



## MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2017 IN THE McLINTOCK HALL, BALFRON DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Fraser Allan, Colin Cameron (Chair), Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, Carsten Mandt (minutes), Bill Noblett, Christine Wilson

**In Attendance:** Cllr Alistair Berrill, Lesley Carruthers, Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Craig Potter, Janet Rutherford

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from John Nicholson, David Dougans, David McGowan, Susan Dalziel, Pat Thomson, Rae Wilson, Stuart Youens

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

Christine Wilson proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Fraser Allan.

### 3. Matters Arising

Possible new sites for BCC storage are being explored to allow the bunker site to be vacated.

### 4. Police Report

Ongoing issues with noise and anti-social tenant behaviour were discussed. Colin informed the group about advice from Kath Menzies, Stirling Council Enforcement Department, regarding noise and antisocial behaviour by tenants. There is a stepped process in place to deal with such situations, which includes four stages: a voluntary 'ASBO'; an Unacceptable Behaviour Notice; a court order for an ASBO; notice of eviction if the conditions of the ASBO are broken.

A written police report was noted which highlighted a range of road safety issues – including a number of road traffic accidents. BCC agreed that further action by Stirling Council was needed to improve the safety of the Ballat crossroads following three incidents there recently, one of which led to a fatality.

**ACTION:** Colin will approach Stirling Council about this.

Bill raised concerns over the effectiveness of police speed checks in the area. On a number of occasions police reports mention speed check but suggest that no offenses were observed by the officers, which does not fit with the experience of many residents who have been complaining about speeding in the village. Ian Denvir said this appeared to be a universal issue for all community councils in the wider area. Colin noted that there have now been six successive BCC meetings without a police presence. He has raised this issue with senior management in Police Scotland but has not yet had a response. The local community officers have explained operational challenges that have prevented their attendance at meetings. The behaviour of individual officers is not at issue; rather it appears to be a structural one within Police Scotland. Ian noted that other community councils have also struggled to engage with Police Scotland.

**ACTION:** Colin will follow this up with colleagues from neighbouring community councils.

## **5. Space for Living**

A well-attended public meeting was held at the end of March to discuss the Space for Living report and define the next steps. The ambition is to find funding to develop this into a fully costed plan. BCC endorsed the plan and agreed that engagement with Stirling Council was key to successfully moving the project forward. Colin is due to meet with Alan Milliken (Stirling Council Community Planning) on 19 April to discuss the Space for Living project.

A video log of key points in village was suggested as a useful means for capturing additional information to inform the further development of an action plan.

Cllr Berrill mentioned plans within Stirling Council to move towards Participatory Budgeting which would devolve some budgets to local communities. This could potentially create opportunities for BCC to access this funding for Space for Living.

## **6. Balfron Bash**

Colin confirmed the date for the 2017 Balfron Bash as 19 August, 1pm to 4.30pm. Organisation will be done via email until nearer the time.

Fraser agreed to take on responsibility for organising the hired external entertainment. Bill explained that the budget for this used to be up to £400 but due to funding changes for community events this can now be increased to £1500. To apply for the increased funding costings will need to be submitted by 24 May to then receive funding by the end of June.

**ACTION:** Bill to get formal agreement from the Donaldson Trust for the date. Fraser to pursue entertainment options.

## **7. Playpark Update**

Bill stated that the playpark development has been budgeted for £50,000 and the supplier has been asked to produce a revised plan with more challenging equipment. He added that fundraising was progressing well, and that it was possible to raise up to £68,000 in total. Stirling Council will license the land from the Donaldson Trust for future maintenance. This means that the land will need to be reinstated to appropriate standards so that the Council can take on maintenance responsibilities. Discussions are progressing with Stirling Council about purchasing the equipment through Stirling Council, which would avoid the need to pay VAT.

Laura queried the availability of funding to upgrade the Barnwell Drive playpark. Bill explained that this would be looked at when the second tranche of contributions from Cala is made available.

## **8. Councillor's Report**

Cllr Berrill highlighted the council elections on Thursday 4 May. As such there may not be any elected member present at the May BCC meeting.

He updated BCC on the Stirling Council budget meeting in February. A council tax increase was agreed which would raise an extra £3m. £140,000 was agreed for transport improvements in rural areas.

Parking decriminalisation is scheduled to take effect on 3 May. Initially this would focus on Stirling city centre. Information notices have been placed in the village.

Cllr Berrill noted that the needs of the city centre and the rural areas in Stirlingshire were quite distinct. There is a recognition among elected members that there may be benefit in forming a grouping of rural councillors, regardless of party affiliation, to have a stronger voice for rural issues.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

The Incredible Edibles group had asked that BCC apply for a Community Pride Fund grant to allow them to develop their project for this year. BCC approved this request.

The Connect Fund is again available, with 2 dates for applications, 3 May and 5 July. BCC is still awaiting a response from Stirling Council with regard to the possibility of retrospective acceptance of the excess spending incurred on the Space for Living project, rather than the intended community directory which had not yet been completed but for which BCC may be able to apply again.

## **10. Planning and Correspondence**

Colin informed the meeting that the Roman Road village sign is to be installed on Tue 11 April.

He also mentioned that a Scottish Government consultation on shale oil and gas fracking in the Stirling area was open until 31 May: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/fracking-unconventional-oil-and-gas/>

BCC noted that the Banker's Brae footpath works had progressed well. However Janet Rutherford raised a safety issue over an exposed gas pipe which has led to delays in the work being completed, as there appears to be a dispute between the Council and Scottish Gas.

**ACTION:** Colin will raise this as an urgent concern with Stirling Council.

BCC has received an invite from Spark of Genius who are opening a children's residential home at The Schian in Balfron. The opening day celebrations will be at 1.30pm on 21 April.

The Haven SUDS had now been cleared of vegetation and Scottish Water were looking to cost work to resize the pond.

Colin reminded the meeting of the Balfron 10k race on Sunday 23 April. Buchanan St will be closed from the McLintock Hall to the Clachan from 10.50am to 11.20am. As a result of the road closure all bin collections on that weekend will move to the Saturday. A leaflet drop to all households has been organised to inform them of the 10k plans.

## **11. Business from the Floor**

Janet noted that the Balfron in Bloom Coffee Morning is on 6 May at the McLintock Hall.

Bill queried if there was scope to install sponsored bins in the village with support from local food outlets.

A Care Hub meeting was scheduled for 27 April at the Bowling Club, 7-9pm to update on the neighbourhood care pilot project.

Ian Denvir mentioned that free Child Protection Awareness training was available on 28 April at Killearn Village Hall, 1.30-3.30pm.

## **12. Any Other Business**

None.

## **13. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 4 May 2017, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus