



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Present: Colin Cameron (chair), Alison Lamont Chalmers, Laura Elder, Carsten Mandt (minutes), John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Robert Young

In Attendance: Councillor Graham Lambie, PC Gary Martin (Police Scotland), Anne Thomson, Liz Wylie, Rae Wilson, Jim Thomson, James Burns (First Group), Janet Rutherford, Lesley Keighley, Benjamin Gardner (Balfron High School), Gill Dingwall.

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

Apologies were received from Fraser Allan, Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), David McGowan, Luci Rooney, Christine Wilson.

2. **Recording of Declarations of Interest**

No interests to declare.

3. **Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting 3 October 2019**

Robert Young proposed the Minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Alison Lamont Chalmers.

4. **Matters Arising**

4.2 Colin has now received a response concerning the right of access to the lane connecting Endrick Gardens and Buchanan Street, indicating that discussions are ongoing between Building Standards and the builders.

Colin confirmed that the Remembrance Day road closure would take place at the War Memorial on Sunday 10 November, that Road Closed signage would be provided, and Police Scotland would be in attendance.

5. **Police Report**

PC Gary Martin provided a Police report, highlighting recent activity in Balfron and the surrounding area. This is available via the Community Council website and noticeboards.

A recent report in the Stirling Observer was noted where Chief Superintendent Thom McLaughlin had criticised Community Councils as not being representative of their communities. Cllr Lambie stated that this matter would be raised at the forthcoming Stirling Council Public Safety Committee to clarify the Chief Superintendent's position.

Colin noted that the chimney fire mentioned in the Police Report was attended to very promptly by the fire brigade and good advice dispensed.

The dangerous use of the Ballochruin Road by heavy goods vehicles was highlighted and the police asked to keep an eye on it.

6. Rural Stirling Housing Association – Gillian Lynas

Gillian Lynas introduced herself as the local housing officer for Rural Stirling Housing Association (RSHA). She informed BCC that RSHA currently had a portfolio of 55 properties in the village. The latest RSHA development in the wider area was in Killearn and the next scheduled development would also be in Killearn. Further developments were being planned for Balmaha and Drymen.

Gillian confirmed that the new developments would include properties of different sizes and styles to be able to accommodate the full range of housing need, recognising the growing demand for 3 bed houses. She also clarified that all new developments had an initial period for a local lettings initiative to enable local residents with a proven housing need to access properties before considering tenants from outwith the local area.

7. Elected Councillor's Report

Councillor Lambie provided a written report, highlighting a number of pertinent issues concerning:

- Road safety
- Provision of public transport in the area
- Roads maintenance programmes
- Housing development at the Killearn Hospital site
- A planning application for Finnich Glen in response to increased tourism
- The lack of buyer interest in the 'Bunker' site. Stirling Council is considering reducing the asking price for both sites.

8. Treasurer Report

Bill reported that insurance for the bus shelter at the Surgery and the Millennium benches had not yet been arranged as information about the location of the benches cannot yet be confirmed.

He also noted that individual BCC members could protect their personal insurance premium discounts from any impact of BCC related journeys, at a cost of £1.55 per person. It was agreed to add this feature to the BCC insurance package.

9. Planning Report

John Nicholson reported on an information session run by Stirling Council and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs Park Authorities on support and advice available to community councils with planning matters. This had been very helpful and he advised other BCC members to attend the next evening session for community councillors, due to be held in January 2020.

10. Subgroups, Projects and Guests

Balfron Radicals Exhibition: Jim Thomson informed BCC of plans for the bicentenary celebrations in March and April 2020. BCC offered its enthusiastic support in whatever manner was most useful.

Balfron Scout Visit: BCC had been invited to the Balfron Scouts to explain the role and activities of a community council. The Scout group provided very helpful feedback on key issues for young people in the village and what the potential solutions may be. A summary report was circulated.

Balfron Active Places: The recent community consultation event at the High School was well attended and community feedback about the proposals was overwhelmingly positive. A report is due to be published shortly. A meeting was held on 7 November 2019 with Sustrans regarding funding for next phase (building the Clachan and Printer's Row projects in the first instance). A decision on funding is expected in the coming weeks.

Telephone Box: Plans to paint the phone box had been postponed until the spring due to unsuitable weather conditions.

Neighbourhood of Care: Questions were asked about the possibility of the Strathendrick Care Home being closed and what the impact would be on care provision in the area and on staff. No clear indications had been given to date by the Integrated Joint Board about their plans. It was noted that the site had originally been donated to be used as a care facility. This pre-condition on the use of the site would need to be taken into account for any future plans for the site.

Christmas: Colin noted that a date for the Primary School choir carol singing had not yet been confirmed. Plans for Christmas trees at the Library and the Tontine Corner were discussed.

11. Chair – Including Correspondence

A question was raised about potentially extending the duration of parking restrictions at the library.

Colin nominated Robert Young as BCC vice-chair to replace Fraser Allan who is standing down due to pressure of work. This was seconded by Bill Noblett and John Nicholson.

12. Residents' Forum

No business was raised.

13. Any Other Business

John Nicholson informed BCC that the dangerous building in Cotton St as a result of the house fire is due for demolition. The demolition works were understood to require a complete road closure of Cotton St but no dates have been announced for the works.

It was confirmed that pedestrians had the right of way at the entrance and exit to the Coop car park. However, motorists frequently did not observe the pedestrians' right of way. Colin confirmed this was being looked at as part of the Space for Living proposals. It was requested that signage at the entrance and exit be reinstated.

14. Date of next meeting

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