



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Present: Fraser Allan, Colin Cameron (chair), Alison Lamont Chalmers, Carsten Mandt (minutes), David McGowan, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Luci Rooney

In Attendance: Richard Boddington (Hub G63), Jim Burns, Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Peter Craig, Bill Cullens, Janice Cullens, PC Steven Graham (Police Scotland), Will MacDonald, Robert Murphy MBE, Tracie Wilde, Brian Wynne (Hub G63).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Laura Elder, Christine Wilson and Robert Young.

2. Declarations of Interest

No interest to declare.

3. Minutes of Previous meeting 7 February 2018

Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Alison Lamont Chalmers.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1. *Public toilet:* Stirling Council confirmed toilet signs would be reinstated. The best location of the new signs has yet to be decided. **Action:** Colin Cameron
- 4.2. *Property for Sale: the Bunker and adjacent land:* Stirling Council put the site up for sale. It was pointed out that Stirling Council still had not carried out the reinstatement works they were responsible for and had previously agreed to carry out. It was also noted that the land could have been used effectively for much need car parking at the top of the village.

5. Police Report

BCC noted a report by PC Steven Graham, Police Scotland, highlighting recent incidents in the area. PC Graham also explained that Police Scotland anticipated improvements in community police representation at future BCC meetings, which had been challenging to achieve in the past.

6. Councillor's Report

No elected member was present to provide a report.

7. Treasurer Report

- 7.1. No financial transactions in the previous month.
- 7.2. Stirling Council confirmed that developer's contributions under Section 75 for the Dunmore Street and Roman Road developments were ringfenced for play equipment. Stirling Council also explained that there was no legal requirement for a fence around a play park to keep

dogs out. However, the consensus view of those present was in favour of retaining a fence. A portion of the Section 75 funding could be used for repairs to the fence.

8. Planning Report

Ballochruin Caravan Park Proposal: Nine different objections have been raised to the proposal. BCC also submitted an objection. John Nicholson highlighted that the status of planning applications is not made clear on the Stirling Council website, which did not appear to be updated frequently enough as planning applications move through the system.

9. Subgroups and Projects

Hub G63: Hub G63 is a social enterprise to support development of sustainable practices in food production and retail in the G63 postcode area. At the moment, most of the activity is centred around Drymen but the aspiration is to support initiatives across the whole postcode area, of which Balfron is a key location. Upcoming events were highlighted:

- 16 / 17 March: Swap Shop in Drymen Village Hall
- 20 April: Repair Cafe in Drymen Village Hall.

Interested parties were invited to follow Hub G63 on Facebook or contact info@hubg63.org.

The Scottish Government's Good Food Nation consultation on priorities for improvements to the food system was raised. Responses to the consultation will inform Scottish Government legislation.

Space for Living: A newsletter has been distributed in the High School catchment area (circ 6,000 households¹) as the project is important not just for those who live in the village but also those who use it. Traffic surveys are being carried out to establish evidence on usage and potential solutions. The transport consultants on the project have suggested a short pilot of a one-way system in Buchanan St / Spoker's Loan / Cotton St. Decisions about this depend on the results from the traffic surveys. Concerns were expressed about the possible local impact, in particular the risk of Weaver's Winnel being used as a 'rat run'. Very successful workshops were held recently with Balfron Primary and High School students. This identified key areas of concern from the children's point of view and confirmed many of the issues that had previously been identified in community consultations. Sustrans require reports by mid-May. More community consultation will take place over the next 6-8 weeks.

Donaldson Park: The kerb at the Donaldson Park entrance is in violation of regulations and needs to be lowered. A local flooding issue also needs to be addressed. It is suspected that a drain had collapsed but even though this had been raised over 10 years ago, Stirling Council has taken no action. The possibility of relocating the entrance was discussed but issues around land ownership were raised. Options that would improve safety at the existing entrance were also discussed. Donaldson Trust has agreed in principle to develop a path around the park. Funding is now needed to be found to take this forward.

Other opportunities to develop a better paths network around Balfron were raised, e.g. to link Balfron Station with the village. Interested parties were encouraged to contact the Balfron

¹ Updated at BCC meeting 4/4/2019 - the number should be 6,000 not 60,000

Pathways group who are actively pursuing projects to improve the paths network in and around Balfron.

Website: The BCC website had now been moved to a different host which had significantly improved the speed of the website.

Balfron Millenium Benches: The need to review the locations of the benches and organise repair / repainting was discussed. Peter Craig volunteered to lead on this.

10. Chair's Report

- 10.1. Stirling Council issued new information on Demand Responsive Transport, including an extension of Buchlyvie – Balfron timings.
- 10.2. Concerns about the lack of teaching for 5th Year computing were raised. Students were understood to not have had access to teaching in the subject for most of the school term, leading to poor prelim exam results. This has been raised with school management and the Scottish Qualifications Authority to ensure that the students would not be adversely affected in their exams. However, no action to address the underlying issue or to provide assurances to the students had been received. As a result the issue had now been raised with the education authority and with Bruce Crawford MSP.

11. Residents Forum

Concerns regarding the Ballochruin Road development proposal (see agendum 8) were discussed.

An increase in dog owners disregarding the prohibition on bringing dogs into school playgrounds and playing fields was noted. In the first instance, better signage is needed to ensure greater awareness. This was a responsibility for Bellrock who manage the school playing fields and playgrounds. **Action:** Bill Noblett

Upcoming changes in First Bus services were highlighted. First Bus had not been successful in a recent re-tendering of a number of the school contracts, which have been awarded to Carrs of Loch Lomond. Changes will come into effect after the Easter holidays. The B9 service to Drymen will be withdrawn as it is very much underutilised and can no longer be sustained.

Issues with cardboard recycling at the skip were mentioned. It was understood that the shutter door was broken, preventing the skip from being emptied. Pam Campbell agreed to follow this up with Stirling Council colleagues. **Action:** Pam Campbell

Issues with overgrown hedges on Station Road were noted, causing significant safety problems for vehicles and pedestrians.

12. Any Other Business

Luci Rooney volunteered to paint the BCC phone box in Dunmore Street in the interim while feedback was being sought from the wider community on how best to utilise the phone box.

Pam Campbell highlighted the *You Decide* initiative, which is Stirling Council's version of participatory budgeting, that gives local people a direct say in how a portion of our budget is spent. Citizens across Stirling's seven electoral wards will have the chance to influence how to spend £700,000 of public money (£100,000 in each of the seven ward areas). The deadline for submissions is 14th April 2019 and ideas can be submitted via the Stirling Council website www.stirling.gov.uk.²

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 4 April 2019, 7.30pm, **McLintock Hall**.

² Item added at the request of Pam Campbell and accepted at the BCC meeting on 4/4/2019.