



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2017 IN BALFRON CAMPUS DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Stuart Ballantine, Jim Burns, Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Lee Rooney, Alan Whitelaw

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Fraser Allen, David Dougans and David McGowan.

2. Minutes of 2015/16 AGM

Christine Wilson proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Laura Elder.

3. Chair's Report

Colin Cameron presented his chair's report about the past year's activities and achievements:

I am delighted to report on the progress made by your Community Council over the past financial year. Here are some of the issues dealt with, initiatives created, and events undertaken:

A Space for Living: After extensive community consultation we produced a major report, *A Space For Living: Next Steps*, which aims to improve aspects of living in the village for the 21st century. This has been done with the involvement of many community organisations and Stirling Council. It should provide the basis for a holistic approach to future developments within Balftron. So far, the initiative has been achieved on a volunteer basis through the considerable work of Carsten Mandt, Graham Rose, Craig Potter, Christine Wilson, Jill Malvenan, and John Paton, amongst others. In partnership with Stirling Council, we are now seeking professional involvement to develop an action plan with detailed, achievable, and fully costed proposals before putting these before the community.

Donaldson Park: There was a first start to cleaning up Donaldson Park in May and a big thanks to those volunteers who turned out to help. We launched a major fundraising initiative to install new playpark equipment for children of all ages in the Park. Thanks to the hard work of Bill Noblett and Christine Wilson, we now have a workable sum of funds in place and are awaiting responses from Stirling Council to enable us to progress this. We hope to see the first work on site in the latter half of 2017.

Strathendrick Care Hub: After we got the commitment from Stirling Council that Strathendrick Care Home would continue the work it does so well for the elderly, a Strathendrick Care Hub was established to discuss issues of caring for the elderly and infirm within the community. One outcome was a presentation to the BCC by the Mobile Emergency Care Service (MECS) of the technologies available for home care. This brought about the publication of our MECS information leaflet which was distributed to households during the year.

Incredible Edibles Balfron and Balfron in Bloom: Both groups have made significant strides in developing the attractiveness of the village through offering a fresh source of herbs and vegetables, and maintaining our flower beds and planters. A review of all public planting spaces around the village was undertaken, and agreement reached on which group should develop each one. Incredible Edibles also created a number of vegetable beds at the Primary School. The sudden removal of three trees outside the Library caused distress to a number of residents, but they have been assured that replacement plans are in place.

Balfron Bash 2016: A huge thank you to the many, many people who turned up to support what was the wettest Bash possible, and which, despite the presence of more stalls than ever, had to be curtailed. Special thanks to all who contributed to the 126kg of food collected for Start Up Stirling through our admission scheme, "It costs a packet (or a tin) to get in". It should be noted that the Community Council has now purchased three Event Shelters which are available for use by community organisations. So far they have been used at the Bash, a number of Incredible Edible events, and the Balfron 10k.

Community Directory: Along with the Balfron Development Trust we are aiming to produce a comprehensive Community Directory listing businesses, organisations and volunteer groups serving Balfron. Pupils from Balfron High School have been conducting a survey to collect the relevant information, and we hope to see this available in print and online in the next few months.

Buses: We were successful in getting a new bus stop at the Co-op and we've been promised a bench at the bus stop on Cotton Street. Bus timetabling was discussed at many meetings following changes imposed by First Group. Negotiations with them, Stirling Council, Balfron High School and other local communities, led to improvements in the after-school provision. We are continuing to fight for improved rural transport, especially to Stirling and beyond.

Waste Collections: The introduction of the new waste collection system in September faced many teething problems which caused issues for residents throughout Balfron. George Sommerville, Waste Manager for Stirling Council, came to the Community Council in February, and gave an honest assessment of the problems. Most of these now appear to be resolved.

Haven SUDS: This is a drainage system between Endrick Gardens and Donaldson Way which has suffered from flooding for many years, and over which no action has been taken due to land ownership disputes. With the support of Rural Stirling Housing Association and Bruce Crawford MSP, we have achieved significant movement with Scottish Water, who have confirmed that they will take on ownership and responsibility for work to expand the system to cope with the number of houses it serves. Due to a backlog of work it may take a number of years, but in the meantime the pond will be fenced off and the area maintained to a much better standard than in the past.

Parking: Parking continues to cause concern throughout the village. We have tried to facilitate a dialogue with all interested parties to the Co-op car park and will continue to try to improve this issue. A review of disabled parking provision throughout the village was undertaken with Stirling Council, but regrettably this has been delayed pending funding discussions.

Dog Fouling: This was a major item of discussion through the year. In May, we asked the schools to become involved in an information campaign and Primary School pupils produced a series of posters that were posted throughout the village after being displayed at the Balfron Bash 2016. We also welcomed input from Willie Dunne and Marion Prescott from the Council's Enforcement Team.

Road safety: Speeding continues to cause concern and we are assured by the Police that this is being monitored. The 30mph limit was extended at the south entrance to the village at Printers' Row, but more traffic calming measures are required. The speed bumps in Spokers' Loan have finally been painted. A footpath has been installed on Banker's Brae, to improve Safer Routes to School for pupils in Dunmore Street.

Broadband: We have attended a number of meetings of Stirling Council's Broadband Delivery Group and the consistent message is that we still don't know when the whole village will get access to superfast broadband. A second cabinet has been connected, but we can only ask residents not yet served to be patient.

Planning issues: There were no major planning applications during the year, although the construction of the new Cala site at Kiltrochan and the roundabout at the junction of Dunmore Street/Roman Road caused considerable disruption to residents in Dunmore Street. The last of the four village roadsigns was installed at that junction in March. The Community Council worked closely with the organisers of the Balfron 10k 2017 to ensure that the new route including Buchanan Street and Dunmore Street was viable. We have also been liaising with Stirling Council, Scottish Water and other Community Councils over the road closures and restrictions on the Ballat Aquaduct.

Your Community Council: We said farewell to Amanda Quinn, with thanks for her work on behalf of the Community Council, and were delighted to welcome Fraser Allan to our ranks. Our website carries our Minutes, Police Reports, Newsletters and much more, and we have an active Facebook page with regular updates. Minutes of our meetings are also available in the BCC Information Box in the Library and on the notice boards outside Doyle's and at the Car Park. Our Chair, Colin Cameron, has an open surgery in Doyle's at 10.30 on the day of each BCC meeting for anyone has an issue to raise and cannot attend the meeting. All members of the community are welcome to our meetings on the first Thursday of the month (except January and July). Details on the website www.balfroncc.org.uk.

4. Treasurer's report

Bill Noblett submitted the audited accounts for BCC covering the fiscal year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. These were accepted.

5. Re-Election of Office Bearers

The office bearers were confirmed as Colin Cameron (chair), Laura Elder (vice-chair), Bill Noblett (treasurer), Alison Lamont-Chalmers (secretary) and John Nicholson (planning).

6. Any Other Competent Business

None.

7. Date of next AGM

Thursday 7 June 2018