launched. It was noted that recent complaints raised on Facebook have not been picked up in the report. It was emphasised that Police Scotland do not monitor social media and any complaints need to be raised directly with the Police so they can be followed up.

5. Councillor's Report

- 5.1. Cllr Lambie highlighted the forthcoming changes to waste collection. A detailed description of the changes is available on the Stirling Council website: <http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/improved-waste-collection-service>. Households and businesses can ask for an assessment of their individual circumstances to ensure they are provided with the most appropriate bins / boxes, recognising that not all premises can accommodate the higher number of larger bins. Stirling Council representatives will be available at the Balfron Bash to answer questions about the new scheme. Composting is being considered to be outsourced to an external contract, which may impact on community organisations that rely on the availability of compost from Stirling Council. Carsten Mandt mentioned concerns that have been raised over the timing of waste uplift in Balfron, which currently coincides with the school drop-off times. Pam Campbell advised to pass on any concerns and queries to Jenny Nicholson and Amanda Quinn who are leading on the roll out of the new scheme.
- 5.2. Cllr Lambie also mentioned that Stirling Council is looking at potential spend to save initiatives to increase the roads maintenance programme, which is currently falling short of what is needed to maintain the status quo.
- 5.3. Road safety improvements on the A809, near the Carbeth Inn and the A81 at Glengoyne Distillery have been implemented.
- 5.4. Stirling Council is still investigating the possible root causes of the structural issues identified at the High School. The school building has a specified life expectancy of 50 years and it will be important to ascertain if the current issues are a sign of natural wear and tear or of underlying deficiencies in the construction. An independent audit of the building was requested at the last full council meeting but rejected. It was noted that the response by school management and Bellrock has been excellent to minimise disruption for the pupils, especially those currently sitting exams.
- 5.5. The proposed ward boundary change looks to be rejected, subject to ratification by ministers.

6. Treasurer's Report

- 6.1. Remittances have been received for Community Pride Fund grants for £400 for the Bash and £380 for the purchase of shrubs for Balfron in Bloom.
- 6.2. Notification has also been received from SC about £1,000 paid to Donaldson Trust for installation of self-closing gates in the play-park.
- 6.3. The £462 available from the Connect Fund was applied for in full for the production and distribution of the proposed directory of local organisations and businesses.
- 6.4. Balfron in Bloom coffee morning earned just over £900.

7. Planning and Correspondence

- 7.1. Carsten updated the group on the transport and access consultation. The questionnaire is now available from Balfron Library and online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BalfronCC16>. Approximately 45 responses have been received to date. Community organisations and local businesses and services have been contacted directly, and detailed feedback has been received from the Scouts and First Bus. A consultation event has been arranged for Sat 18 June 2016, 11am-2pm at Balfron High School. Fliers are being distributed by the Scouts to inform all households in Balfron about the consultation.
- 7.2. Colin noted that the removal of Japanese Knotweed at the Haven SUDS is progressing.
- 7.3. Good progress has also been made with the Donaldson Park clean-up but further work is needed. "Little and often". John Nicholson will continue to lead on this.
- 7.4. Colin met with Rae Wilson to discuss the Snowdrop Garden plans in support of Strathcarron Hospice. She is also pursuing a Mealmakers initiative. The aspiration is to start this in October, subject to funding being identified. Janet Rutherford highlighted ongoing challenges in identifying sufficient numbers of volunteers to support the lunch club, adding that this is likely to be an even greater challenge for the Mealmakers project.

8. Rural South West Forum Update

Carsten provided a brief update of the recent Rural South West Forum meeting. The main discussion points at the meeting were the broadband rollout, the changes to waste collection and the future of the Strathcarron Hospice.

9. Care Home Update

- 9.1. Bill reported that there is now an agreement that safeguards the future of the home. The future focus will be on step up / step down care.
- 9.2. The Scottish Government's Living it Up campaign was mentioned. This aims to use digital technology to improve health and wellbeing. It was agreed to promote this via the BCC website and Facebook.
- 9.3. A pilot project will be carried out in Crianlarich to provide health consultations via videoconferencing, reducing the need for patients to travel to Larbert.

10. Bus Consultation

Changes to local subsidised bus services were discussed. A number of routes will in future be provided by demand responsive transport (DRT). The financial challenges for Stirling Council in

supporting non-commercial bus routes were recognised but there were concerns that such changes may add to the complexity of public transport provision, which may have a detrimental long term impact on bus usage and the viability of services in the area. It was acknowledged that this is also influenced by policies and actions at Scottish and UK level to support public transport provision and reduce car usage. Pam mentioned that Stirling Council will shortly be consulting on its local transport strategy. Questions were raised if a tendering process is underway for the school bus service. Pam and Ian will confirm what the tendering process is and what opportunities there are for the community to influence the decision making. **Action: Pam / Ian**

11. Business from the Floor

- 9.1. Janet Rutherford highlighted a number of pressing concerns for Balfroon in Bloom: previous arrangements to obtain new containers have not been successful which has resulted in less capacity to plant new plants than was expected. She also raised that responsibility for the bed at the corner of Buchanan St and Spinner St corner was originally agreed to sit with Balfroon in Bloom but has latterly been given to Incredible Edibles. She was concerned that she had previously asked for this to be resolved but no action appeared to have been taken. Due to the pressure to get plants established there is now an urgency to resolve this. Pam agreed to liaise with relevant colleagues in Stirling Council to remedy the situation and establish clarity over which community groups look after the various planting areas in the village. The group also recognised a need to improve effective communication between different community groups.
- 9.2. Susan Nisbet updated the group on Incredible Edible activities: A growing garden was established at the primary school, which will be the responsibility of the children to maintain. She commended the great engagement by community members to help with this work. Elspeth Benny donated a climbing frame for climbing plans at the Tontine corner. On Sat 22 October a Harvest Festival will be held at the Tontine Corner.

12. Any Other Business

Bill pointed out that a consultation will be needed to determine how best to use the developer contribution towards developing play facilities in the village. A stall at the Bash was suggested. It was agreed to form a subgroup to plan the consultation. **Action: Bill**
A letter was received from Jim Thompson highlighting that April 2017 will be the bicentenary of the birth of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 4 August 2016, Balfroon Campus

NB: There is no meeting in July.