



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2019 IN McLINTOCK HALL DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Colin Cameron (chair), Fraser Allan, Alison Lamont Chalmers, John Nicholson, David McGowan, Bill Noblett, Luci Rooney, Christine Wilson.

In Attendance: Councillor Graham Lambie, Elsie Andrews, James Burns, Robert Murphy MBE, Lock Parker, Graham Rose, Anne Thomson

1. Welcome, Recording of those Present and Apologies

Colin welcomed Roddie Keith and Michael Gemmell of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Apologies: Pam Campbell, Laura Elder, Carsten Mandt, Robert Young, Police Scotland.

2. Recording of Declarations of Interest

No interests to declare.

3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting 6 June 2019

Christine Wilson proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Bill Noblett.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1. *Election of Office Bearers:* Fraser Allan and John Nicholson were confirmed as Vice-Chair and Planning & Licensing Representative respectively.
- 4.2. *Public Toilets:* There has been no evident action towards installing toilet signposting in the village.
- 4.3. *Planning:* development at the building sites at 11-19 Buchanan St seems to be ongoing despite assurances they had been halted pending ownership investigations by Stirling Council. Colin is pursuing this with Cllr. Davies and the Council.
- 4.4. *Strathendrick Care Home:* a response has been received to our enquiry about the future of the care home. At the recent Reference Group meeting, Caroline Cherry had reported that the architect's visit to the care home had been postponed and no decision had yet been made about the future model of care. This was to be discussed at a Joint Board meeting on 17 July, about which we have received no information.
- 4.5. *Hogmanay event:* Janet Rutherford has confirmed that Strathcarron Hospice is planning a Hogmanay event in the McLintock Hall this year.

5. Police Report

BCC noted a Police report by PC Steven Graham, highlighting recent activity in Balfron and the surrounding area. This is available on the website and noticeboards.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Roddie Keith, Local Senior Officer for Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Fife provided an enlightening report on the nature of the Retained Duty Fire Service (RDS) both generally and as it applies to Balfron. Volunteering for this service is a big commitment, and it is increasingly challenging to maintain local crews at full strength, particularly given the changing nature of work patterns. The crew at Balfron currently totals 11. He commended the Balfron crew as being highly committed and professional. A minimum of four are required to staff an appliance and answer a call, including one qualified driver and a commander. There are three qualified drivers on the Balfron crew, but unfortunately at the time of the Cotton Street fire none were available. Hence appliances were immediately called in from Balloch, Aberfoyle and Stirling. The first tender arrived 19 minutes from the time of the alert. This includes messaging the volunteers, their arrival at the station and kitting up as well as travel time. Currently two further drivers are being trained, bringing the available total to five. A new rural full-time post for the south Stirlingshire area will also be in place by the end of the year.

Mr. Keith also emphasised Fire Scotland's role in helping provide preventative measures, including offering a free Home Fire Safety visit to domestic properties.

A number of issues were raised by those present, including a very slow response time to an incident in Buchanan Court on 24th March. Mr. Keith said he would investigate further. Robert Murphy suggested that, at scheduled times when the local crew is unavailable (for example, when they are outwith the village for training on Monday evenings) that a crew from Stirling be transferred to the village for those periods.

The Community Council thanked Mr. Keith for his very open presentation and offered any help in promoting the RDS system further within the community.

7. Councillor's Report

Councillor Lambie provided a report to BCC:

- He explained the background to the decision to support the application for 5 yurts on a site north of Ballochruin Road. He insisted strenuous conditions had been placed on the planning application, and would be keeping a close watch on developments, if any.
- Plans have been submitted for a development at the Killearn Hospital site for both residential and mixed-use areas. On 21 August a public exhibition about the proposals will be held at Killearn Village Hall between 2pm and 8pm. He urged a good attendance as the development will have an impact on the wider community beyond Killearn.
- He noted the partial resurfacing of the C21 between Balfron and Balfron Station, which had deteriorated significantly and needed urgent repair.
- Jim Burns raised the poor condition of the car park opposite the bank on Buchanan Street and requested it be added to the roads work detail.

8. Treasurer's Report

Bill requested approval for a Community Pride grant request to Stirling Council for materials to refurbish and repair both the Millennium benches and the bus shelter outside the surgery. This was approved by the meeting.

Payment has been taken from the ICO for our Data Protection registration.

9. Planning Report

Colin noted a letter confirming Scottish Water's intention to carry out remedial work on the SUDS at Endrick Gardens, pending clarification of the legal position on ownership of the land.

10. Subgroups and Projects

Space for Living: Colin gave an update on the Balfron Active Travel plans following the community consultations in June and July. The current proposals are now with Stirling Council and Sustrans for assessment, before being returned to the Community Council for approval. Full details of the proposals can be found at <https://balfronactiveplacesproposals.commonplace.is> and via the Balfron Community Council website <https://balfroncc.org.uk>. A lively discussion followed, during which three life-long residents of the village reiterated their disagreement with any changes. They were urged to look at the proposals in detail, in particular what is proposed to address concerns around speeding.

Telephone Box: Luci Rooney put forward proposals for the renovation of the Dunmore St. phone box. She has talked to Balfron Heritage Group about creating an information booth, which was approved by the meeting. She also raised a proposal for a community action to 'yarn-bomb' the phone box, asking volunteers to knit a fun cover for it. This would be a temporary installation pending the sourcing of funding to repair and repaint the box on a more permanent basis. This was also approved by the meeting. Elspeth Bennie has volunteered to replace a corroded panel, and Jim Burns offered to help source appropriate paint. Bill asked that Luci supply him with quotes received to date. He would then investigate the possibility of receiving funding. Approval was given for initially applying to the Community Pride Fund. **ACTION: Luci, Bill**

Donaldson Park: Reports had been posted on Facebook that bolts on the new equipment were loose. Paul Allen was informed (with Jupiter Play copied) and Land Services employees were immediately despatched to the park to inspect and make safe the equipment affected. Despite assurances being given by Jupiter that the tightrope on the climbing frame would be fixed, this had not yet been done. BN will contact him to ask for action on this matter. **ACTION: Bill**

Millennium benches: work is progressing, with two benches now ready for painting. The bench at the bottom of the village will be moved to the new display area by the bus stop at Printers Row.

11. Chair – Including Correspondence

Stirling Council Fair Start Programme: this programme helps identify and support volunteers within the community and is looking for any voluntary jobs that could be offered around general maintenance of the Balfron area. Bill noted that Rae Wilson is organising volunteers who can carry out small repairs for local residents who are unable to undertake them themselves. **ACTION: Colin**

Remembrance Sunday: Rev. Sigrid Marten has been in touch suggesting that the Act of Remembrance be held at 1045 followed by a service in the church as last year. This was agreed by the meeting, including a road closure at The Clachan for the duration of the event. **ACTION: Colin**

12. Residents' Forum

Lock Parker raised continuing concerns about slow broadband speeds on Station Road. The Stirling Council Broadband group will be approached to see if there are any figures on the uptake of superfast broadband in the village.

Jim Burns noted the withdrawal of the C9 and B313 bus services.

Robert Murphy raised the issue of excessive speeding throughout the village. He felt something should be done. He was asked to review the Space for Living proposals to reduce speeding in the village.

13. Any Other Business

Fraser Allan confirm that the first electric charging point was now being installed in the Co-op car park.

14. Date of next meeting

Thursday 5th September 2019, Balfron High School, 7.30 pm.