



## MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

**In Attendance:** Jim Burns, Ian Denvir (Stirling Council), Andrea Gabriel, Lesley Keighley, Councillor Rob Davies, Morag McAllister, Lesley Monk, Joe Norman, Anne Thomson

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Viv Casteel, David Dougans, Janet Rutherford and Pat Thomson.

### 2. Minutes of Previous meeting 2 August 2018

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

### 3. Matters Arising

Parking at the Co-op car park associated with the garage is still to be followed up by Colin and Ian Denvir.

### 4. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 5. Police Report

No report was submitted by Police Scotland. Due to the lack of Police presence at the meeting, matters to be followed up by PC Craigie are deferred to the next meeting.

### 6. Councillor's Report

Councillor Davies provided a report, highlighting:

- 6.1. The Stirling Council Chief Executive has moved on. Carol Beattie has been appointed interim Chief Executive.
- 6.2. Webcasting has been proposed for all Stirling Council meetings. BCC was supportive of the proposal.
- 6.3. Heat Energy Scotland, a Scottish Government initiative to address fuel poverty. Cllr. Davies will provide a contact so they can attend a future meeting.
- 6.4. Councillors Davies and Lambie met with the National Parks to discuss traffic management issues.
- 6.5. Usage and management of long distance footpaths (e.g. West Highland Way) were raised at the most recent full Council meeting.

Bill Noblett raised grass cutting with Land Services and was advised that it was their policy to blow cut grass back on to the grassed area rather than remove it. Cutting times had also been reduced to accommodate staff and equipment shortages.

The reinstatement of the gable wall to the 'bunker' building was raised, which Stirling Council promised when the former Social Work building was first demolished. The possible use of the space for the Neighbourhood of Care Team was suggested. However, Stirling Council advised that this was not being considered and the commercial marketing of the property is still being pursued.

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

Bill Noblett updated on BCC finances. The War Memorial Trust grant was received. This paid for the earlier renovation works, leaving funds for landscaping works. It was proposed that a sub-group be set up to decide on the best use of these funds.

## **8. Play Park**

The play park installation has been completed and the park is now open. The new railings and gate will be installed on 19 September.

Previous discussions with Stirling Council suggested a willingness by Stirling Council to repaint and repair the older play park elements. However, the officers involved in this discussion are no longer with Stirling Council. This needs to be followed up with Stirling Council.

The idea of a formal play park launch was discussed. It was agreed to have a launch at the same time as the Flower Festival on Sat 15 / Sun 16 September. Incredible Edibles may also launch their new garden in conjunction with the play park launch.

## **9. War Memorial**

BCC thanked Bill Noblett and Christine Wilson for their work. The War Memorial Trust had suggested a rededication ceremony for the memorial. After discussion, it was proposed to combine this with Remembrance Day commemorations on 11 November. It was agreed that the dedication of the memorial should be inclusive of the whole community. BCC was in support of the proposal by Rev Sigrid Marten to hold an ecumenical commemoration involving other denominations and other community groups at the memorial. This would require a temporary road closure.

## **10. Project Updates**

*Space for Living:* A £250,000 bid was submitted to Sustrans to fund the detailed design phase of the project. A swift decision is hoped for. If successful, this would enable the preliminary designs displayed at the May Street Event to be developed into practical solutions for Balfron. Under advice of Sustrans, the bid was expanded to cover the whole of Balfron, not just Buchanan Street. Full consultation on any developments will be held with the village as plans progress. Ian Denvir suggested that it might be possible to secure one of the Stirling Council 'pods' as a temporary HQ for Space for Living information.

*Community Resilience Plan:* A draft plan is being finalised and will be submitted to Stirling Council for sign-off. BCC will have an opportunity to review the draft before submission to the Council. This is expected to be completed before winter arrives. The importance of prioritising snow clearance on

access routes for public transport, such as access to the Dunmore Street First Bus depot, was raised. This will be added to the resilience plan.

#### **11. Planning and Correspondence**

Concerns had been raised about the future of Strathendrick Care Home but Stirling Council advised that no decisions about the Home had been taken.

Balfron Development Trust has decided that it is no longer viable in its current form, due to lack of support. After a series of meetings over the summer, it made the decision to convert itself to a new charitable organisation called Balfron Pathways. The formal process of conversion can take up to three months, and in the meantime both the Development Trust and the Paths group will operate as at present.

Stirling Council planned to carry out a village 'deep clean' in Balfron after October 2018. Community suggestions for areas to target were encouraged. The risk of falls arising from wet leaves in the autumn was highlighted.

#### **12. Business from the Floor**

None.

#### **13. Any Other Business**

Fraser noted that a £55,000 Transport Scotland grant had been awarded for electric vehicle charging points to be installed in Balfron. The siting for the charging points was still to be decided. Discussions were also ongoing to pursue car club and e-bike schemes for the village.

Laura noted that although new glass recycling bins had been installed, they are in the same place as before, and already full, with overflow bags being dumped on the ground. Colin will contact Stirling Council to remind them to resite the bins by the recycling depot.

BCC congratulated Ian Denvir on his appointment as Neighbourhoods of Care Resource Officer, and thanked him for his work as our Link Officer.

BCC elections will take place in October. Any incumbents who wish to continue on BCC will need to stand again for election. The minimum number of councillors for Balfron is 7, the maximum number is 11. An awareness campaign in the community was due to go out shortly, organised by Stirling Council. All were encouraged to think about applying, and to propose new members.

#### **14. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 4 October 2018, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus.

# Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



**Community Council:**

Forth and Endrick, Balforn Community Council

**Reporting Period:**

September 2018    Compiled by PC Scott Craigie

**Ward Plan Priorities**

**Antisocial Behaviour**

Two males have been given police warning as a result of being found in possession of a small amount (personal use) of cannabis in the street within the village.

**INFORMATION SAUGHT**

Overnight between 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2018, a parked and unattended silver coloured Honda Jazz was struck by another vehicle. The other driver failed to stop or contact the owner of the vehicle. This has been reported to and is being investigated PC 925 McDougall at Balforn Police Office. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact PC McDougall.

# Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



## Road Safety

The problems in relation to people entering or leaving the village at excessive speed persist. As you will see from the relevant section below I now have an officer to work with and we intend focusing on this problem over the coming weeks. So please be aware of your speed when entering and leaving the village as I don't want alienate anyone in the village by issuing them with a fine and points.

A driver has been issued with a fixed penalty ticket for parking on the Zig Zags outside the CO-OP.

There was an accident on Buchanan Street involving a tractor and parked car. This was non reportable from a policing point of view.

Following the concerns raised about the Fintry entrance to the village, I have visited all of the residents on the row of houses facing the road and made them aware of the concerns being raised about cars parked in front of the houses. I have also spoken to the builders about the unfinished kerb, which I believe have now been finished. I also spoke to the owner of the hedge running along the field boundary and he has trimmed it back to as low as he can go. This will hopefully help with the problems. We will also be carrying out hand held radar at this location over the coming weeks.

## Theft

There has been a theft during the day of a wallet from an insecure car parked in the car park at Balforn Golf Club.

There has been a theft of a chain saw from a local farm so residents are reminded to remain vigilant with regard to securing garden power tools.

# Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



## Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Scott Craigie and PC Gary Martin 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)

Gary has only just started in the role, but 21 years police experience with a back ground in community policing and he will be an asset to the role.

# Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



## Other Incidents / Activity of note

### OTHER INCIDENTS

It should be borne in mind that some incidents dealt with by police within the village are deliberately not referred to, as they are not something that police should be discussing within the community. I would point out that for data protection, ongoing enquiry and operational security reasons, to name but a few, the exact details of incidents that occur within the village are not always included in the report. I would ask this this is considered by any persons reading this report.

### PURSE BELLS + NO COLD CALLERS STICKER

Purse bells which are basically 2 small bells (similar in size to bells on a cat collar) that can be attached to your purse – hence the name – have been obtained. You attached them to your purse and if someone removes it / dips your bag then you hear the bells jingling. The 'no cold caller stickers are for you front door and are self-explanatory. Both these items have been left with community council members for distribution as they see fit.

### 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.

### Neighbourhood Alert.

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**  
This is a community messaging system which sends alerts regarding crime, safety and resilience to communities. Ruralwatch is an information platform that has been set up by what was formerly Neighbourhood Watch, however the big difference being that any members of the local community can sign up to have the relevant alerts sent to them by various means including E-mail or Text message. To receive free alerts simply register at:

# Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



## Issues raised

## Community Council Feedback

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."