



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2016 IN McLINTOCK HALL DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Gladys Farquharson, Bill Astley-Jones, PC Steven Graham, PC Raymond Murphy

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Berrill, David Dougans, Alison Lamont Chalmers, John Nicholson, Stuart Youens. Colin noted with regret that Amanda Quinn has resigned from BCC due to a new job. He thanked her for her contribution and hoped that she would continue to contribute to the Balfroon Development Trust and other community initiatives.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 2 June 2016

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

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. A solution regarding the replacement Christmas tree has not yet been found. Due to the thin layer of top soil above the rubble from the old Tontine hotel it is difficult to find a suitable spot for a permanent tree near to the power source. It was agreed to plant a small tree to grow over a longer term and use temporary trees meantime. Christine will check with Susan Nisbet if these could be sited in the Incredible Edible bed. Laura will get a price for extending the electricity cable. Decisions on landscaping of the area will be deferred until a site for the permanent tree has been identified.
- 3.2. The self-closing gates in the play park have not been installed yet.
- 3.3. The damaged car park sign has still not been repaired. No action has been taken yet on painting the speed bump in Spoker's Loan.
- 3.4. The final outcome of the school bus tendering process has not yet been confirmed.

4. Police Report

PC Steven Graham highlighted a series of bike thefts in the wider area, which are under active investigation. There was a query regarding an untaxed vehicle in Donaldson Way, which has been traced to an owner who lives locally. Further enquiries are still to be made as the vehicle has been left in a public car park. PC Graham also drew attention to the deadline for Air Weapons Licensing. The full Police Report can be found on BCC noticeboards and website.

5. Councillor's Report

No councillor's report was available.

6. Treasurer's Report

- 6.1. £462 has been received from the Connect Fund for the publication of the businesses and organisations directory.
- 6.2. Heritage Fund grants are available for innovative projects in the community, based on "Stories, Stones, Bones". This has been passed to Balfron Heritage Group.
- 6.3. £500-£5,000 of Lottery Funding is also available for one-off events that bring communities together – eligibility requirement is for event to be completed within 8 weeks of applying for the grant.
- 6.4. The Big Lottery Community Assets fund makes up to £1m available for communities to buy, manage or develop buildings or land. A suggestion to purchase the Pirn Inn and run it as a community pub was discussed. Any submission to the Community Assets fund would require a firm, fully costed proposal and business case. Bill Astley-Jones expressed his interest in pursuing the idea in more detail.
- 6.5. A campaign is currently ongoing to pursue a skate park for Balfron. It was agreed to support the organisers of this campaign with a view to facilitating relevant funding applications.

7. Planning and Correspondence

- 7.1. A planning application has been lodged for a hot food takeaway at 169 Buchanan Street. Concerns were discussed, in particular with regards to the impact on local residents and the potential detrimental effect on road safety, parking and littering. BCC will lodge an objection to the application.
- 7.2. Colin noted that the new organising team for the Balfron 10k are exploring the possibility of re-routing the run to take in part of the village itself. This was welcomed by the meeting.
- 7.3. An Alexander 'Greek' Thomson Bicentenary 2017 planning meeting will be held on 30 August, 7.30pm at the McLintock Hall.
- 7.4. Stirling Council are seeking views of how to improve contact with the council. Surveys can be found in the Library, or at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SCcontactus. Deadline end of August.
- 7.5. There is a drop-in consultation on Stirling Council's Local Development Plan on 25 August (3-8pm) in Killearn Village Hall. Colin stressed this would be a good opportunity to make views felt, particularly on public transport issues. Laura stressed the need for bigger affordable houses in the village.
- 7.6. A resident has raised the blocking of the public right of way between Endrick Gardens and Buchanan Street, due to building works in one of the adjacent private properties. It was agreed that maintaining the public right of way is crucial and a resolution of this situation will need to be found.

8. Disabled Parking Provision

Colin informed BCC of proposals by Stirling Council to amend the provision of disabled parking in the village. Proposals to reduce the number of spaces in the car park were welcomed, but other proposals require further discussion. Whilst it was acknowledged that effective and convenient disabled parking provision is necessary, any changes in relation to transport and parking should be

made in the contest of a joined-up approach that takes full account of the results from the recent consultation exercise (see item 12). Colin will convey the views of the meeting to the Council officers.

9. Play Areas

Bill Noblett is meeting with a range of play equipment suppliers to discuss options for using the Section 75 funding for play facilities in Balfroon. Wider consultation with the community at the Balfroon Bash will be key in establishing a good understanding of what is required. Any new play facilities in Donaldson Park will need to be sited within the existing play area and cannot extend to other parts of the park. The play area at Endrick Gardens was also discussed, and various suggestions for examining solutions in other communities put forward.

10. Bash Planning

Colin updated the group on progress with planning for the event. He highlighted the need for volunteers to help on the day and with the set up on Friday evening.

11. Dog Fouling Campaign

Stuart Youens has scanned the 43 images created by the Primary School pupils. These will be printed and laminated to use at the Bash. The campaign will be formally launched in September.

12. Transport, Access and Amenities Consultation Update

A draft report on the consultation results is now being finalised. Colin thanked Carsten Mandt, Graham Rose, Craig Potter and Tim Cullen for their work in taking the consultation forward and analysing the results. The report will be launched at the Balfroon Bash under the title 'A Space For Living', and will then be available via the BCC website. Building on the consultation results, a set of concrete proposals will be developed as a vision for the future shape of Balfroon.

13. Stirling Wide Grants Programme

Bill Noblett highlighted potential funding available through a new Stirling wide grants programme. Details are available here: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/stirling-wide-grants-programme/>

14. Business from the Floor

Gladys Farquharson and Bill Astley-Jones highlighted recent changes to bus timetables, affecting commercial routes from Balfroon to Stirling. This has caused significant problems for users of the service, especially those who travel to Larbert Hospital, as there is now very poor connectivity between services, resulting in long waits in Stirling. Ian Denvir suggested raising these issues with Stirling Council at the local plan consultation event on 25 August in Killearn. Colin will also take this up with David Brown, Transport Manager for Stirling Council, and the other rural south west Community Councils. Carsten suggested also raising this with NHS Forth Valley.

15. Any Other Business

None.

16. Date of next meeting: Thursday 1 September 2016, 7.30pm, Balfroon Campus