



MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5 APRIL 2018 IN McLINTOCK HALL DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Douglas Baillie (Stirling Council), Christine Davie (Poppy Club), Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Stuart Freckingham (Balfron Primary School Parent Council), Councillor Graham Lambie, Nicola McCann, Janet Rutherford (Balfron in Bloom), Pat Thomson (Balfron Heritage Group)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Fraser Allan, David Dougans, John Nicholson, Stuart Youens and Police Scotland.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting 9 March 2018

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

3. Matters Arising

- Colin Cameron has written to Stirling Council to request a meeting with Bellrock regarding the use of the all-weather pitch.
- Colin Cameron made enquiries about street lighting in the Weaver's Winnel area to address issues with vandalism. It was noted that since the last meeting no further instances of vandalism in the area had been reported.
- All rural "Your Place, Your Priorities" funding was awarded to projects in Callander. It was noted that the design of the decision making process – with a public vote at a single event in one location – very likely biased the outcome.
- Balfron Bash planning – subject to a planning meeting the following week and a decision about holding the fete this year, it was agreed to apply for Community Pride funding to support the organisation of the Balfron Bash.

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 report.

5. Broadband Update

Douglas Baillie provided an update on the roll out of superfast broadband internet in the area. He explained the limitations of the current broadband implementation, which is unlikely to provide further additional connectivity beyond what had already been achieved in Balfron. He acknowledged that access to fast broadband remained patchy. He added that there is scope for further investment. If there is more than 20% fibre broadband uptake, BT Openreach will provide more investment.

However, the expectation would be that any such additional investment would have limited impact on Balfron. BCC highlighted the lack of communication from Openreach about their roll out schedule and plans. Frustrations with the rollout into rural communities were noted.

Douglas Baillie mentioned the Scottish Government R100 programme to provide everyone who has less than 30mbit/s internet speed with full broadband coverage by 2020. The aim is to supply as much connectivity as possible within the £630m programme budget. Contracts are due to be awarded by December 2018. He also flagged up a UK Government fund of £200m to take fibre connections from Council properties to connect local communities. There is also Stirling Council funding available to create local hotspots for Wi-Fi connections. Douglas Baillie also mentioned recent upgrades in the local area for mobile broadband access (O2 and Vodafone networks).

6. Childcare Provision in the Community

Stuart Freckingham gave a summary of the Balfron Primary School Parent Council survey about possible demand for a breakfast club and after-school care provided at the school. 125 responses were received, 50% of whom would use a breakfast club at the school for 3-5 days. A third would use it infrequently or never. 48% of respondents would use after-school care.

Christine Davie mentioned that demand for Poppy Club afternoon classes had increased for the new intake in August. She agreed that if there was sufficient demand for morning sessions, the Poppy Club would be able to look again at providing these. However, she would only consider this financially viable if children attended several days per week. A number of parents had highlighted a need for breakfast club provision with more flexibility to also meet the needs of those who only need pre-school childcare once or twice a week.

Given the level of interest expressed in the survey, it was agreed that BCC should approach Stirling Council and Bellrock to explore the possibility of setting up pre-school childcare more fully and determine if a viable service could be set up and sustained.

7. Councillor's Report

Councillor Lambie shared a report highlighting issues regarding:

- Winter maintenance – Cllr Lambie stressed the limited ability of Stirling Council to have a large fleet of winter clearance vehicles on stand-by for rare weather events. The significant volunteer efforts during the recent adverse winter weather were noted.
- Roads maintenance – reporting of potholes can be done online via the Stirling Council website, or by phone on 01786 404040. Repairs should then be carried out within 48 hours. If a vehicle is damaged, drivers should get a garage to confirm it is pothole damage to be able to claim. A request has been made to use extra funding to tackle the increase in potholes and deteriorating road conditions after the winter. This would cover substantive repairs, not any emergency in-fill of potholes to make the road safe.
- A811 trunk road upgrade – A proposal was made to build additional slip roads to link the A811 to the M9. The upgrade to trunk road status is still being pursued further despite the initial negative response from the Scottish Government.

- Planning legislation – a proposal is being discussed to allow Community Councils to refer decisions to the planning panel.
- A proposal has been put forward to build a 10MW solar farm near Gargunnoch
- A major housing development in Pleau was turned down due to insufficient education contributions by the developer
- Your Place, Your Priorities – there was recognition within Stirling Council that the process was open to criticism and should be reviewed for future funding rounds.

8. Treasurer's Report

Bill Noblett provided an update report on BCC finances:

1. The new bank account is now open with the correct signatories but the balance has not yet been transferred.
2. Once an up to date bank statement has been received, the BCC accounts will be submitted to the auditor.

9. Project Updates

Space for Living: A street event is being planned for Sat 12 May, 11am – 3pm, to promote the work the consultants have carried out to turn the community ambitions into practical ideas. The main venue will be Doyle's Café with pop-up stalls at key locations e.g. Tontine Corner, Co-op or outside the library. The event will be publicised widely in advance to have as many people in the community attend as possible to sense check where the project has got to and where it is looking to go next. Colin added that the emerging plans were ambitious and would need further work to identify possible funding sources. The external consultants are working on advice on funding sources. The hope is that publicity materials could be distributed by the Cubs. This could be linked with the planned leaflet drop regarding crowd-funding for the war memorial.

Playpark: Bill Noblett reported that the lease has been signed by Trustees. This allows the work to be progressed. It was noted that work appeared to be being carried out at the park entrance. However, this seemed to be unconnected to the planned replacement of the park gate, which had been custom made and is awaiting installation. Ian Denvir agreed to investigate this matter urgently.

War Memorial: An application was submitted to the War Memorial Trust. Christine Wilson thanked Pat Thomson and the Stirling Council planning department and conservationist for their help with this. The War Memorial Trust would fund £9k of the total £12k cost. The remainder will be raised via crowdfunding.

10. Data Protection Policy

Christine Wilson drafted a policy for BCC but a data protection statement was still needed for website. Need to get advice or someone else to attend advice session on 26 April.

11. Community Resilience Plan

BCC agreed there was a need to have a plan in place for future adverse events like the recent winter weather. Stirling Council will be running a resilience planning session for Community Councils on 26 April at Old Viewforth, 6.45pm—9.30pm.

12. Planning and Correspondence

Airspace consultation – given the height of the craft in the flight path and the type of craft in use on Glasgow airport routes, it was suggested that a formal response from BCC was not required. Stuart Freckingham noted that the proposals are very vague and unclear, which makes it difficult to make firm judgments, but a noise pollution impact seemed likely. Cllr Lambie agreed to liaise with other community councils affected by the proposed changes. The consultation was noted to close on 13 April.

Co-op car park – It was noted that a number of drivers had allegedly been asked to vacate spaces next to the Coach House Inn. It was stressed that the Coach House / Saffron parking signs have no legal force as the car park is owned by the Co-op and Stirling Council.

Balfron 10k – The race will take place on 22 April at 11am. Road closures will be the same as last year and flyers have been distributed in Balfron. Bin day will be changed from Sunday to Saturday.

Alexander Greek Thomson Centenary Celebration – Katie Townsend attended on behalf of Balfron.

Community Council review – Bill agreed to attend.

Neighbourhood of Care model – Ian Denvir mentioned that the introduction of the model was progressing on schedule, with Balfron being a test site.

Kerse Road bridge closure – From 16 April the bridge would be closed in both directions for 6 months.

13. Business from the Floor

Pat Thomson noted that Balfron Heritage Group has joined the Stirling historic graveyards group.

Balfron in Bloom started planting beds outside of the library. The next coffee morning will be held on 5th May 2018 in the McLintock Hall.

14. Any Other Business

None.

15. Date of next meeting

Thursday 3 May 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:

April 2018 Compiled by PC Scott Craigie

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

This is still an issue within the village although it has calmed down with no further vehicles scratched. High visibility patrols continue in the area of Spokers Loan, Weavers Winnell and Donaldson Park.

A vehicle had its windscreen wipers pulled off in the Co-op Car park during the night, although a vandalism to a vehicle this is being viewed as a standalone crime and not linked to the vehicles scratched as above.

The issues involving local secondary school age children stealing from the CO-OP have stopped. One local male has been charged in relation an incident of shoplifting at this location last month.

Road Safety

There have been no issues of note since the last meeting, although the problems in relation to people entering or leaving the village at excessive speed persist.

Theft

Since the last meeting there has been further theft of a high value car, from the village. This happened during the night. This involved the true key, left inside the house in view of the front door, being 'fished' out through the letter box. The car was subsequently stolen from outside the house and driven off using this Key. This is believed to be linked to the previous thefts and is being investigated by a dedicated team in Stirling. I would remind all residents to 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.

A local adult male has been reported following a theft from the CO-OP (this is not linked to the issues with children as mention in the anti-social behaviour section above).

During the night someone entered the building sight at White Yetts Brae and attempted to steal a generator.

I would ask all residents to remain vigilant with regard to the security of their own and neighbours property. Please report any suspicious activity. With this in mind I would point out that a drone was seen flying in the village during March, it is not known if this is linked to any of the thefts in the village but criminals have been known to use drones to gather intelligence from a distance.

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