



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 MAY 2017 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Janet Rutherford, Vivien Casteel, Mark McKinnon (Spark of Genius), Carolyne Shaftoe, John Shaftoe

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Carsten Mandt, John Nicholson, David Dougans, Pat Thomson, Cllr. Lambie, Police Scotland

2. **Minutes of Previous meeting 5 April 2017**

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

3. **Matters Arising**

Police Report: Colin wrote to Stuart Geddes, Traffic Management, Stirling Council concerning safety at Ballat crossroads. Stuart replied that the Council prioritises action on a weighted accident severity score. The junction does not feature on any priority lists. Several amendments have been made to nearby sites and road markings over the years, but at this point major works cannot be considered.

Police Attendance – lack of: This is the seventh consecutive meeting without a police officer in attendance. Colin has raised this with senior police but has had no response. He will raise it with other Community Councils at the Rural South West Area Forum on 15 May. **ACTION: Colin**

The final Balftron road sign was installed at the Roman Road/Dunmore St junction in time for the Balftron 10K road race.

The Banker's Brae footpath work has been completed.

4. **Police Report**

There are continuing residential noise complaint issues on Buchanan Street that are being dealt with in liaison with Stirling Council.

Enquiries are continuing into an assault on a youth by another youth on Greek Thomson Road.

Two juveniles have been reported for vandalism to two houses on the B818 Fintry Road and have subsequently also admitted to breaking into another house on the same road.

PC Raymond Murphy has left Balftron and moved to Road Policing in Greenock. Colin extended our thanks to Ray for his support over his time in Balftron. He is to be replaced by PC Scott Craigie, who has previously been based at Balftron police office. There is also a new commander for Forth Valley, Chief Superintendent Thom McLoughlin, who was previously based in Stirling.

5. **Councillor's Report**

Cllr Lambie was unable to attend due to the Council elections, and submitted a brief report. The issues he raised are dealt with elsewhere in the Minutes.

6. Mark McKinnon – Spark of Genius

Spark of Genius is an organisation which offers residential childcare for children (aged between 10 and 18) who have experienced trauma. Their aim is to teach the children skills to prepare them for independent living. They have opened a home at The Schian where they currently have three children in residence. The maximum they will have there will be five. They have 16 staff members providing 24hr care, and want to provide as near to a real home experience for the young people as they can. Neighbours who share a driveway with the Spark of Genius home raised concerns regarding the positioning of a sign which has led visitors to come to their door in error. They also pointed out that access during the winter can be on foot only when the road gets snowed in. More urgently they are very concerned about having to leave bins out on the main road for collection. They pointed out how dangerous this is due to a blind dip in the road and speeding traffic. Colin said he would write to Lindsey McDonald of Waste Management to ask they carry out an assessment of options.

ACTION: Colin

Colin thanked Mark for coming along to the meeting and offered the support of the Community Council. He invited Spark of Genius to have a presence at the Balfron Bash.

7. Space for Living

Colin and Craig Potter met with Alan Milliken of Stirling Council to discuss progressing the *Space for Living* ambitions. He was very supportive as the plan fits in with their new philosophy of place based projects. Balfron could be a potential pilot. The next step is a meeting with department heads from Stirling Council.

A Working Group has been established by Stirling Council to develop a response to the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment Act which devolves some powers to local communities. Colin will attend the Community Sounding Board meeting on 9 May.

8. Balfron Bash

Bill is still awaiting formal approval from the Donaldson Trust for permission to hold the Bash on 19 August. Fraser has made enquiries regarding provision of inflatables and has opted for a company from Kirkintilloch who can provide Paradise Island, a bucking bronco plus generators and supervision. Active Stirling want to be involved and would also take a stall. Strathendrick Baptist Church would like to provide a Kidzone with Face Painting and a Treasure Hunt. Janet Rutherford will have a stall for Cancer Research. Many other people are coming forward to take part. We will have to be careful that there is no duplication of provision i.e. athletics activities; facepainting etc. Bill will submit a bid for funding to the Community Pride Fund.

ACTION: Bill

9. Treasurer's Report

The Accounts are complete and with Tom Yuill for auditing. Bill has repaid £1500 to the Community Pride Fund that was not used in the Greek Thomson bicentenary. A bid for funding for Incredible Edibles will be heard in the next fortnight. It was agreed that we take out Trustees Liability insurance following an incident with Port of Menteith Community Council. It was suggested that cover for legal expenses should also be included.

ACTION: Bill

10. Removal of Trees Outside the Library

There has been significant concern within sections of the community over the removal of the three trees from outside the Library. This has been under discussion for several years between Balfron in Bloom, Balfron Community Council, Stirling Council, and other members of the community, not least because uneven flagstones raised by the tree roots had caused a number of accidents. When the Council surveyed the trees, they discovered that two of them were diseased and unsafe and

they made the decision, in liaison with Balfron in Bloom, that they should be removed. Colin stated that it would have been helpful if we had been made aware of when this would be done, as we could have taken steps to inform the community. Ian Denvir acknowledged this on behalf of Stirling Council. Balfron in Bloom has plans in hand to re-landscape the area, and it has been identified in the Community Council's *Space for Living* report as a key area for improvement as a community space. Stirling Council has already assessed the flagstones for repair or replacement. The meeting considered the suitability of the site for the annual Christmas tree carol singing event. There could still be a tree at the Tontine with an additional tree at the Library. Colin will explore the possibilities of getting a power supply from the Library. **ACTION: Colin**

11. Planning and Correspondence

A letter was received from Nigel Mottram to thank the Community Council for their support during the fundraising for the repairs to the Church. The funds have now been raised with work commencing in May. Scaffolding will be up from May to July.

12. Playpark

Christine and Bill had a positive meeting with Colin Scott (Legal), Colin Mackay (Land Services) and Nicola Webster (Commissioning) of Stirling Council. Provision of play equipment has now been put out to tender. Clearing of the old equipment is part of the contract as there are no insurance issues if one supplier. Land Services will clear trees and shrubs at the site and assess for wheelchair access. Extra funding is needed to provide signage and a new gate at Spoker's Loan. Christine has plans to ask the National Park to help us buy a bench.

13. Business from the Floor

Janet reminded everyone that Balfron in Bloom is holding a coffee morning and plant sale on Saturday morning (6 May) in the McLintock Hall.

14. Any Other Business

Alison agreed to attend the Scottish Water update on the Ballat Aquaduct on 10 May. Woodland Experiences have asked to attend our next meeting. This was agreed.

15. Date of Next Meeting

**Thursday 1 June
7pm AGM
7.30pm Community Council**