



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER 2016 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Colin Cameron (Chair), David Dougans, Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, David McGowan, Bill Noblett, Stuart Youens, Carsten Mandt (Minutes)

In Attendance: Fraser Allen, Stuart Ballantyne, Susan Nisbet, Janet Rutherford, Jim Thomson, Pat Thomson, Andrea Gabriel

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Christine Wilson, Ian Denvir, Cllr Graham Lambie, John Nicholson, Police Scotland.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 1 September 2016

Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Pat Thomson.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. No resolution as yet to the damaged car park sign and the Spoker's Loan speed bump. Colin has recently raised this, as well as the lack of markings in Station Road, with Jim McGregor from Stirling Council Roads Department
- 3.2. The issue of overhanging trees in Spoker's Loan is in hand.
- 3.3. There are currently no plans by Stirling Council to merge Balfron Library with the local office.
- 3.4. The bus issues were discussed, particularly the loss of free bus passes provided to pupils following after-school activities. Stirling Council has stated that this has never been their policy. Concerns were raised that this will result in children missing out on after-school activities as they cannot afford full price bus fares. It was agreed to liaise with other affected Community Councils and to inform the wider community of the Stirling Council position via Facebook. Stuart Youens will also raise this with Elaine Bannatyne.
- 3.5. BCC responses to the Local Development Plan and Local Transport Strategy consultations have been submitted.

4. Police Report

BCC noted a written report submitted by Police Scotland. This is available on the website.

5. Councillor's Report

Cllr Lambie submitted a written report on recent developments. Key points were noted:

- 5.1. The roll out of the new bins to rural areas has been delayed.
- 5.2. In order to improve public transport provision in the wider area, Strathblane Community Council suggested a loop service via Balfron - Drymen - Croftamie - Bearsden - Strathblane

Killearn. Cllrs Muirhead and Lambie will meet with First Bus and Council officials on 20 October, and have asked for other suggestions to be submitted prior to that date.

5.3. It has been confirmed that changes to the ward boundaries will not happen.

6. Playpark Equipment Update

6.1. Bill is pursuing quotes from a number of suppliers for refurbishing and expanding the playpark in Donaldson Park.

6.2. Stirling Council are considering an option to purchase equipment on behalf of BCC.

6.3. There is a need to formalise the agreement between Donaldson Trust and Stirling Council for the Council to take on responsibility for playpark maintenance.

6.4. The full cost in the first tranche likely to be up to £60,000. It was agreed to bid for Community Pride Fund money towards the playpark upgrade. Other applications are also being made e.g. to the Paul Trust. The aim is to have £60,000 funding secured by February 2017.

6.5. There is also money for playpark development still available from the Barnwell Drive development.

7. Broadband Delivery Update

Bill updated BCC on recent discussion regarding broadband upgrades. There is still no clarity on the full detail of the roll out to Balfron. In particular, it is still not known which addresses are out of scope for the roll out. Once that has been confirmed, it would be feasible to pursue community broadband solutions. However as UK Government funding is being withdrawn from support for community broadband initiatives, financing this would now be more challenging.

8. Treasurer's Report

Bill informed the group that a refund was received for Balfron Bash with regard to the bouncy castle hire.

Robert Reid has generously offered to build staging for use at future Balfron events; as well as the Bash, this could also help Balfron Community Choir and other organisations. It was agreed to submit a bid to the Community Pride Fund for £500 for staging for community use.

9. Christmas Planning

9.1. Options for siting a temporary tree for 2016 were discussed, recognising the challenging ground conditions at the Tontine Corner. It was proposed to use the old stump as a base. David Dougans will explore the feasibility of that.

9.2. Primary School carol singing – Susan Nisbet and Colin will liaise with Angus Black regarding the Primary School choir and potential dates in December (ideally on a Wednesday). The potential impact on traffic was discussed. A partial road closure may be helpful to allow for the audience to gather close to the tree rather than watch from across the street like last year.

9.3. It was agreed to bid to the Community Pride Fund for to cover refreshments.

9.4. Colin welcomed an offer from Luci Rooney to organise a Hogmanay ceilidh in the McLintock Hall if other interested parties were available to help. The possibility of funding from the

Community Pride Fund was discussed. It was recognised that timescales are now extremely short, and will be dependent on the availability of bands. Luci will explore options.

10. Planning and Correspondence

- 10.1. The Haven SUDS land ownership issue between Scottish Water and the administrators is being progressed. Scottish Water have been asked in the meantime to fence off the site for safety reasons. Japanese Knotweed in the area is being treated.
- 10.2. Between 24 October and 14 November Roman Rd will be closed from the Cala development down to Honeyholm.
- 10.3. The Post Office will be closed from 13 October to 7 November for refurbishment.
- 10.4. Two disabled spaces will be removed from the Co-op car park and converted to two or three conventional spaces. The Council will approach the Co-op to remove their unofficial disabled spaces and return that area to a loading bay. One new disabled space will be created outside the post office and two further spaces by the library and in the bus bay outside the surgery. Time restrictions in the Co-op car park are being considered, as well as options to create additional capacity.
- 10.5. An energy saving workshop will be held on Tue 29 Nov, 7.30pm at Balfon Campus. Posters are on the noticeboards.
- 10.6. Elections to fill Community Council vacancies are now being held. Balfon has one vacancy, and anyone interested should get in touch with Colin: chair@balfoncc.org.uk

11. Business from the Floor

- 11.1. Susan Nisbet and Andrea Gabriel updated the group on recent Incredible Edible activities and plans for the future. In particular they highlighted the autumn Harvest pop-up festival on 22 October, 12-3pm, at the Tontine Corner.
- 11.2. Janet Rutherford queried if a meeting was being scheduled to discuss land around the village available to various community groups such as Incredible Edible and Balfon in Bloom. Colin will pursue this with Ian Denvir.
- 11.3. Janet also reiterated a desire among some community members to have the trees outside the chemist / library removed, citing the hazard created by falling fruit from one of the trees and suggesting that the trees may also be diseased.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 3 November 2016, 7.30pm, Balfon Campus