



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2019 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Fraser Allan, Colin Cameron (chair), Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, Carsten Mandt (minutes), Bill Noblett, Luci Rooney, Christine Wilson, Robert Young

In Attendance: Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Councillor Graham Lambie, Lock Parker, Janet Rutherford

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from David McGowan and John Nicholson.

2. Declarations of Interest

Luci Rooney declared an interest in the business hub and Christine Wilson in relation to the BCC website.

3. Minutes of Previous meeting 6 December 2018

Fraser Allan proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Christine Wilson.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1. *Car park:* Despite a positive meeting in December with all parties, no actual improvements have yet been made.
- 4.2. *Trees in Kepculloch Road:* It was noted that no Tree Preservation Orders exist for this area and that no planning applications have been made to date in relation to the site.
- 4.3. *Benches:* It was agreed that the Balfroon Development Trust benches – now owned by BCC – needed refurbishment. Enquiries will be made with local tradesmen regarding repairs.
ACTION: Colin will contact Cala Homes to return the Roman Road bench from storage.
- 4.4. *Public toilet:* No update was available on the toilet signs. **ACTION:** Pam will pursue.
- 4.5. *BCC members:* Luci Rooney was approved by Stirling Council as a co-opted BCC member and welcomed to the meeting.

5. Police Report

BCC noted a written report submitted by Police Scotland.

6. Councillor's Report

Councillor Lambie provided a report, highlighting:

- 6.1. The Scottish Government budget, which provides £90m for the core local government settlement, was approved in the first of three voting stages. Stirling Council will receive additional £3.3m for revenue spend from the revised Scottish budget. Plans include a 10 year capital investment programme and a 5 year savings target of £24m. This will most likely require a significant element of income generation to be achieved. 1% of the Stirling Council budget is allocated to community participatory budgeting.

- 6.2. Police custody cells are all located in Falkirk as it is not viable to bring cells in Stirling or Balfron up to current operational standards.
- 6.3. A positive trial of a village wide 20mph zone was undertaken in Gargunnock. Other villages in the area have expressed an interest in similar schemes.
- 6.4. If additional grit bins are needed in the village, the need should be identified in the Balfron resilience plan. **ACTION:** Fraser will check.
- 6.5. The Fintry Crow Road B822 was retained as a priority 1 road for winter treatment.
- 6.6. Work is ongoing to pursue a Sunday bus service.
- 6.7. Local events are being planned for the 200th anniversary of the 1820 Scottish Insurrection in April 2020. It was confirmed that funding can be sought from the Civic Fund.
- 6.8. Ongoing car parking issues in the National Park and at Finnich Glen were noted.

7. Treasurer Report

- 7.1. The settlement figure for the play park works has been paid.
- 7.2. £31,040 Section 75 funding from the Cala developments has been paid to Stirling Council. This funding can however only be used for play improvements in the village. A discussion ensued about how this might best be used. **ACTION:** Bill / Christine.
Approximately £7,000 is still available to develop the play facilities in the small play park at Barnwell Drive / Donaldson Way.

8. Planning Report

- 8.1. Planning consent has now been granted for the Balfron Business Hub. The sorting office will be protected under this proposal. Storage space for BCC is under consideration. The ambition is to open summer 2019.
- 8.2. A proposal for the development of a caravan site with five yurts at Ballochruin (19/00006/FUL) was noted. Local landowner objections are understood to have been raised. **ACTION:** All to consider the application and provide views on a BCC response.
- 8.3. More detailed plans are now available for the proposal of a woodland at Upper Tombrake. No objections were raised.
- 8.4. A freshwater prawn farm is proposed at Clayland Farm. Although this falls outside BCC boundaries, the potential environmental impact, in particular in terms of water consumption and sewage, was queried. Concerns were also raised about the potential impact of the deliveries and other traffic generated by the prawn farm.

9. Subgroups and Projects

Space for Living: A workshop will be held at both Primary and High schools on 20 February to engage the pupils in the development. A Steering Group meeting will be held on 22 February. A newsletter for all households in the High School catchment area is being developed to inform the wider community and engage them in the project. An accessibility audit of the village is also scheduled, starting on 15 February. This will assess what improvements are needed to ensure that the village is accessible to all.

Resilience Plan: The plan is now available on the website and a dedicated Balfron Community Resilience Facebook group has been set up, which has already been used by many residents recently during bad weather spells. It was recognised that this needed to be promoted more widely

to community members, including those who do not have ready access to Facebook. Paper copies of the plan are still due to go out to key locations, e.g the health centre, library etc. It was also noted that key equipment such as snow shovels is now available. **ACTION:** Fraser

Donaldson Park: Discussions regarding the gate at Spoker's Loan are still ongoing. A collapsed drain just outside the gate continues to cause significant flooding in wet weather. Plans are being drawn up to develop paths in the Park and Paths for All have provided consultancy advice. It was suggested that the aforementioned section 75 funding could be used for the paths development. **ACTION:** Bill / Christine

Neighbourhood Care Team: A written report by Bill on a recent meeting was noted. He highlighted that the Cherry Tree Centre will be demolished as it is no longer fit for purpose and not financially viable to re-build. Staff will relocate to the new purpose built centre in Buchlyvie.

10. Chair's Report

- 10.1. The Balfon 10k will be held on 12 May and the organisers are looking for volunteers to be marshals
- 10.2. Stirling Local Housing Strategy 2019 consultation is still open until 1 March.
- 10.3. Ideas on how best to develop the phone box in Dunmore St are being sought from the community, as it is now under community ownership.
- 10.4. Balfon Pathways is looking to upgrade the White Yetts Glen paths. However, following recent issues with vandalism the local landowner has raised objections to further development of the path.
- 10.5. A proposal to take on the maintenance of the Incredible Edible beds at the Tontine corner was discussed. It was agreed that during the development of the Space for Living designs, which will include re-development of the Tontine Corner, the best way forward was to grass over the area temporarily. Balfon in Bloom will take on maintenance of the beds around the outside of the area. **ACTION:** Colin / Bill / Janet

11. Residents Forum

Ongoing problems with broadband provision were reiterated. It was noted, however, that further infrastructure works are currently being carried out.

12. Any Other Business

Frog.net, a digital platform to develop a directory of community groups, businesses and services, was discussed. BCC agreed that this was a useful resource for BCC, Balfon 10k, Strathendrick Singers and many others, but that it requires wider promotion. **ACTION:** Colin / Christine / Robert / Pam

Janet mentioned that the local committee of Cancer Research UK was unfortunately now closing due to a lack of new volunteers.

Fraser noted that the Baptist Church was now a registered charity. A community lunch has been organised by the Church for 12.30pm on 10 March at the McLintock Hall, to which all are invited.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 7 March 2019, 7.30pm, Balfron Campus.