



## ONLINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2020

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

**Present:** Colin Cameron, Laura Elder, Alison Lamont Chalmers, Carsten Mandt, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Luci Rooney, Christine Wilson

**In attendance:** Cllr Rob Davies, Cllr Graham Lambie, Liz Arthur, Gordon Hayward

**Apologies:** Fraser Allan, Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), David McGowan, Robert Young

### 2. Recording of Declarations of Interest

Christine Wilson declared a conflict of interest over an upcoming item on trees in Spokers Loan and would take no part in the relevant discussion.

### 3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Laura Elder proposed the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Alison Lamont Chalmers.

### 4. Matters arising

**4.1 – Diesel spillage:** SEPA confirmed that warning signage for such incidents is a local authority matter and not in SEPA's remit. They also confirmed that they were considering undertaking an ecological survey of Endrick Water. Ballikinrain Burn clean-up work is expected to be completed by October 2020.

**4.2 - School parking:** The initial report on the transport situation following school re-opening was positive.

**4.3 – Bank closure:** Bank of Scotland set a new date for the branch closure of 8 March 2021. BCC contacted the bank to note objections as it had been previously agreed that Bank of Scotland would meet with BCC first to discuss options and alternative solutions before making any further decisions about the branch closure.

**4.4 – Civic amenity site:** The Balfraon site is now allowing 2 visits per household per week.

**4.5 – Christmas tree:** It was agreed Laura will organise both Christmas trees as per last year's celebrations.

### 5. Covid-19 Response

It was noted that a pupil at Balfraon High School had tested positive for Covid-19 but the school was not closed. The pupil was understood not to live locally and was self-isolating. Contact tracing was in process. Identified close contacts living in Stirlingshire would need to self-isolate for 14 days in line with Scottish Government guidance.

Christine Wilson reported that demand for local support had decreased.

The resilience Group will continue to post messages about Covid-19, highlighting the importance of continued vigilance and current guidance.

The Food and Book Exchange in Dunmore St was still going well but as discussed previously, is not sufficiently weatherproof for the winter months. It was agreed to proceed with it over the winter as a food exchange only. Any useable books could be stored in the Bunker; the rest are water-damaged and will be recycled. It was also agreed to purchase new shelving and paint for the phone box, to be paid for from available Covid-19 support funding. Luci requested that another volunteer be found to research the costings for a full refurbishment.

## **6. Projects**

**6.1 – Donaldson Park:** Stirling Council confirmed that works to replace play equipment in the small play park would be progressed in the near future.

**6.2 – Space for Living:** Works at the Clachan and Printer's Row are due to start in the week of 28<sup>th</sup> September, subject to workload. Stirling Council staff have been meeting with residents at The Clachan before the works start. Stirling Council would also be looking at repairing the drain in Spoker's Loan to remedy the ongoing flooding issue. The drain had recently been rodded unsuccessfully and Stirling Council agreed to explore it fully as Space for Living works are being done. Cllr Lambie contacted the roads department about factoring this into the Council's flood and reactive repair work programmes.

## **7. Police Report**

No written or verbal police report was available.

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

Cllr Davies noted professional dog-walker concerns about Scottish Government guidance to keep all dogs on leads. Attempts were being made to get this changed.

Cllr Lambie noted good high school exam results.

He flagged up that objections to the Ballochruin motor home proposal had been received but it was unclear if they were sufficient to guarantee a referral to the planning panel. He was seeking clarification.

The Finnich Glen proposal is due to go to the main council for deliberation.

The Killearn Hospital site proposal would go to the planning panel on 8 October.

## **9. Treasurer's report**

BCC received notification from Stirling Council on the admin grant. The grant was the same as last year but a slight increase in insurance premiums was noted.

## **10. Planning and Correspondence**

Proposals for two projects outside the BCC area were noted: a glamping pod development at Meikle Drumquharn, Balfron Station, and new tree planting at Mount Farm, Fintry.

The recent removal of three mature lime trees from a property in Spoker's Loan was raised. Community concerns about the removal and the decision-making process were discussed. The Stirling Council Tree Protection Officer had confirmed that permission for removal was

granted on the grounds that the trees had been diseased, but this was disputed by local residents. BCC undertook to work with Stirling Council to establish what the decision-making process was, why the proposal to remove the trees had not been identified through the planning process, and why BCC had not been invited to input to it.

#### **11. AOCB**

The Heritage Group is proposing an online project about the war memorial and was seeking support for it. BCC agreed in principle to provide funding if possible. A final decision will be made once costings have been received.

#### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Thu 1 October 2020, 1930, Online via Zoom