



# BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2016 IN BALFRON CAMPUS DRAFT MINUTES

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

**In Attendance:** Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Janet Rutherford

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

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

### 2. Minutes of 2014 AGM

Alison Lamont Chalmers proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Laura Elder.

### 3. Chair's Report

Colin reported on the past year's activities:

It's been another busy year for the Community Council, and I'm delighted to say that for the first time in many years, the Council has its maximum complement of nominated members. We are delighted to welcome David Dougans, Amanda Quinn, Christine Wilson and Stuart Youens to the team. You are making a real difference to our engagement with our community. At the same time, we said farewell to Kieran McHale on his move to Killlearn, and thank him for all his work in his time with us. We are delighted to keep in contact with him through his work on the Balfiron Development Trust. I would also like to pay personal tribute to Pam Campbell of Stirling Council for her immense work as our liaison with the Council over many years, and wish her well in her new role as Senior Community Link Officer.

Of the physical changes that we have brought to Balfiron in the course of the year, the most obvious is the arrival of the new village roadsigns. We are hugely grateful to everyone who supported this initiative: those who donated the cheerful handprints; designers Louise Craig and Graham Rose; Jim McGregor and his team from Stirling Council; and our funders, Paul Charitable Trust, the Co-operative, Balfiron Golf Society, Balfiron Development Trust, Mike and Lis Stone, and Buckingham Clinic.

There have been other initiatives too, many to do with improving the environment for those who live, work and play in Balfiron: both Balfiron in Bloom and Incredible Edibles have gone from strength to strength; we got the Haven SUDS cleared, with promises from Scottish Water for solutions to the flooding problems; a new bus shelter was erected at the car park; improvements are underway for Donaldson Park; and for the first time in ten years, we had a village Christmas tree. We hit a few difficulties in keeping it upright in the gales, but that will be sorted for 2016! The switch-on of the Christmas lights to the accompaniment of carols from Balfiron Primary School was a memorable event. The Balfiron Bash was the most successful yet – the sun shone, and we raised a magnificent 160 kilos in donations to Start Up Stirling food bank, through our "It costs a packet (or a tin) to get in" initiative. The Balfiron 10k road race celebrated its 10th anniversary, and was sent on its way by our local swimming star, Ross Murdoch. As ever, the community gave great support to the event as organisers, competitors, marshals and spectators.

Communication with the community is always high on our priorities, and both our website and Facebook page are well used. The two noticeboards are regularly refreshed, and through letterboxes we distributed our annual newsletter, various informational flyers, and the Council bus consultation document. Our thanks to both the Scouts and Guides for their help in distributing these. The Chair is now available for an hour in Doyle's on the morning of the Community Council meetings to meet with those unable to attend in the evening.

Car parking, speeding, and dog fouling remain significant issues for the community. We are currently in the midst of a major consultation about the future needs of the village, and a number of initiatives have been introduced to try to control speeding. Local resident, Colin Campbell, gave a memorable presentation to the Council on the statistics arising from the speed survey conducted at Printers Row, and we consulted closely with Stirling Council over the traffic calming measures in Dunmore Street. The Primary School pupils have done an excellent job on designing posters for dog fouling, and a campaign to highlight the new fixed penalty fines of £80 will be run in September. Parking abuse in the main carpark remains a concern, and the introduction of two new disabled bays has exacerbated the problem. We are currently consulting with Stirling Council on this.

The Community Council responded to the potential closure of the Strathendrick Care Home, and this has now been stopped. We are closely involved in the work that is now in place to address the needs of the elderly and infirm in West Stirlingshire. We had a productive meeting with Stirling Council back in May over the refurbishment and future use of the 'Bunker' building, but it is a source of considerable frustration that there has been no progress on this since then. Superfast broadband connections to Balfron and surrounding areas is another source of frustration. Despite promises from Digital Scotland there appears to be little progress. It is to be hoped that the appointment of a Broadband Manager to Stirling Council might make a difference here.

On the policing front, we are delighted to welcome PCs Raymond Murphy and Steven Graham as our community police officers, in the expectation that they will make an active difference to the engagement of Police Scotland with our community.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our office-bearers: Laura Elder, Vice-Chair; Bill Noblett for his excellent service as Treasurer; Alison Lamont Chalmers, who keeps us on track as Secretary; John Nicholson in keeping an eye on all Planning matters; and Carsten Mandt for his immaculate Minute-taking.

#### **4. Treasurer's report**

Bill Noblett submitted the audited accounts for BCC covering the fiscal year to 31 March 2016, which were accepted.

#### **5. Re-Election of Office Bearers**

The office bearers were confirmed as Colin Cameron (chair), Laura Elder (vice-chair), Bill Noblett (treasurer), Alison Lamont-Chalmers (secretary) and John Nicholson (planning).

#### **6. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **7. Date of next AGM**

Thursday 1 June 2017