



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Balfroon Inaugural Community Council Meeting Thursday 6th December 2018, Rm A1, Balfroon Campus

Members Present: - Fraser Allan, Colin Cameron, Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, David McGowan, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Christine Wilson, Robert James Young

In attendance: Councillor Graham Lambie; Pam Campbell (Stirling Council)

Apologies: None Received

1. Welcome

Pam Campbell welcomed the Community Councillors to the inaugural meeting on behalf of Carol Beattie Returning Officer. The successful candidates are Fraser Allan, Colin Cameron, Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, David McGowan, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Christine Wilson, Robert James Young

2. Community Council induction

Pam provided an outline of the role of the community council, role of members and highlighted the key compliance. She advised the community council of the handbook for community council and provided Balfroon with a hard copy. She asked the community council, if it has not already done so, to establish generic email addresses to facilitate easier access to community councils or council services, partners and community members.

Community Council Enquiry Service

Pam advised of the intention to establish a community council enquiry service, which is currently being set up by the council to enable a single point of contact for all enquiries, complaints and queries, enabling tracking in the council's system. It is hoped this will be launched in the New Year. In the interim community councils are being asked to direct all community council enquiries through communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk

Role of Community Council

Community Councils were introduced through the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. They are voluntary organisations. The Act defined the purpose of a Community Council as:

"to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the Local Authorities for its area and to public authorities the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those authorities are responsible."

Collectively Community Councillors have responsibility for:

Running the Community Council effectively, ensuring its work is fair and transparent, and within legal guidelines;

Engaging and discovering community views – finding out what is important to everyone in your area and their opinions on issues and activities which affect them;
Expressing those views by **representing your community** at meetings and events, commenting on planning and licensing applications and communicating with the Local Authority and other public bodies;
Taking **forward activities** themselves or in partnership with other groups, to benefit their community and meet community needs.

Role of Members

As individual Community Councillors you have responsibility to:

- Represent community views and not your own;
- Where appropriate declare an interest in agenda items;
- Adhere to the Code of Conduct for community Councillors. The code sets out a series of ethical standards that community Councillors should ensure their actions comply with, the purpose is to ensure that Community Councils are seen as organisations that have integrity, are honest and open.
- Be accountable for any decisions and actions taken;
- Be non-political;
- Work together to ensure the Community Council runs effectively;
- Engage with the community to discover community issues.

Key Compliance

The Community Council governing documents (Scheme of Establishment, Constitution, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct) set out a number of activities that a Community Council should carry out to be compliant. Stirling Council will monitor compliance and awarding of the annual admin grant is dependent on these key compliance areas:

- Present minutes to Stirling Council within 14 days of being approved;
- Inform Stirling Council of any changes to members details as soon as possible;
- Consult with Stirling Council before filling casual vacancies (co-optees);
- Hold an AGM in April, May or June.
- Submit approved independently examined accounts and draft AGM minutes that include a chairs report on the activity of the community council, by 31 July to allow the processing of the admin grant in September.
- Submit to Stirling Council an annual calendar of meetings following the AGM.

3. Area Profile Summary

Pam provided an area profile for the community served by Balfron Community Council.

4. Administration Grant

Pam advised the process for administering the admin grant &, minute taking grant reminding the community council these are restricted funding. Explanation on the insurance provided for community councils was offered.

5. Appointment of Office Bearers

Pam provided explanation of the office bearing roles & invited nominations.

Chairperson: Colin Cameron. Proposer: John Nicholson; Seconder: Laura Elder
There were no other nominations for Chairperson.

Vice-Chairperson: Fraser Allan. Proposer Colin Cameron; Seconder Bill Noblett
There were no other nominations for Vice-Chairperson

There were two nominations for Secretary

Secretary: Alison Lamont Chalmers. Proposer Laura Elder; Seconder John Nicholson

Secretary: Christine Wilson. Proposer: Colin Cameron. Seconder: Bill Noblett.

Alison Lamont Chalmers declined nomination as secretary. Christine was duly elected as secretary.

Treasurer: Bill Noblett. Proposer Christine Wilson; Seconder John Nicholson

Planning/Licensing Correspondent: John Nicholson. Proposer: Bill Noblett; Seconder: Alison Lamont Chalmers.

There were no other nominations for planning/licensing correspondent.

All office bearers were duly elected.

6. Signing of the Constitution and Standing Order

The chair and members were invited to sign the constitution and standing order.

7. Meeting Calendar

Dates for future meetings were agreed as: 7th February; 7th March; 4th April; 2nd May; 6th June; 1st August; 5th September; 3rd October; 7th November and 5th December. All meetings except for the month of April & August will be held in Balfron Campus. The meetings in April & August will be held in the McLintock Hall. All meetings will commence at 7.30pm. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 6th June at 7pm.

Pam wished the community council every success and handed the meeting over to the Chair to continue the meeting.