



# BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 2019 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

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

**In Attendance:** Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Katie Heslop (Action in Mind), Liz Wylie, Anne Thomson, Jim Hamilton, James Burns, George Brown, June Taylor, Sheena Leith.

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

Apologies were received from Laura Elder, John Nicholson, Police Scotland, Janet Rutherford.

### 2. Recording of Declarations of Interest

No interests to declare.

### 3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting 5 September 2019

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

### 4. Matters Arising

- 4.1. BCC noted the recent passing of Mike Stone and the significant contribution he made in serving the community over many years.
- 4.2. *Buchanan Street Right of Access:* Colin had not yet received a reply from Stirling Council. Pam agreed to escalate the issue with Stirling Council colleagues.
- 4.3. *Bus Timetable Changes:* A formal complaint had been lodged with the Traffic Commissioner about the recent bus timetable changes since this issue was discussed at the previous BCC meeting. Jim Burns noted that following the consultation the proposed timetable had been amended to address concerns that were raised by the community. This should resolve the issues, except for the Sunday service to Stirling, which was not a commercially viable service and would need further discussion with Stirling Council. Jim distributed copies of the new timetable and BCC thanked him for his role in addressing the timetable issues.
- 4.4. *Rural South West Meeting Update:* Luci Rooney gave a brief summary of key issues discussed at the meeting:
  - Stirling Council parking strategy;
  - Community Prefects at Balfraon High School who were looking to engage with community councils and become involved in community projects;
  - Your Stirling Your Vote, which was generally seen as positive but the process should be reviewed to avoid creating competition between villages when collaboration was more important;
  - Older people reference group for neighbourhood of care, which highlighted an offer of free legal advice regarding power of attorney and wills.

4.5. *Community Council Conversation Update:* Alison Lamont Chalmers attended this meeting on behalf of BCC. Key issues included:

- The communitycouncil.scot website, which includes details of all community councils in Scotland, provides details for grant funding, Scottish Government consultations and events;
- The Community Empowerment Act (2015) introduced the right of a participation request for community bodies to ask to be directly involved in improving public sector outcomes;
- Review of the community council handbook;
- Upcoming training for community councils on planning processes.

## **5. Police Report**

BCC noted a written Police report, highlighting recent activity in Balfron and the surrounding area. This is available on the Community Council website.

## **6. Balfron Community Mental Health Project – Action in Mind**

Katie Heslop informed BCC about a new community project on mental health in Balfron. This is focussed on researching the demand for mental health services in the community and identifying what type and level of service the community required. The project also aims to set up a self-sustaining support service. The project includes plans for community events to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in the community. The project will be looking at mental health across all age groups. Research will be conducted using a questionnaire and focus groups. Katie Heslop mentioned that Action in Mind ran a young person's social support group in Stirling for those aged 12 or over. If there was demand for a similar group in Balfron, Action in Mind could provide volunteer training.

## **7. Elected Councillor's Report**

No elected member was available to attend the meeting.

## **8. Treasurer Report**

Bill Noblett reported that grants had been approved for the renovation of the bus stop (£350) and the millennium benches (£200).

## **9. Planning Report**

BCC noted that a planning application had been submitted for developing Finnich Glen.

## **10. Subgroups, Projects and Guests**

*Balfron Active Places:* A community consultation event would be held at Balfron High School on Sat 5 October.

*Telephone Box:* The suggestion to 'yarn bomb' the Dunmore St telephone would not be taken forward following inappropriate comments on social media in opposition to the idea. The next steps would focus on the restoration of the phone box. The first weekend in November was proposed to begin the refurbishment work, subject to sufficient volunteers coming forward to help. It was agreed to then use the telephone box as an information booth. **ACTION: Luci**

*Donaldson Park:* It was noted that Stirling Council had yet to follow up on warranty repairs the supplier was still due to carry out.

*Balfron Millennium Benches:* Good progress with the refurbishment of the benches was noted.

**11. Chair – Including Correspondence**

- Colin noted that Fraser Allan sadly has had to step down from the position of BCC vice chair due to pressure of work. The position is now open to other community councillors.
- It was noted that a sign to direct visitors to the public toilet had been installed.
- The Neighbourfood project promoting local produce was highlighted.
- Pam Campbell drew attention to the Stirling Council Budget Simulator (<https://stirling.budgetsimulator.com/>). This allows local residents to feed into the budget planning process by making percentage changes to the current budgets and council tax and interactively showing the impact of these changes on achieving a planned £10m reduction in the total Stirling Council budget.

**12. Residents' Forum**

No issues were raised.

**13. Any Other Business**

Bill Noblett informed the group of recent discussions at the Neighbourhood of Care Reference Group. No decisions had been taken about the future use of Strathendrick Care Home. Once a set of proposals had been decided these proposals would go out for consultation with the community.

**14. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Balfron High School, 7.30pm.