



MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2017 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Stuart Ballantyne, Viv Casteel, Susan Dalziel, Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Cllr Graham Lambie, Liz Lawrence, Lorna Malcolm, Lindsey McDonald (Stirling Council), Janet Rutherford, George Sommerville (Stirling Council), Pat Thomson, Jim Thomson

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from John Nicholson 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 has been provided with an inventory of BCC items in storage in the bunker. Ian Denvir confirmed that alternatives for storage are being investigated. He will report back at the next meeting. **Action: Ian Denvir**
- 3.2. Christmas celebrations had gone well but a more permanent solution for a tree still needs to be found. The size of the tree will be increased for 2017. Christine offered a small tree for planting.
- 3.3. Construction of the proposed footpath in Banker's Brae is due to start shortly. The amended proposal now includes dropped kerbs at the Dunmore Street junction.

4. Police Report

BCC noted a written report submitted by Police Scotland. It was also noted that there had been no officer available again to attend the meeting in person. Dangerous and illegal parking continues to be an issue outside the McLintock Hall, which will be raised with the Police. **Action: Colin**

5. Waste Recycling

George Somerville and Lindsey McDonald from Stirling Council explained the operational challenges faced in rolling out the new waste collection regime. These have led to some areas not receiving a full waste collection service in recent months. The main issues have been delays in procuring the new fleet of vehicles to ensure they are compliant with the latest safety standards and are fit for purpose. The full fleet is due to be in place at the end of February. Staffing issues have also affected the rollout with long-standing staff members leaving and the bedding in of the new 7-day working rota. This has required routes to be redefined and some routes still require to be fine-tuned to ensure they are efficient and achievable. It was acknowledged that the timing of implementation close to the festive period also introduced additional challenges.

There is increasing pressure on local authorities to improve recycling and reduce waste to landfill, which has necessitated the move to the new regime. With current technology the sorting facilities cannot cope with glass being mixed in with metal and plastic waste. However, there is an aspiration that this would be viable in the near future, making the blue box redundant.

A number of issues were raised that have adversely affected local residents since the new regime was introduced:

- Delays – at times very significant delays of up to 13 weeks – with collections;
- The footprint of the bins on pavements, creating barriers for pushchairs, wheelchairs, and those with mobility or visual impairment. This is compounded when there are delays with bin collection resulting in bins being left on pavements for longer;
- The proliferation of bins impacts the scenic beauty of the area and is a risk to the tourism industry;
- Broken glass being left on the roadway following the collection of the blue boxes;
- Bin collection at weekends may impact on visitor traffic, especially over the summer, which may also be detrimental to tourism.

It was suggested that more effective communication was needed to alert households when there are delays and inform them of revised collection dates. Problems with a lack of response from the Stirling Council contact centre were highlighted. The value of having a direct contact number was also raised. George Sommerville stressed that he was keen to hear about any issues directly. His email address is sommervillege@stirling.gov.uk. He also confirmed that support continues to be available for those who cannot pull their bins out on the pavement.

6. Playpark Plans

Bill mentioned that further estimates for new play equipment have been received which look promising. He is also still pursuing a number of potential funding opportunities. More detailed plans are being developed, which Christine will be presenting at the next BCC meeting. The proposal is to avoid installing equipment south of the path to preserve existing sight lines. Safety concerns have also been raised regarding the entrance to the park at Spoker's Loan. There may be scope to work with Stirling Council to install signage to warn drivers.

7. Ballat Aquaduct

Colin reported on a recent meeting with Scottish Water on plans to repair Ballat Aquaduct. The structure is partly listed and much of the pipe work is original. It is estimated that the work will take 16 weeks in total. At the meeting Scottish Water was asked to explore the option of carrying out the work in two blocks (after Easter and after the summer holidays) to minimise disruption.

Improved signage needs to be installed to create effective diversions but still allow local businesses to continue. A working party involving all affected Community Councils has been established which Colin will attend.

8. Councillor's Report

8.1. Cllr Lambie recognised the local challenges with poor public transport connections from Balfron to Stirling, especially for journeys to Forth Valley Royal Hospital. He suggested that there may be opportunities to find additional funding support through Stirling's City Deal bid. He also pointed out that rural areas contribute significantly through their council tax which may also

present opportunities to argue for increased investments in connectivity for rural communities. The meeting supported a proposal for a letter to Stirling Council requesting further investment in bus routes from Balfron to Stirling. **Action: Colin**

- 8.2. Cllr Lambie also highlighted the online consultation on the Council's Priority Based Budgeting exercise: <http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/council-and-government/shapingstirling> (open until 12 February).

9. Treasurer's Report

- 9.1. Community Pride Grants have been received for Staging (£500), Play equipment (£1,500) and the Supplementary Admin Grant for minuting of meetings. Due to a change in Stirling Council's systems BCC received 11 months' minuting grant to include February's and March's, with future payments to be made for the financial year rather than the calendar year.
- 9.2. BCC also received £200 from the Connect Fund for our annual newsletter and the Lunch Club/Meals at Home leaflet. Both have been produced and will be distributed by the Guides.
- 9.3. Another event shelter has been purchased, bringing to three the number available for community events.

10. Planning and Correspondence

- 10.1. The Haven SUDS has been cleared again. A topographical survey is scheduled to assess if the SUDS has sufficient capacity for the volume of housing now feeding into it.
- 10.2. Stirling Council, Police Scotland and the Balfron 10k organisers have now agreed the new route for the race on Sunday 23 April. Colin asked for more volunteers to help marshal the route.
- 10.3. No BCC objections would be lodged on the Planning Application for ground north of 43 Dunmore St.

11. Business from the Floor

- 11.1. Janet Rutherford noted that she was still waiting to hear back from Stirling Council Land Services regarding the removal of the trees and shrubs outside the library. Land Services had indicated that they favoured preserving the middle tree as it is healthy.
- 11.2. Janet also mentioned that this year's Balfron in Bloom coffee morning will be held on 6 May.
- 11.3. Susan Dalziel mentioned that Incredible Edibles were working on signage for the Community Orchard at Weaver's Winnel.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1. An appropriate location is being sought to erect the remaining village roadsign at the Roman Rd/Dunmore St roundabout, now that it is nearing completion.
- 12.2. Colin explained that due to this year's local elections, those elected to the Community Council in March 2014 are not due to demit office until October 2018.

- 13. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 2 March 2017, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus