



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018 IN BALFRON CAMPUS DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Councillor Alasdair Berrill (Stirling Council), Jim Burns, Viv Casteel, Ian Denvir (Stirling Council)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Fraser Allen, David Dougans and Christine Wilson.

2. Minutes of 2016/17 AGM

Bill Noblett 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:

This is a review of some of the progress made, and the issues dealt with, by your Community Council over the past financial year:

A Space for Living: This project, designed to improve the overall environment of Balfron, moved forward significantly in the course of the year. Following the publication of our second report, *A Space for Living – Next Steps*, we got enthusiastic engagement from Stirling Council, which led to a series of workshops over the summer between them and our working party. As a result of this work, Hub East Central Scotland were engaged to recruit specialist consultants to shape the community's ambitions into achievable solutions, and to review opportunities for a more effective use of the public sector estate. Austin-Smith:Lord began work in January, producing a wide range of proposals for the 'spine' of the village through Buchanan Street. This led to plans for a public exhibition in May. This will be reported in more detail at next year's AGM, with the hard work of finding funding and working up detailed proposals to come, but I am greatly encouraged by the real progress we have made to date. Once again I would pay tribute in particular to Jill Malvenan, Carsten Mandt, Craig Potter, and Graham Rose for their creativity and hard work in keeping up the momentum.

Donaldson Park: The fundraising initiative launched in 2016 to install new play equipment in the park finally came good. After much bureaucratic frustration, all the necessary deals were signed, and the preferred supplier contracted. Work has now begun on removing the old equipment, and there is every reason to believe that the new playpark will be up and running by the summer. I am delighted also that local blacksmith/artist Elspeth

Bennie, has generously designed and donated new park gates to be installed at the Spokers Loan entrance. That we have made such progress is due entirely to the dogged persistence of Christine Wilson and Bill Noblett, for which our thanks and appreciation.

War Memorial: With the support of Balfroon Heritage Group, Christine Wilson also led an initiative to restore and repair this historic monument. Bill Noblett set up a Community Crowdfunding appeal to raise the funds to make this possible. Thanks to a grant from the Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund and the generosity of local donors, we are well on the way to reaching the target of £14,000 needed to secure the future of the monument for generations to come.

Balfroon Bash 2017: Not such good news for our summer community festival which had to be cancelled at very short notice, due to incessant rain and the extremely poor state of the ground. This is the second year that the event has been severely affected by the weather, and the decision has been taken to suspend plans for 2018 until options for other, all-weather, sites can be explored for 2019.

Christmas 2017: The switch-on of the Christmas lights also had to survive some wild weather, but thanks to the generosity of Carol Murphy and the Balfroon Library, the carol singing from the Primary School took place in warmth and shelter. Callum MacDonald did the honours of the switch-on, and having the two trees, at the Library and the Tontine, was a welcome innovation.

Balfroon in Bloom and Incredible Edible Balfroon: Both organisations have continued to grow and expand their activities around the village. It was a particular pleasure to see the new planters outside the Library filled by the Balfroon in Bloom team.

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 continued to cause considerable disruption to residents.
- There was frustration over the repeated extensions to the closure of the Ballat Aquaduct and Scottish Water's failure to update the community adequately.
- Interminable discussions continued over the future of 'The Bunker' site on Buchanan Street, with Stirling Council finally making a decision to go to market with the property back in October. Nothing has been heard since.
- Plans for a Balfroon Business Hub on the Depot site made much more progress thanks to the persistence of Lee Rooney. This has now entered the formal planning process.
- Access to the path between Endrick Gardens and Buchanan Street has been an issue for some years, and Stirling Council are now investigating with a view to reinstating the route.
- We have, for the sum of £1.00 acquired the red Phone Box on Dunmore Street. We now need to decide what to do with it.

Other Issues:

- The waste collection system continues to be frustratingly unreliable. Discussions with the Council continue.
- The provision of breakfast club and after-school childcare within the village was raised with the Community Council and the Primary School Parent Council. Discussions are going on to assess the viability of services beyond those currently offered by The Poppy Club.
- Following the severe winter weather, a working party has been set up to develop a Community Resilience Plan. Tribute should be paid to the many people within the community who helped their neighbours, cleared paths, and offered transport during the worst of the weather.
- Christine Wilson and Fraser Allan did excellent work preparing us for the advent of the new General Data Protection Regulation, and our new policy is now in place.

Your Community Council: In the course of our meetings we welcomed a wide number of guests, including: Kenny Hendry and Lesley Moir (Woodland Experience); Lee Rooney (Balfron Business Hub); Mark McKinnon (Spark of Genius); Paul Cookson (Green Aspirations); Douglas Baillie (Stirling Council Broadband Group); Caroline Cherry (Neighbourhood of Care); and Christine Davie (Poppy Club). We were also joined for some meetings by the newly-appointed Community Prefects from Balfron High School.

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 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.

And finally: All members of the current Community Council are required to stand for re-election in October should they chose to do so, so this will be the last AGM with the current line-up. I would like to pay tribute to all who have served alongside me over the past years, currently: Laura Elder (Vice Chair), Alison Lamont Chalmers (Secretary), Bill Noblett (Treasurer), John Nicholson (Planning), Fraser Allan, David Dougans, David McGowan, Christine Wilson and Stuart Youens. And of course, to our indefatigable Minute-taker, Carsten Mandt. I hope you have found the experience valuable and rewarding, and that whether or not you chose to stand again, you will continue to work hard for the betterment of Balfron and all who use our village.

Jim Burns commended BCC for what has been achieved over the year, especially with regards to the play park, which had been challenging to progress.

4. Treasurer's report

Bill Noblett submitted the audited accounts for BCC covering the fiscal year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. These were accepted. Thanks were given to Tom Yuill for auditing the books. BCC agreed to pay Tom for his contribution by making a £100 donation to Balfron Rovers.

5. Re-Election of Office Bearers

The office bearers were proposed by Jim Burns and seconded by Stuart Youens as follows: 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 6 June 2018