



Draft Minutes

Online Meeting on 4 February 2021, 19.30

1. Welcome, recording of those present and apologies

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

In attendance: Cllr Alastair Berrill, Cllr Rob Davies, Cllr Graham Lambie; Laura Gormley, Alison Limbert, Amanda Reilly, Gordon Reilly

Apologies: Pam Campbell, Andrea Gabriel

Colin Cameron reported that David McGowan had resigned from BCC and thanked him for his long standing service as a community councillor.

2. Recording of Declarations of Interest

Fraser Allan declared his interest in agenda item 12.

3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minute of the previous meeting was proposed as an accurate record by Christine Wilson and seconded by Alison Lamont Chalmers.

4. Matters arising

BCC thanked Laura Elder and the team for organising the Christmas trees and Luci Rooney for providing the mobile Christmas concert and calendars, which were well received.

Colin noted future ambitions for linking up walking and cycling paths between Killearn and Stirling via the villages. Gargunnoch Community Council were furthest ahead with negotiations with land owners to be able to implement these plans.

It was noted that there had been little progress with the Buchanan St footpath.

5. Co-option of new Community Council member

Laura Gormley was approved as a co-opted member of BCC.

6. Covid-19 Response

a. Balfron Covid-19 Support group update

A community rota for delivering prescriptions from the pharmacy has been established, delivering on Tuesdays and Fridays.

b. Balfron Resilience update

Fraser reported that West Stirling community issues raised through Stirling Council resilience focused largely on mental health challenges, loneliness and food poverty. It was noted that icy pavements had recently been exacerbating loneliness for residents unable to go out in wintery conditions. Additional members are needed to join the community resilience team. Any interested parties should contact either Fraser or Lee Rooney.

c. Balfron Food exchange

The food exchange had seen slightly less use recently. Food donations are still needed and are much appreciated, but PLEASE no more books. Access had been more difficult due to icy conditions. Fraser will ask Stirling Council for an additional grit bin to be sited in Dunmore St.

7. Projects

a. Space for Living

The new surfaces and layout at the Clachan are wearing in well. Balfron in Bloom are in the process of discussing a revised planting plan for the beds at the Clachan.

A temporary Heritage Group QR code sign has been installed at the Memorial. BCC agreed to support a permanent installation.

It was noted that the village was now a 20mph village.

Colin noted that the Co-op is planning to re-design the Balfron shop completely, looking at construction in 2022. Co-op services would continue during construction but detailed plans are not yet available.

b. Phone box refurbishment

Options are being explored further, pending discussions with Bank of Scotland.

c. Small Playpark -Donaldson Park

The old faulty play equipment had been removed and Stirling Council had received delivery of the new equipment. They hoped to install it in early March. The play park will be resurfaced using wood chip instead of sand, but a sandpit will be added. BCC agreed in principle to the additional cost for the replacement play park fencing to match the gate in Spoker's Loan.

8. Bank Closure

On 11 Dec 2020 a meeting was held with BCC, Bank of Scotland, Stirling Council, MP and MSP representation. The bank will close on 23rd March, but their representatives agreed to think about alternative approaches. The bank is planning to sell the building but it had not yet been marketed. Stirling Council are interested in possible joint schemes for the building.

9. Police Report

BCC noted a written report by Police Scotland.

10. Elected Councillor's report

The latest Covid briefing focused on the local roll out of vaccinations.

A glitch with the Engage Stirling portal was reported, wrongly showing closed consultations as still open.

11. Treasurer report

Thanks were given to Luci for generating £80 from the sale of calendars. Given the likelihood that virtual meetings will be continuing for some time a decision was made to purchase an annual subscription for Zoom.

12. Planning report

Robert reported that the applications to develop a glamping site at Drumtlan Wood had been resubmitted. Amanda Reilly provide a resident's perspective on road safety and environmental concerns with the proposed development. It was also noted that the development was unlikely to benefit the local community and local economy. BCC agreed to lodge an objection. Due to the number of objections already lodged the application would be referred to the planning panel.

Permission had been granted to extend a dwelling house in Endrick Gardens.

13. Chair including Correspondence

Colin highlighted that the health and social care consultation was now live.

John agreed to attend the Rural South West Forum on 15 Feb 2021.

Colin has been invited to join the Killlearn Paths Steering Group to look at joining up paths between the two villages at the Endrick Bridge.

Bill confirmed that BCC had bags and litter pickers available for litter picking.

14. AOB

Alison Limbert informed the group of her social enterprise Love Lochs and Landscapes supporting sustainable tourism in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs area.

It was noted that this year's Community Council newsletter has been published, but due to distribution difficulties because of the pandemic is only available online, via the Community Council website and Facebook pages.

15. Next meeting

Thursday 4th March 2021