



MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2018 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Ian Anderson (Stirling Council), Councillor Alasdair Berrill, Christine Davie (Poppy Club), Stuart Freckingham (Balfron Primary School Parent Council), Donald Gardner, Minnie Gray, Nicola McCann, Stuart McShane (Bellrock)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian Denvir, David Dougans, John Nicholson, Stuart Youens and Police Scotland.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 2 December 2017

Alison Lamont Chalmers proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Bill Noblett.

3. Matters Arising

- No further update about the blocked pathway between Endrick Gardens and Buchanan Street.
- No further update from Stirling Council about the commercial marketing of the 'Bunker' site.
- Colin is to follow up with Stirling Council on the question of charging for one-off use of the all-weather pitch at the High School.

4. Police Report

BCC noted a written report submitted by Police Scotland, which highlighted a number of issues including vandalism, theft and road traffic offences (see attached). The report also pointed out that in some cases data protection and privacy regulations prevent Police Scotland from referring to incidents in community reports.

A resident in Weaver's Winnel had written to BCC to put forward a proposal to help tackle vandalism in the area, including better lighting, CCTV, and a range of other measures. BCC agreed that further lighting should be pursued and the legal implications of CCTV (in particular on private properties) be explored and clarified. Cllr. Berrill has been talking with residents in Weaver's Winnel and George Terrace concerning the recent incidents of vandalised cars.

5. Childcare Provision in the Community

Following discussions at a previous BCC meeting, Nicola McCann approached Stirling Council to survey parents in the village to establish current demand/unmet need for childcare provision. Ian Anderson explained that Stirling Council would need a precise specification for a business case for a breakfast club. This would need to be run a full cost recovery basis without any outside funding to support it.

Christine Davie explained that for 15 years the Poppy Club had operated a breakfast club in Balfron which had never been well utilised and was operating at a significant loss (and was cross-subsidised by the Poppy Club's after-school activities). As a result of declining use over an 18 month period a decision was taken in September 2017 to no longer provide breakfast clubs on Mondays and Tuesdays. She suggested that to break even a breakfast club would need to have 10 or 11 children attending every weekday.

Stuart Freckingham offered to take forward a survey of current need through the Balfron Primary School Parent Council. He added that due to limitations at the Primary School any school-based breakfast club would most likely have to be situated at the High School.

6. Councillor's Report

Councillor Berrill provided a verbal report, highlighting that Stirling Council had met on 22 February to set the Council budget. The 3% increase in council tax was supplemented by non-recurring Scottish Government funding of £2.8m, meaning that expected efficiency savings would not be required to be made.

The Balfron Station road closure for the Ballat aqueduct repairs is intended to finish at the end of March 2018, but this may be delayed following the recent adverse weather.

The worsening state of local roads was discussed. Cllr. Berrill noted that an amendment to the proposed budget for additional roads maintenance funding was defeated in Council.

7. Treasurer's Report

Bill provided an update report on BCC finances:

1. Unspent Community Pride Fund money for the Christmas celebrations was returned to Stirling Council.
2. Bank of Scotland mandate forms for a new bank account were submitted and progress was being made to rectify the situation.
3. Scottish Government / Stirling Council funding is available through the "Your Place, Your Priorities" fund. This is open to community bids for projects from £500 to £10,000. Bids need to be submitted by 16 March and presented at a public event on 24 March. Community members present at the event would vote on the applications presented. Two Balfron groups expressed an interest in bidding: the Pathways Group and Action in Mind, a mental health charity who provide counselling services at the High School. BCC agreed to support the bids but noted that the proposed timescales and voting procedure for the fund were questionable.

8. Project Updates

Space for Living: Planning and transport consultants had been appointed to support the project's next steps to develop practical solutions to the identified issues within the village. A range of ideas has been discussed which still need to be costed and consulted on with the wider community in the coming weeks.

Playpark: Despite all the plans being in place for the playpark development, there have been delays within Stirling Council to conclude the planning phase and move forward with the works. Cllr Berrill agreed to chase this matter up with Stirling Council officers.

War Memorial: Quotes for the necessary restorative work had been received. If carried out by a conservationist this would come to £30,000. The cost could be reduced to £14,000 if some of the works were carried out by local contractors. This could be funded through a War Memorial Trust grant and community funding / crowdfunding. Christine will enquire about funding with the War Memorial Trust.

9. Data Protection Policy

Christine has drafted a policy for BCC in readiness for the implementation of the new regulations coming into force on 28th May. She highlighted the main issues for BCC to consider, in particular regarding consent to hold any data that allows an individual to be identified, requirements for safe and secure data storage, and the importance of deleting data that was no longer required. The need to also create a specific data protection statement for the BCC website was identified. Christine and Fraser will bring an amended plan to the next meeting.

10. Community Resilience Plan

Deferred to the April 2018 meeting.

11. Planning and Correspondence

Glasgow Airport Air Space Consultation: This concerns a proposal for a new route that would have aircraft climbing nearer Balfron, which may have an impact on noise pollution. Fraser and Donald Gardner agreed to review the plans to assess if a formal BCC response might be required.

Co-Op Car Parking: The Coach House Inn/Saffron has put up signs in the car park announcing that spaces adjacent to the pub/restaurant are for their patrons only. The car park is in tripartite ownership by the Coop, Stirling Council and the garage. Cllr. Berrill is investigating the situation.

A81 Upgrade Campaign: Stephen Kerr MP has written regarding a campaign to upgrade the A81 to trunk road status as a key route of national significance. This would transfer responsibility of upkeep from Stirling Council to Transport Scotland. BCC expressed its support for the campaign. However, Cllr Lambie had explained at a previous meeting that this would presuppose Stirling Council investing to bring the road up to trunk road level before Transport Scotland would adopt it.

Balfron 10k: The 2018 race will be on 22 April. 40 race marshals are needed to safely police it.

Balfron Bash: It was questioned if this year's event should go ahead, following the negative impact of bad weather on the last two events. A possible date of 18 August was suggested. Colin will explore options with Denver Chalmers.

Waste collection: There will be no catch-up on missed collections during the spell of heavy snow. Concerns were raised over collections being missed routinely and about agreed pull-out services not being delivered consistently. It was agreed to invite relevant Stirling Council officers to a future BCC meeting.

12. Business from the Floor

None.

13. Any Other Business

Colin noted that Community Council elections will be held in October. All current members will have to stand down then but can stand for re-election. He encouraged all to identify potential new members.

Fraser Allan queried how Stirling Council determine priority routes for snow clearance. BCC noted the tremendous effort by volunteers to help clear roads and pavements during the heavy snow.

14. Date of next meeting

Thursday 5 April 2018, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Police Service of Scotland

Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfon Community Council

Reporting Period:

March 2018 Compiled by PC Scott Craigie

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

This continues to be an issue within the village. There have been further vandalism to cars parked in Weavers Winnell and a window broken in a residential dwelling in Spokers Loan. As before this would appear to be mindless vandalism, which makes it difficult to detect, although work is ongoing to try and resolve this ongoing problem. In the meantime police vehicle and foot patrols have been stepped up in these streets and the Donaldson Park Area. This has resulted in a number of people being charged in relation to drug misuse offences within Donaldson Park. These patrols will now continue for the foreseeable future.

Local secondary school age children are causing issues at the CO-OP, where they are entering in the evening and stealing low value items of confectionery and juice. As the store identifies itself as a local store and part of the community, the manager and staff have been trying to deal with this 'in house'. Over recent weeks children caught, have been brought back into the store and either encouraged to pay for the goods or return them. The manager was concerned about criminalising children, so has been trying to avoid involving police. Unfortunately the problem has continued and the only option left open to the manager was to begin involving the police. My colleague at Balfon High School (PC Diamond), has raised the issue there, but the problem has continued which has resulted in all such shoplifting now being reported to and dealt with by police.

Road Safety

The bad weather has led to a number of issues on the roads network in and around the village.

One incident of note, not related to the weather, was a young child who suffered minor injuries when she was struck by a car after running out into the road without looking.

Theft

Since the last meeting there has been an incident during the night in relation to the theft of high value cars. One car was stolen but later recovered intact and another unsuccessful attempt made to steal a second vehicle.

This type of crime is carried out by organised criminal gangs and a number of lines of enquiry are being followed. I would ask that you keep all car and house keys out of view when you are in the house. If you own a car with a starter button rather than a key you insert into the ignition, I would also suggest keeping the keys upstairs well away from the car.

The issues within the area in relation to house breakings, outbuildings being broken into and works vehicles that have been left with the keys in the ignition being stolen from remote locations continue. I would ask everyone to remain vigilant in relation to their property and vehicles and report any suspicious persons or activity. Due to the above crimes, which are carried out by travelling criminals coming into the area, I have been involved in an operation with Stirling Road Policing Unit (The Traffic Department in old money). I spent a weekend working in and patrolling the Balfron area with a Traffic Sergeant. There were three marked traffic cars

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Scott Craigie remains the only ward officer in post at this time for the Forth and Endrick area. I am advised a second officer has been identified to fill the second half of the role, although there has not been a start date agreed as yet. I will keep you up to date with this process. PC Scott Craigie is based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at 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

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland