



# BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Colin Cameron (Chair), David Dougans, Laura Elder, Carsten Mandt (minutes), David McGowan, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Christine Wilson

**In Attendance:** Katy Allen, Cllr Alistair Berrill (Stirling Council), Jim Burns (First Bus), Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Ruby Gray, Mairi McMillan, Tracey Patrick (Balfron High School), Tracy Watson

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Fraser Allan, Alison Lamont Chalmers, Stuart Youens, Vivien Casteel and Police Scotland.

### 2. Minutes of Previous meeting 7 September 2017

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

### 3. Matters Arising

- With regards to path repairs at the church, Ian Denvir advised that Stirling Council had now asked a contractor to quote for the works.
- No update was available on the missing priority road markings at Easter Balfunning.
- Cllr Davies and Colin Cameron had spoken with Paul Henke and Gary Scott regarding the disputed access path between Endrick Gardens and Buchanan Street. They were advised that the strip of land used to belong to a trust which was now defunct. Plans were in place to build another house on site and upon completion of those works there may be scope to re-open the discussion about making the path accessible again. It was agreed to review old OS maps for indications of a right of way. John Nicholson will liaise with Pat Thomson and Mary Dunlop on that.
- Improvements in parking at the High School after school hours to allow bus access were noted. However, the situation would need to continue to be monitored and campus users advised of parking limits.

### 4. Police Report

BCC noted a written report by Police Scotland (see Appendix 1). Colin thanked PC Graham for his work as a Ward Officer, as he moves to his new role within the Balfron station.

### 5. Councillor's Report

Councillor Berrill asked if BCC had reached a view on the Stirling Council consultation regarding the future of community councils. Colin explained the background to the consultation and urged all to complete the online survey at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/stirlingccreview](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/stirlingccreview) (deadline: 29 November 2017). He pointed out that volunteer effort would not be sufficient to sustain activity if the Scottish

Government's aspirations for greater community ownership and the Stirling Council place-based approach were implemented more widely. Jim Burns suggested that there would be benefit in having community control over funding to avoid having to raise issues repeatedly with Stirling Council before action was taken. However, there was also caution that devolving Council budgets to communities may risk losing economies of scale. Concerns within the community were highlighted over the frequently slow speed of decision making within Stirling Council to address community concerns. Ian Denvir stressed the ambition within all levels of Stirling Council to change to a more collaborative and responsive way of working with local communities.

Cllr Berrill mentioned that there had been issues with the recent Council communication about changes to the bin collection schedules, affecting both the Stirling Council website and the leaflet drop to households. He acknowledged that there were concerns over the move to a 4-weekly glass collection. He also highlighted an upcoming road closure in Stirling affecting the rail bridge at Carse Road on the weekends of 11 and 18 November.

## **6. Chair's Report**

Colin noted that Stirling Council officers had met with HubCo and tendering is now in process for the consultancy work on Space for Living. One submission has been received to date but following that there had been no further communication from Stirling Council officers. Concerns were raised that there was a risk of momentum being lost.

Colin had attended a Bunker site visit with Cllr Davies to discuss the lack of progress and Stirling Council's decision to not invest in refurbishment to allow community and commercial use of the site. Renovation costs had been quoted at circa £30,000, which the group felt would be an achievable up-front investment that would likely generate a good return in a relatively short period of time. Jim Burns point out that the building was grade 2 listed, which may open up funding sources.

The information for the Balfron community and business directory has been collated by pupils from Balfron High School. Colin will liaise with Viv Casteel about the best way to present the information. Christine Wilson offered to help with reviewing the information for accuracy and completeness. Jim Burns mentioned that Cowie had developed a similar directory, which he agreed to pass on.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Bill provided an update report on BCC finances:

1. BCC received a contribution of £420 from the Community Pride Fund in response to the bid for funding of the Christmas Lights turn-on/celebration
2. An application for the funding of the survey on the War Memorial had been submitted; due to the specialist nature of the conservation, the one quotation BCC received from the only Scottish company on the War Memorial Trust's list of preferred organisations had been accepted as being sufficient.
3. A telephone call was received from Bank of Scotland's Complaints Manager concerning the email sent to the Relationships Director regarding the issues surrounding BCC's mandate. Their investigation is ongoing and BCC should receive further clarification by 19 December.

4. With regard to the above, new mandate forms had been sent to Bank of Scotland to confirm the appropriate signatories to the account.
5. BCC received notification of an extension of funding, previously intimated, for any organisation providing support for a range of categories. This had been forwarded to Rae Wilson and BCC were interested to hear of any other organisations in the village which may be able to benefit.

## **8. Planning and Correspondence**

A question was raised via Facebook about the phone boxes in Balfron. BCC had previously agreed to take over ownership of the red phone box in Dunmore St for community use. The now defunct phone box in Cotton Street was expected to be decommissioned and removed by BT.

The Balfron 10k 2018 is scheduled to take place on 22 April 2018.

Laura reported on progress with securing a village Christmas tree. Colin announced that this year's carol singing will be held outside the library as there is more space available for the children's choir.

## **9. Play Park Update**

Bill and Christine noted that the deadline for the play park tenders was 4 September. The submissions were being reviewed by Stirling Council and a decision was expected shortly. Costings for the final proposal have been received. The suggested costs are larger than anticipated. The supplier had also made changes to the design and budget. Concern was raised that further delay in progressing this project might jeopardise some of the existing funding pledges.

## **10. Business from the Floor**

The creation of a skate park in Balfron was discussed. This had been raised at the most recent Donaldson Trust meeting as well. The Trust had no objections in principle to using Donaldson Park land for a skate park. Incredible Edibles had previously discussed using the same land for a community orchard. The Trust insist that any skate park would need to have sufficient money set aside to reinstate the land should the skate park become derelict and unused. Liability insurance and ongoing maintenance would need to be considered. Tracy Watson and Katy Allen plan to set up a Skate Park action group and to undertake a community survey to gauge support and interest. The Community Council acknowledged their endeavour and was supportive of the project in principle.

Tracey Patrick introduced Senior Prefects, Ruby Gray and Mairi McMillan, who will link with the Community Council in a new role that had been created to encourage engagement between young people and the communities in the wider catchment area of Balfron High School. She also mentioned a number of funding bids Balfron High School had recently submitted to various funding bodies. The school is very keen to work with BCC to take these initiatives forward. Bids include Frisbee golf, upcycling and equipment for an outdoor gym at the school.

**11. Any Other Business**

Information has been received about new data protection regulations that are due to come into force in May 2018. It was agreed that BCC data protection procedures/policies will need to be looked at before that point. Christine agreed to put together a policy document for discussion at the next meeting.

**12. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 7 December 2017, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus.

**Christmas Lights switch-on  
By Callum MacDonald  
bronze medal winner at the Special Olympics.  
With songs and carols from the pupils of Balfron Primary School  
Thursday 7 December 2017  
4:30pm outside the Library  
Mince pies and soft drinks**

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

# Police Service of Scotland

## Community Council Report



**Community Council:**

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

**Reporting Period:**

November 2017    Compiled by PC Scott Craigie

**Ward Plan Priorities**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION – Constable Graham will leave his current post as of the 6<sup>th</sup> of this month. He is returning to street duties so his knowledge of the area will not be lost. The process of recruiting his successor has begun and I will keep you updated.**

**Antisocial Behaviour**

There has been one incident of note since the last meeting. This relates to abusive words scratched into the paint work of a car parked with the village. The owners cannot shed any light as to why their car has been targeted in this way. Local enquiry is ongoing in relation to this matter.

**Road Safety**

There have been no road accidents reported within the village since the last report.

One driver was issued with a fixed penalty fix and penalty points as a result of parking there vehicle on the zig zag lines outside the CO-OP.

Hand held radar is still being carried out at both ends of the village and this will continue for the foreseeable future although it is hoped that , when they are finished the new road markings at the bottom of the village will have an impact.

**Theft**

A lot quieter month with no thefts reported.

### **Community Engagement and Reassurance**

PCs Steven Graham and Scott Craigie are the ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area. They are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at

[www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision](http://www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision)

[www.facebook.com/policescotland](http://www.facebook.com/policescotland)

[www.twitter.com/stirlingpol](http://www.twitter.com/stirlingpol)

[www.twitter.com/policescotland](http://www.twitter.com/policescotland)

### **Other Incidents / Activity of note**

#### **Your View Counts**

Our online public consultation process 'Your View Counts' launched on Friday 4 August. Members of the public are invited to help inform our policing priorities across the country by telling us what's important to you.

This is the second year we have run the 'Your View Counts' consultation. Analysis of survey results, together with crime stats and other community and partnership meetings are used to determine our priorities.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation/>

The confidential survey only takes 15 minutes to complete and is open all year round meaning that if an individual's priorities change a survey can be re-submitted.

The response to the consultation process will be continuously monitored and quarterly progress reports will be published on the Police Scotland website and the intranet.

#### **Rural Watch Scotland**

"Rural Watch Scotland' is an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement and endorsed by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and Forth valley Rural Crime Group aimed specifically at the rural communities of Scotland and aims to bring all the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to all rural communities irrespective of location, size or demographics.

Rural watch is an online community for any member of the public where appeals, crime prevention tips and safety alerts can be posted by those who subscribe which can be viewed by all members. Subscription is free and the sharing of information on the forum is a great example of real time crime prevention in action.

The objectives of Rural Watch Scotland are to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time.
- Encourage people to think about safety and security for themselves, their neighbours and their community.
- Improve community cohesion and well-being by supporting communities to develop 'their watch, their way'.
- Work in partnership with national and local service providers to develop more resilient communities that are better prepared against threats, intentional or unintentional, such as crime or extreme weather.

The experience of Neighbourhood Watch throughout Scotland and elsewhere across the world is that members of Rural Watch Scotland will be less likely than non-members in the rural community to be a victim of crime.

By joining the Rural Watch Scotland scheme members can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping members informed about crime and other threats in specific areas, Rural Watch Scotland can help prevent crime, keep communities and residents safe, and member's responses to these alerts can help catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to communities. To join Rural Watch Scotland simply:

- Log onto [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)
- Click the green JOIN button at the top of the page.
- Follow the on screen instructions."