



# BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020 IN BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Colin Cameron (chair), Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Christine Wilson, Robert Young

**In Attendance:** Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Councillor Graham Lambie (Stirling Council), PC Gary Martin (Police Scotland), Benjamin Gardner (Balfron High School), Janet Rutherford (Balfron in Bloom), William Ritchie, Margaret Crombie, Shionagh Morrison, Donald Morrison, Louise Hayward.

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

Apologies were received from Fraser Allan, David McGowan, Luci Rooney.

### 2. **Recording of Declarations of Interest**

No interests to declare.

### 3. **Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting 6 February 2019**

Christine Wilson proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Robert Young.

### 4. **Matters Arising**

Colin Cameron informed BCC that

- Scheduled works on line painting the electric vehicle charging bays were delayed due to the recent bad weather;
- No update had been received yet regarding the library parking time limit;
- Colin is meeting with officers from Stirling Council on 12 March to discuss the future of the Register Office and the Library.
- The latest BCC newsletter should have been delivered to all households by the Guides.

### 5. **Police Report**

BCC noted a Police report by PC Gary Martin, highlighting recent activity in Balfron and the surrounding area. This is available on the BCC website: [balfroncc.org.uk](http://balfroncc.org.uk).

### 6. **Balfron Bank of Scotland Closure**

BCC discussed Bank of Scotland's decision to close the Balfron bank branch on 17 August 2020. Over 1,500 signatures to the petition against the branch closure have been received. Colin shared a draft letter to the Bank of Scotland Managing Director. This will be sent following the meeting. Killearn, Drymen and Strathblane Community Councils are supporting the campaign, as are the MP and MSPs.

Staff at the Balfron branch have been advised that the mobile bank will be in the village on a Monday from 9:30-11:45 and 12:30-13:45. This is clearly inadequate.

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

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

- Stirling Council activity to support the campaign against the Bank of Scotland Balfron branch closure
- Stirling Council budget
- Road safety and maintenance works
- Planning applications for the Glen Finnish site and the Killearn Hospital site

## **8. Treasurer Report**

Bill Noblett gave an update on recent planned payments made from the BCC budget.

A proposal to replace the damaged noticeboard at Doyle's Café was agreed. Bill suggested we approach Stirling Council's Community Pride Fund for contributions to the cost.

## **9. Planning Report**

Contingency plans regarding Covid-19 were discussed. NHS guidance was reiterated: wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, catch coughs and sneezes in tissues and dispose of those. Anyone who has recently travelled to known high risk areas should seek guidance from their GP by telephone and self-isolate. NHS Inform provides the most up to date advice: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>.

A testing station has been set up next to Forth Valley Royal Hospital. It was noted that testing needed to be arranged by telephone.

Daily updates on Scottish cases are available from the Scottish Government website: <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Christine reported on the recent National Planning Framework workshop. The focus of the event was to plan ahead to a 2050 vision for Scotland. The main long term planning implications that were discussed related to:

- Decarbonisation
- Localisation – moving away from car use towards active travel like walking and cycling
- Stopping building in flood plains
- Regenerating rural communities
- Better infrastructure and communications networks, especially in remote and rural areas

A report is due to be published in late summer 2020.

John Nicholson reported on the demolition of the fire-damaged building at 30 Cotton Street.

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

*Balfron Active Places:* Sustrans and Stirling Council have now signed off plans for works in Printer's Row, at the Clachan, Buchanan Street North and Buchanan Street South. Work is due to start at the end of March in Printer's Row, followed by the Clachan in April. The combined duration of these works is expected to last 7-10 weeks. Work in Buchanan Street North is likely to start in late 2020

and Buchanan Street South works are expected to begin in early 2021. It was confirmed that the collapsed drain in Spoker's Loan had been taken into account as part of the Clachan works.

Balfron in Bloom confirmed that the plants at the War Memorial were not theirs. All Balfron in Bloom planting would be protected during the works. The Clachan works were carefully designed to ensure that the Oak is protected and any damage to the root system is avoided.

Residents from The Clachan asked for a meeting to discuss the impact of the finalised plans. This was agreed.

*Donaldson Park:* Bill Noblett updated BCC on further discussions with Stirling Council to renew the play equipment for younger children.

*Millennium Benches:* Recently, the weather had been too cold and wet to refurbish the remaining benches. The renovation work will recommence as soon as the weather conditions allow. BCC will need to consider the best locations for the refurbished benches and devise a maintenance regime.

#### **11. Chair – Including Correspondence**

- Bruce Crawford MSP will stand down at the next election. BCC thanked him for his support over the years.
- Plans to develop a forest management scheme at Carlin Wood were reviewed by the Pathways group. It was agreed that the proposal could be supported as long as Rights of Way were protected.
- BCC has been contacted by the administrator of the Balfron Facebook group who advised of their desire to stand down. A replacement needs to be found if the group page is to avoid closure.
- The Provost Awards were open for nominations until 27 May.
- Plans to create a West Stirlingshire Sustainability Partnership were noted. Balfron is not so far represented. Any organisations, businesses or individuals with an interest in this area are invited to contact Colin.
- Stirling Council are hosting a drop-in session on 18 March on climate and sustainability.

#### **12. Residents' Forum**

There will be no Balfron in Bloom coffee morning this year as there is currently no need for fundraising.

#### **13. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **14. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, Balfron High School, 7.30pm.