



## VIDEOCONFERENCE HELD ON THURSDAY 6th AUGUST 2020 DRAFT MINUTES

### **1. Welcome, recording of those present and apologies**

**Present:** Fraser Allan, Colin Cameron, Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, Carsten Mandt, Bill Noblett, Luci Rooney, Christine Wilson, Robert Young

**In attendance:** Cllr Graham Lambie

**Apologies:** Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Michelle Conway, Cllr Rob Davies, David McGowan, John Nicholson

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

John Nicholson re planning - Robert Young to take on BCC planning duties in the meantime

Fraser Allan re point 4.1.

### **3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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

### **4. Matters arising**

4.1: Diesel spillage - Residents had contacted BCC with ongoing concerns over the recent diesel spillage near White Yetts Glen. SEPA confirmed the source of the spill as a decommissioned diesel tank. Contractors are in the process of cleaning up and monitoring to ensure no further spills are present. SEPA are awaiting their final report before taking any decisions on enforcement action. Residents had asked for warning signs to be put in place to alert dog walkers about ongoing risks. However, this should no longer be necessary if the area had been cleaned up.

BCC had been made aware that an incident occurred at Ballikinrain Burn around last Christmas resulting in significant bio waste spillage. Despite enforcement action being taken by SEPA, a repeat incident occurred in July 2020.

### **5. Covid-19 Response**

Balftron Covid-19 Support group activity had reduced in the village over the summer months. The importance of accessing testing if a coronavirus infection is suspected was stressed. The latest

guidance on who can access testing is available from <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/>

Concerns had been raised that school re-opening may involve a significant increase in school related traffic compared to pre-Covid-19 levels. BCC wrote to Stirling Council to look at ways of managing school travel, e.g. drop-off points in other parts of village or a one-way system through the village but it was recognised that with the schools due to re-open next week, there may not be any scope to put in place any further measures. The schools had undertaken risk assessments and are now communicating their plans to families.

It was noted that as pupils of all ages were not being asked to socially distance from each other, the impact on school bus capacity may not be as significant as initially suspected.

Stirling Council confirmed that the recycling centre booking system would remain in place. BCC noted that the system appeared to be working well and had also resulted in much reduced queuing at the fire station. This may allow the previously proposed one-way system for the Coop car park to be re-visited.

The food and book exchange was still being used well but Luci Rooney flagged up that some maintenance was required and that the phone box would not be suitable to house the exchange during the winter. Possible alternatives were discussed and it was agreed to explore this further with a view to re-locating the food and book exchange and finding another use for the phone box. It was noted that BCC still had £400 of Covid-19 support funding available to support this development.

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

Colin mentioned that the Balfron bank closure was featured in Which?Money magazine, on BBC Radio 4 *You and Yours* programme and the Which?Money Podcast. No further information had been received from the bank about their decision to close the Balfron branch or any revised timescales for the closure which had been postponed due to Covid-19.

The OneBanks initiative is launching a pilot in Denny in September, providing a manned kiosk as a hub for all banks under the Government's Access to Cash scheme. This may provide a blueprint for continued access to banking in Balfron.

## **7. Council Waste Disposal Policy**

Cllr Lambie explained the reasons for the agreed change to waste disposal to improve service quality, reduce costs and increase recycling levels. The change would only move to 4-weekly collections for grey and blue bins. Current collection frequency for brown (2-weekly) and green (4-weekly) bins would remain as is. Garden waste collection in brown bins was not a mandatory service councils have to provide and would in future need to be purchased by households. Cllr Lambie also mentioned that a glass bottle deposit scheme was being introduced in Scotland, further reducing the need for frequent glass collections. Fraser Allan raised the risk of a potential spike in waste crime and queried the impact on clean up and enforcement action.

## **8. Projects**

8.1 Small Playpark - Donaldson Park: Progress was noted. Two pieces of equipment to replace existing items had been identified and Stirling Council confirmed that they would be taking the required work forward.

### **8.2 Space for Living**

The working group met to confirm plans were still appropriate in light of the Covid-19 experience. They concluded that the plans would fit well in terms of investing in open social spaces, supporting bike use and pedestrians and slowing down traffic. A meeting was scheduled with Stirling Council to confirm revised timescales and next steps.

Killearn Paths Group had secured Sustrans funding for developing a path between Killearn and Balfron. This still needed a solution for a safe path over the Endrick, either by installing lights for single file road traffic or by building a new foot bridge adjacent to the existing bridge. The cost of the second option was likely prohibitive. Similar examples to the first option exist elsewhere in Scotland and were understood to be working very successfully.

## **9. Police Report**

A written report by Police Scotland was noted.

## **10. Elected Councillor's report**

Cllr Lambie reported that:

- The Finnoch Glen proposal was due to go to the planning panel in November.
- He had asked the school about exam result and to discuss school travel issues
- Stirling Council financial challenge was very significant, requiring a revised budget mid term
- Balfron Primary School had received an excellent inspection report.
- The roads maintenance programme had re-started.

## **11. Treasurer report**

Bill Noblett reported that:

- £400 of Covid-19 support funding was still available.
- Online banking was now set up.
- BCC received compensation from Bank of Scotland of £100 for poor customer service.

## **12. Planning report**

An application had been made to create a motorhome park at Ballochruin. Concerns over the impact of this development were discussed and it was agreed to lodge an objection on behalf of BCC.

A number of small domestic planning matters were noted in Moor Rd, Dumbreck Rd, Dunmore St and Spoker's Loan.

## **13. Chair - including Correspondence**

Balfon in Bloom were commended for the work they had undertaken recently across the village.

## **14. AOB**

The option to return to face to face meetings was discussed. It was agreed to continue with online meetings until there was a significant change in Scottish Government guidance on indoor group activities.

It was noted that there was ash die back disease in the village and surrounding area.

Laura Elder asked whether plans should go ahead for securing the community Christmas trees as usual. This will be confirmed at the next meeting.

## **15. Next meeting**

Thursday 3rd September 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom