



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2016 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Fraser Allan, Colin Cameron (Chair), Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, David McGowan, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Christine Wilson, Stuart Youens, Carsten Mandt (minutes)

In Attendance: Cllr Alistair Berrill, Ian Denvir, Pat Thomson

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from David Dougans, Police Scotland, Rae Wilson, Susan Nisbet, Andrea Gabriel.

Colin welcomed the appointment of Fraser Allan as a new member of the Community Council.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 6 October 2016

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

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. Colin has raised the issue of bus links in the area, in particular for after school transport, with other Community Councils and has received little response to date. Cllr Berrill updated BCC on recent discussion between Stirling Council and local bus operators, which made it clear that significant improvements in the near future are unlikely. Expanding Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) currently appears to be the most promising avenue for improving public transport in the area. The negative impact on the uptake of after school activities following the withdrawal of the C8 service to Drymen and the discontinuation of free bus travel for pupils was noted. The PBB Consultation at the High School on Monday 21 November is a good opportunity for the community to make its feelings clear over the lack of support from Stirling Council for rural public transport. This will be publicised through Facebook and other outlets.
- 3.2. The next meeting on broadband delivery will be held on 9 November. David Dougans will represent BCC.
- 3.3. The damaged car park sign has been removed but the damaged bin has not yet been addressed. Bill Noblett is following up on the lack of road markings at the Spoker's Loan speed bump.

4. Police Report

BCC noted a written report submitted by Police Scotland. Bill mentioned that speeding and parking enforcement had been discussed widely on social media lately. This should be raised again with the Police and the Stirling Council enforcement team.

5. Councillor's Report

Cllr Berrill highlighted that the new round of the Priority Based Budgeting is due to start. On 21 November an engagement meeting will be held in Balfron with three scheduled slots for consultation at 4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm. Cllr Berrill also mentioned that the Scottish Government has agreed a council tax increase for bands E-H (a 7-23% uplift respectively). In addition councils will also be allowed to raise council tax by up to 3% generally across all council tax bands.

6. Space for Living Update

A workshop was held in late October to discuss the next steps for the Space for Living project. The community consultation has provided a strong mandate to address the concerns raised. A vision document is now being drafted to develop improvements on issues such as speeding, parking and amenities. The focus will be on Buchanan Street as the centre of the village but a key aim will be to develop a cohesive approach for the whole of Balfron that avoids piecemeal, disconnected solutions to specific issues and builds on existing strengths of the village. A first draft will be circulated for comment as soon as it is ready as it will be key to maintaining momentum.

7. Treasurer's Report

- 7.1. Bill informed the group that bids were submitted to the Community Pride Fund – decision will be made mid-December. However, the bid for the Christmas light switch-on was withdrawn since the event will take place prior to the decision date.
- 7.2. BCC have received the Administration Grant from Stirling Council - £335.95, net of insurance (£67.12 for Public Liability, £9.80 for Assets).
- 7.3. Notice has been received that there may be a little funding available from the residue of this year's Connect Fund – closing date 30 November.
- 7.4. BCC has received a donation of £20 from Balfron Curling Club following their participation at the Bash.
- 7.5. Bill is awaiting revised costings from Scotplay on the amended brief for play park equipment. Overall estimated costs appear to be very similar for all suppliers that have provided costings to date. The Donaldson Trust has also submitted bids for additional funding. They have agreed to sign a formal access agreement on the basis that Stirling Council would take on the ongoing maintenance of the play area.

8. Christmas Planning

Laura informed BCC that Euan Duff has kindly agreed to provide a Christmas tree to the community free of charge. The Christmas lights will be switched on on 7 December at 4.30pm, with carol singing from the Primary School. It was agreed to erect the tree on Sunday 4 December. Colin will liaise with the Police with regards to support with traffic management on the day. Laura and Bill will organise refreshments for the event.

9. Planning and Correspondence

- 9.1. BCC congratulated Rae Wilson on receiving the Provost's Award for services to the community.

- 9.2. Planting for the Snowdrop Garden will take place on Wednesday 9 November at 11am in aid of Strathcarron Hospice.
- 9.3. The Meals at Home service is now in operation.
- 9.4. Incredible Edibles and Balfron in Bloom have met with Stirling Council to agree management arrangements for the various plots in the villages. The Incredible Edibles Harvest Festival was very successful.
- 9.5. Pat Thomson updated the group on the planning for the Alexander Greek Thomson bicentenary. An application was submitted to the National Lottery for £5k. However, this does not cover the cost of banners to be hung from lampposts, which will need to be funded separately. BCC agreed to submit a bid to the Community Pride Fund to cover the cost of the banners for the Greek Thomson celebrations. The next planning meeting will be held on 7 November at 7.30pm.
- 9.6. Colin noted that funding was in place to publish a community directory, but that we had been unable so far to get the necessary research and design work done. It was suggested that this could be taken forward as a school project to finish the directory for publication. Colin will contact Tracey Patrick at Balfron High School in the first instance
- 9.7. Stirling Council have confirmed that the reinstatement costs for 'the Bunker' site are too high to proceed as previously planned. They are now considering selling the property at a commercial rate. Alternatives for BCC storage space are being investigated.
- 9.8. Laura raised concerns over the lack of suitable social housing for families in the village due to priority having been given to purchasing or building 1 and 2 bedroom properties rather than larger family homes. It was agreed to invite a representative of Stirling Council housing to explain housing policy at a future meeting.
- 9.9. Daryn Piper has raised concerns over works traffic using Dunmore St. early in the morning before the permitted time. This has now been addressed with Cala Homes and their contractors.
- 9.10. The new Stirling Council online portal for reporting faults and issue directly to the Council was highlighted. This is available at my.stirling.gov.uk/report.

10. Business from the Floor

None.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday 1 December 2016, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus