



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021 VIA ZOOM

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Colin Cameron (Chair), Fraser Allan, Claudia Duncan, Christine Glass (minutes), Laura Gormley, Alison Lamont-Chalmers, Alison Limbert, John Nicholson, Bill Noblett, Luci Rooney, Christine Wilson

In Attendance:

Councillor Rob Davies (Stirling Council)

1. Recording of those Present and Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Alistair Berrill (Stirling Council), Councillor Jane Hutchison (Stirling Council), Robert Young

2. Recording of Declaration of Interest

No interests to declare.

3. Minutes of 3rd December 2020 AGM

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

4. Chair's Report

Due to restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic our last AGM was held in December 2020, so this report covers the last six months to May 2021.

Covid-19: The Community Council, alongside Balfron Community Resilience and Covid-19 Support Groups, continued to monitor the impact of the pandemic on our community, identifying areas of need and offering support and advice. A volunteer rota was set up with the pharmacy to deliver prescriptions to those housebound or sheltering. The community-owned phone box in Dunmore Street continued to prove a vital resource as a Food Exchange and has been very well used throughout the crisis. During the first lockdown this also served as a book exchange but this was abandoned due to the poor condition of the phone box. Our thanks go to all those who have kept it well stocked throughout, including the deli Hewitt & Aker, and the Balfron Co-Op.

Balfron Active Places: Work on The Clachan and Printers Row was completed in late December. The new flower beds around the War Memorial have subsequently been planted out by the volunteers of Balfron in Bloom working in partnership with Stirling Council. Plans for the work on Buchanan Street North are being finalised with the work due to start towards the end of the summer.

Bank of Scotland branch closure: Despite continued pressure by the Community Council on the Bank to meet its public obligations for proper consultation, the branch was closed on 23rd March 2021. It has been replaced by a mobile service which visits "every second Monday" for two hours. The building is now on the market, and the Community Council is working to persuade Stirling Council to invest in the property as a Community Learning Centre encompassing the Library, the Registrar Office and a range of community enterprises.

Donaldson Park Play areas: Following the successful installation of new playpark equipment for older children in 2018, our focus turned to the wee playpark, where the equipment was ageing and the fencing surrounding the play area unstable. Using community funding due from the White Yetts development, two new units were ordered as replacements. Despite delays due to the pandemic they were installed in March 2021. The old flying fox area was also re-landscaped and planted with grass, tidying up an eyesore. The next stages due for completion in 2021, include replacing the playpark fence with metal fencing in the style of the Spokers Loan park gate, and the installation of a sandpit.

Phone Box refurbishment: We are actively seeking funding for a complete restoration of the phone box as an historic and ongoing asset to the village. There has been an excellent response to a Crowdfunder appeal, and various bids to funding bodies have been submitted.

Planning and Roads: a number of planning issues came before the Council, including proposals for glamping pods at Drumtitan to which the Council submitted an objection on the grounds of road safety and concerns for the local environment. The closure of the B818 Fintry Road due to a collapsed bridge was noted as causing considerable disruption for local businesses and residents. Despite the presence of a new 20mph village-wide speed limit, speeding continues to be an issue in parts of the village. The state of road surfaces continues to be a concern, with dangerous potholes in many places. Residents are encouraged to report these to Stirling Council.

Other matters: Despite the pandemic restrictions, the village **Christmas trees** were once again erected at the Tontine and outside the Library, with the switch-on being done by both the oldest and youngest pupil from the Primary School. A **mobile Christmas concert** toured the village on Christmas Eve thanks to Luci Rooney, and Balfron 2021 calendars were distributed to housebound residents. Thanks to the hard work of a volunteer team led by Lachlan Cameron, the **community-owned bus shelter** outside the surgery was completely refurbished. We have been supporting the work of the Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust in identifying and eliminating **invasive plant species** along the Endrick Water. The Community Council is supporting efforts to complete the cycle track and **pathway between Killearn and Balfron** and exploring the possibilities of extending it to Buchlyvie and beyond. We submitted a response to the **Health & Social Care Partnership Consultation**, expressing disappointment over the lack of more meaningful and effective community engagement on this important issue. A local resident presented a proposal for the seeding of the approach verges to the village with **wildflowers**. This was well received and will be supported.

Your Community Council: We were saddened to hear of the untimely death of Councillor Graham Lambie. He was a great friend to Balfron, a very effective councillor and advocate for the interests of the Forth and Endrick Ward. We also said farewell to Pam Campbell, who for the past 14 years served as the Stirling Council link officer for the Community Council. The membership of the Community Council has also changed with Laura Elder and David McGowan resigning after many years of loyal service for which we thank them. We welcomed new members Laura Gormley, Alison Limbert, and Claudia Duncan. Carsten Mandt stood down as our Minute-taker and has been replaced by Christine Glass. Sadly, after seven years as our Treasurer, Bill Noblett has decided to stand down from the Council after this meeting. We'll miss his dedication and commitment and thank him for the many ways in which he has contributed to the progress and wellbeing of the community in that time.

Due to the lockdown all Council meetings have been held via Zoom. Balfron residents are welcome to join these by contacting the Secretary by email: secretary@balfroncc.org.uk. All information about our activities is available on the Balfron Community Council website, including Minutes of past meetings and dates and times of future ones.

5. Treasurer's report

Bill Noblett submitted the audited accounts for BCC covering the fiscal year ended 31st March 2021. Bill advised that there had been sundry purchases made within the year, e.g. annual zoom subscription, high-viz jackets for 'Balfron in Bloom' and litter pickers, toys for play park, replacement notice board outside Doyles.

Bill Noblett advised the meeting that Tom Yuill will not be available to audit the accounts next year and we will require a replacement auditor.

There were no further questions, and the accounts were proposed as an accurate record by Christine Wilson, and seconded by John Nicholson.

6. Re-Election of Office Bearers

Colin Cameron was re-confirmed as Chair.

Robert Young was re-confirmed as Vice-Chair.

Christine Wilson was nominated and approved as Treasurer.

Alison Limbert was nominated and approved as Secretary.

7. AOB

None

8. Date of next AGM tbc