



DRAFT MINUTES

ONLINE MEETING ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2020

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

In Attendance: Cllr Alistair Berrill (Stirling Council), Pam Campbell (Stirling Council), Cllr Rob Davies (Stirling Council), Cllr Graham Lambie (Stirling Council)

Apologies: Fraser Allan, David McGowan

1. Recording of Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

3. Matters arising

Bank of Scotland: BCC, Stirling Council, Bruce Crawford MSP, and Alyn Smith MP will be meeting with Bank of Scotland representatives on 11 December to discuss the bank's future in Balfron.

4. Covid-19 Response

Christine Wilson reported that demand for support in the village was still low.

The Resilience Group asked for notification of any grit boxes that are empty so they can arrange a re-fill.

The Dunmore Street phone box still well used and well supplied.

Cllr Lambie highlighted that Stirling Council's Covid-19 infection rate was currently below the required threshold to be able to move down to tier 3 when Scottish Government review current restrictions on 11 December. While this was positive news, he stressed that this could change quickly.

5. Project Updates

Active Places: Balfron in Bloom expressed concerns that the new flower bed was too close to the kerb, presenting a risk to anyone working in it. It was suggested that this space could be grassed over, with the flower bed moving behind the war memorial, away from the road.

A local resident has complained that the colour and pattern of the new paving is inappropriate for use in a rural conservation area. They requested BCC support in taking this matter further with Stirling Council. Colin confirmed that while the Active

Places Working Group had approved the materials for the works it had not been involved in the decision on the colour scheme. When this was raised with Stirling Council, written assurances were given that any flaws in communication would be fixed for future phases of the project. BCC agreed they have no concerns about the finishes that have now been installed at the Clachan and are not in support of pursuing this matter further with Stirling Council.

A number of other snagging issues were raised which will be taken up with Stirling Council.

Christmas Plans: Trees to be erected on Sat 5 December, with lights being switched on at 1:45pm on Monday 7 December. Luci confirmed that the alternative mobile Christmas concert would take place on Christmas Eve and visits to vulnerable residents on Christmas Day.

Play Park: An acute health and safety issue was raised, due to exposed nails in the old equipment in the small play park. It was agreed that the damaged equipment needed to be removed as quickly as possible regardless of timescales for installation of new equipment. Bill will follow this up with Stirling Council.

Phone box refurbishment: BCC noted the high cost of using phone box restoration specialists and agreed that options for DIY approaches should be explored more fully. This was understood to still require a minimum of £2,000 for the works. Crowdfunding was discussed to raise the required money.

6. Police Report

A written Police Scotland report was noted.

7. Elected Councillor's Report

It was noted that the Finnich Glen development was stalling due to disagreement about the planning conditions.

Stirling Council launched a new online engagement platform, Engage Stirling. This could also be used to launch an e-petition.

A recent report on Stirling Council enforcement action showed that over a 2-month period the bulk of parking notices in the Council area were issued in the Forth and Endrick ward, mostly in Balmaha and Finnich Glen, to deal with dangerous and obstructive parking.

8. Treasurer's Report

Nothing to report.

9. Planning and Correspondence

Robert reported on new planning applications lodged with Stirling Council.

10. Rural South West Area Forum (RSWAF)

Robert reported on key points discussed at the Forum:

1. Stirling & Clackmannanshire Regional City Deal

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/868881/Stir_Clacks_Full_Deal_Document.pdf

Following Robert's presentation a full discussion was had concerning opportunities for Balfron to access funding, particularly in the areas of Regional Digital Hubs, Culture Heritage and Tourism, and Active Travel. Ideas included future uses for the Bank of Scotland building; the refurbishment of the Dunmore St phone box as a lasting community resource; and a cycle route between Balfron and Stirling, linking up with existing ambitions in other villages.

2. Community Health & Social Care

Consultation are to be undertaken on model of community health and social care:

Pre-consultation – 7th Dec to 25th Jan. Consultation – 1st Feb to 15th Mar.

The future of Strathendrick Care Home was very much part of the discussion and Bill will attend the consultation events. He will extend invites to other interested parties.

3. Community Support

The RSWAF shared experiences of extensive community support networks helping people during Covid pandemic. It was felt there had been good levels of participation and good levels of success. A survey will be conducted soon to gauge feedback and see where support could be tailored and improved.

11. Chair's Report

Colin has contacted Stirling Council for an update on building works either side of the Endrick Gardens to Buchanan Street footpath with a view to having the path re-opened as soon as possible.

Complaints were noted regarding High School pupils littering in the village. These have been forwarded to the Head Teacher.

12. AOCB

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

19:30 on Thursday 4 Feb 2020