



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2019 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Colin Cameron (chair), Laura Elder, David McGowan, Bill Noblett, Carsten Mandt (minutes)

In Attendance: Councillor Alistair Berrill (Stirling Council), Valerie Brand (passenger representative), Lesley McCartney, Alison Taylor, Liz Wylie, Anne Thomson, Janet Rutherford, June Taylor, Sheena Leith, Gill Dingwall, Robert Murphy MBE, Carol Murphy

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

Apologies were received from Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Luci Rooney, Christine Wilson, Robert Young, John Nicholson, Alison Lamont Chalmers, Fraser Allan.

2. **Recording of Declarations of Interest**

No interests to declare.

3. **Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting 5 August 2019**

Bill Noblett proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by David McGowan.

4. **Matters Arising**

- 4.1. *Buchanan Street-Endrick Gardens pathway:* Colin wrote to Stirling Council Roads and Legal Departments to raise concerns about the behaviour of the developers and access issues. No replies had been received to date.
- 4.2. *Fire Service:* The Fire Service confirmed that driver training was available to retained firefighters. At the moment, four firefighters in Balfron are trained drivers, and two are awaiting training. This involves taking two weeks annual leave from their primary employer.

5. **Police Report**

BCC noted a written Police report, highlighting recent activity in Balfron and the surrounding area.

6. **Balfron Bus Changes**

Valerie Brand outlined serious concerns over the forthcoming changes to the First Bus local services. Proposals have been put forward to amalgamate existing services into a smaller number of services. A review of the proposed routes and timetables however suggests that this will make it more difficult to connect to Stirling and other villages, especially as the subsidised bus services in the area have recently been reduced significantly. In particular, residents are concerned that there has been insufficient consultation with affected service users about the proposed changes. The wider context of commercial strategies and recent changes to school contracts were noted. Councillor Berrill agreed to enquire what Stirling Council's position was on this issue and to clarify the deadline for any final decision.

7. Councillor's Report

Councillor Berrill provided a report to BCC:

- Your Stirling, You Decide results were now available. He suggested that the voting process, especially the weighting to adjust for population size of communities, would need to be reviewed. In this round the process was used to allocated additional funding. In future, 1% of Stirling Council's regular budget would be decided through this process. As such it was imperative to get the voting process right.
- The Croftamie nursery consultation recommended the nursery for closure.

8. Treasurer Report

Bill Noblett reported that:

- Acknowledgement had been received of the two Community Pride Fund applications submitted for bench renovation and Bus Shelter repairs. BCC should hear of grants received, or otherwise, within the next week.
- Jean Cowie, Stirling Council Finance Officer, had intimated that, since BCC were taking responsibility for renovation of the Millennium benches, they therefore became assets of the Community Council, and as such BCC should take out insurance for them. BCC agreed to approach Keegan & Pennykid to insure the benches.
- Notification of this year's Administration Grant, including Minuting Grant, (less insurances of approximately £117) had been received and £851.65 would be paid into the BCC account. This represented an increase from last year's figure of £728 despite an increase in insurance costs.

9. Planning Report

Nothing to report.

10. Subgroups, Projects and Guests

Balfron Active Places: Colin Cameron informed the group that negotiations were ongoing over funding for the next phase of the project. A presentation to Sustrans is scheduled for 26 September 2019 to look at funding for possible first tranche of construction work. A proposed consultation event has been postponed to allow funding negotiations to progress. This will allow the consultation event to look specifically at those proposals that have the necessary funding to actually deliver them. The new date will be publicised widely once it has been decided.

Feedback was given that plans presented at any future consultation need to be more readable than at previous consultations. It was also noted that the consultants need to be better at explaining and engaging with the community. This was accepted and will be passed on.

Colin stressed that the focus throughout the project since it started in 2015 had been to be transparent and open. Community feedback given at various consultation stages had resulted in constructive changes to the project throughout.

Parking was raised as a key concern by local residents. Colin confirmed that parking provision was understood to be an important consideration and was being looked at very seriously.

11. Chair – Including Correspondence

Children’s Hearing Scotland is looking for new Panel members. Details at www.chscotland.gov.uk.

12. Residents’ Forum

Janet Rutherford raised concerns about cycling safety for children in the village.

Carol Murphy noted that many users of the library had commented positively on the flower displays Balforn in Bloom had created outside the library and at the Tontine corner. This was applauded by all.

13. Any Other Business

None.

14. Date of next meeting

Thursday 3rd October 2019, Balforn High School, 7.30pm.