



## MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2016 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Fraser Allen, Colin Cameron (Chair), David Dougans, Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, Carsten Mandt (minutes), David McGowan, Bill Noblett

**In Attendance:** Gladys Farquharson

### 1. **Welcome and Apologies**

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

### 2. **Minutes of Previous meeting 3 November 2016**

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

### 3. **Matters Arising**

- 3.1. Stirling Council hosted a Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) consultation meeting in Balfron on 24 November. Colin attended but felt that this no longer seemed like the two-way engagement it has been in previous years.
- 3.2. Stirling Council asked for an inventory of BCC items in storage at the bunker site. This has been provided.
- 3.3. Despite earlier improvements in response to complaints from local residents to Cala, issues with building traffic have re-emerged in Dunmore Street.

### 4. **Police Report**

BCC noted a written report submitted by Police Scotland.

### 5. **Councillor's Report**

Councillor Lambie was unable to attend the meeting. A written report was submitted later.

### 6. **Treasurer's Report**

Bill Noblett informed the group that the Connect fund application was processed. The funding will go towards the production of leaflets and a newsletter. No application has been submitted yet to support the Alexander 'Greek' Thomson celebrations.

### 7. **Planning and Correspondence**

- 7.1. BCC received notification of plans to remove the BT payphones in Dunmore Street and Cotton Street as there has been little usage of the phones. A submission has been made to BT to adopt the original red phone box in Dunmore Street for use as a mini museum.

- 7.2. The timing of buses to Stirling was raised, highlighting in particular difficulty in connecting to Larbert Hospital. The withdrawal of the C8 service to Drymen and Croftamie was also discussed. BCC had been advised by Stirling Council that the DRT service replacing the C8 was understood to be working well. However, feedback from parents and pupils at Balfron High School remains very critical of the current transport provision. Stirling Council's decision to discontinue funding for bus passes for school children has further aggravated the situation, making attendance at after school activities practically impossible for many children who would now face paying full fares several times a week. All three issues were raised at the PBB meeting, with local Councillors and with Bruce Crawford MSP. A meeting was to take place on 6 December to discuss the C8 service specifically. Colin pointed out that these issues needed much broader involvement, including other community councils.
- 7.3. Bill Noblett explained that revised plans and costings for the playpark in Donaldson Park were being prepared. A decision has been taken to not install any equipment south of the footpath to protect the sightlines in the park and create more distance between the play park and local residents. Stirling Council has agreed to take on the future management and maintenance as well as public liability insurance for the play park. A formal agreement with Donaldson Trust for access still needed to be signed. Funding bids are being submitted to support the equipment purchase. There is also scope to look at upgrading the play equipment in Barnwell Drive, for example the installation of monkey bars. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of Cala section 75 contributions – related to the Roman Road development – could be used to fund such an upgrade. Bill Noblett thanked staff in Land Services at Stirling Council for their continued advice and support with this project.
- 7.4. Stirling Council sent detailed plans for a proposed gateway at Printer's Row. This includes moving the 30mph sign further out the village and additional painting/surface markings in Printer's Row and Buchanan Street to slow traffic entering the village. While there are doubts over the likely impact of the proposed measures, residents have welcomed action being taken to address the continued road safety issues in Printer's Row. However, this also highlighted the urgency of BCC developing a more cohesive set of proposals to address such issues for the whole village if piecemeal solutions are to be avoided.

## **8. Christmas Planning**

Laura Elder confirmed that Euan Duff had kindly donated a tree to the community. This would be erected on Sunday, followed by the Christmas lights ceremony on Wednesday 7 December. It was agreed to ask Rae Wilson if she were available to switch on the lights.

## **9. Business from the Floor**

The lack of road markings around the speed bump in Spoker's Loan was raised again. At the moment the speed bump is very hard to see which poses a significant risk. Assurance had been given by Stirling Council that this would be addressed but the Council had so far not committed to a timescale for completion.

## **10. Any Other Business**

- 10.1. Bill Noblett announced a broadband supplier event would be held at 6-9pm, Wed 7 Dec 2016 at Balfron High School.

- 10.2. Fraser Allen queried the status of the proposed development of a footpath in Banker's Brae. This had been agreed by Stirling Council as part of the safer routes to school work but had been delayed.
- 10.3. Responsibility for the upkeep of the war memorial was discussed. It was noted that grants for the maintenance of war memorials was available. David Dougans agreed to look into this in more detail.

**11. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 2 February 2017, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE IN BALFRON, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE  
WHO GIVE THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TOWARDS THE WORK OF  
THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.**

**SEE YOU ALL IN 2017!**