



# BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2019 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Colin Cameron, Laura Elder, David McGowan, Bill Noblett, Carsten Mandt (minutes), Luci Rooney, Christine Wilson, Robert Young

**In Attendance:** Pam Cambell (Stirling Council), Councillor Rob Davies, PC Gary Martin (Police Scotland)

### 1. Welcome, Recording of those Present and Apologies

Apologies were received from Fraser Allen, Alison Lamont Chalmers and John Nicholson.

### 2. Recording of Declarations of Interest

No interests to declare.

### 3. Minutes of 2017/18 AGM

Christine Wilson proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Laura Elder.

### 4. Chair's Report

Colin Cameron presented his chair's report about the past year's activities and achievements:

It has been another very busy year for your Community Council, with a number of major projects coming to fruition or making significant headway:

**Donaldson Playpark:** After almost three years of consultation and negotiation, new playpark equipment was installed during the summer, and officially opened in September 2018. Our thanks go to Stirling Council's excellent Land Services team for their quick response when a fallen tree damaged the cableway during October's severe storm. A huge thank you also to Elspeth Bennie, our local blacksmith artist, who designed and built the lovely new entrance gate to the park.

**War Memorial:** Following a highly successful community crowdfunding appeal, which along with other grants achieved our target of £15,000, restoration specialists Graciella Ainsworth and local stonemason Callum Gray undertook substantial and much-needed restoration of this unique structure. The Memorial was rededicated by Rev. Sigrid Marten in a moving service on Armistice Day.

**Community Resilience Plan:** Thanks to excellent work from a small group led by Fraser Allen, an active Resilience Plan has been established to share information about dealing with disruptive events affecting the community, such as severe winter weather. A Facebook page has been created to update residents when such plans have to be put into effect, and links are also available on the Community Council website.

**A Space for Living:** An extremely well-attended Street Event was held in May 2018. Based in Doyle's Café, and with pop-up stalls the length of Buchanan Street, this allowed the community to see outline ideas for the development of the village. The exhibition was subsequently displayed in Balfron Library, and following analysis of the community responses, a full report was published in July. Subsequently Stirling Council, on our behalf, submitted an application to Sustrans' Community Links programme, and in November we were awarded £250,000 to support the development of designs to create a safe network of walking and cycling routes throughout Balfron. An interactive website was established as Balfron Active Places, enabling continuing comment on the proposals. This was backed up with a newsletter and a further consultation event on specific proposals for The Clachan and Printers Row. Workshops were also held with pupils at Balfron High School and Primary School which provided many insights into their thoughts for the future of the village. As a result of all the feedback revised plans were submitted to Sustrans, and we are now awaiting approval for the construction phase on improvements to The Clachan and Printers Row. Further consultation events on the draft design plans for the rest of the village are planned in June and July.

**Other projects:** A number of smaller projects are now underway. Peter Craig has generously agreed to lead the restoration of the eight **Millennium Community benches** dotted around the village. Some of these will also be re-sited to more accessible places. Lachlan Cameron undertook the much-needed repainting of **the public toilets** next to the Registry Office. New signage has also been requested from Stirling Council. The **Dunmore Street phone box**, which we adopted last year, is next on the list, in a project led by Luci Rooney. As well as a significant amount of refurbishment, ideas are being sought as to its future purpose. A £55,000 Transport Scotland grant has been awarded for **electric vehicle charging points** to be installed. An appropriate site at the car park is currently under investigation. Bill Noblett represents the Community Council on the **Neighbourhood of Care** community reference group. This is a pilot project designed to bring all agencies relating to local health and social care into one multi-skilled group and is based in Buchlyvie.

**Community Groups:** While **Balfron in Bloom** continues to thrive, sadly **Incredible Edibles Balfron** had to cease operations due to a lack of ongoing support. The **Mulberry Bush Montessori Balfron 10k** is the major annual event in the village which we are delighted to continue to support. **Balfron Heritage Group** and **Balfron Pathways** are also key contributors to the quality of village life, as is the **Balfron Lunch Club** and Rae Wilson's new initiative, **Tea & Tunes**, held bi-weekly in Strathendrick Home. The **Balfron Bash** was not held in 2018, again due to lack of organisational support.

**Your Community Council:** we welcomed a number of guests to our meetings across the year, including the Drymen-based sustainability group, HubG63, Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust, and Rural Stirling Housing Association. The entire Council had to stand for re-election in October, and we say a big thank you to David Dougans and Stuart Youens who chose not to stand again. Laura Elder and Alison Lamont Chalmers were both re-elected but opted not to apply for their previous roles as Vice-Chair and Secretary. I thank them for the work they did over the past five years, and I am delighted to welcome Fraser Allen and Christine Wilson respectively to those positions. Robert Young and Luci Rooney were elected as new members and are excellent additions to our strength. Bill Noblett (Treasurer), John Nicholson (Planning), and David McGowan complete the line-up. We are also delighted to welcome the return of Pam Campbell as our Community Link Officer for Stirling

Council, and thank Ian Denvir for all his work previously in the role. Carsten Mandt continues as our diligent Minute-taker. All information about our activities is available on the Balfron Community Council website, including Minutes of past meetings and dates and times of future ones.

**5. Treasurer's report**

Bill Noblett submitted the audited accounts for BCC covering the fiscal year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. These were proposed for adoption by Christine Wilson and seconded by Robert Young.

**6. Secretary's Report**

Christine Wilson thanked BCC members for support in adopting paper light, sustainable practices.

**7. Re-Election of Office Bearers**

Office bearers were elected as follows: Colin Cameron (chair), Bill Noblett (treasurer), and Christine Wilson (secretary). Elections for the positions of vice-chair and planning were postponed until the next BCC meeting. BCC account signatories were confirmed to remain as before.

**8. Any Other Competent Business**

None.

**9. Date of next AGM**

Thursday 4 June 2020