



Minutes of Meeting on 3rd June 2021 via Zoom

1. Welcome, recording of those present and apologies

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

In attendance: Councillor Rob Davies, Anita Crozier

Apologies: Robert Young, Cllr Alistair Berrill, Cllr Jane Hutchison, Police Scotland

2. Recording of Declaration of Interest

No Declaration noted.

3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as an accurate record by John Nicholson and seconded by Luci Rooney subject to the following amendments:

Item 10: War Memorial landscaping funds: Many of the plants had died and £550 of the surplus has been used to replace the plants.

Item 13: *Coach House*: Claudia Duncan has been approached by a local resident and on their behalf raised the issue of the state of repair of the building and the safety of the gazebos outside the Coach House.

4. Matters Arising

- Bank of Scotland: Colin and Luci have submitted a proposal to Stirling Council regarding the adoption of the building for use as a Community Learning Centre. A resident, Graham Leak has suggested a multi-purpose art community workshop. Colin will meet Graham to discuss possibilities. **ACTION: CC**
- Vandalism at Donaldson Park: The Police have been informed and the High School has responded positively. Christine Wilson said the situation had improved but there was still a litter problem.
- Millennium Benches: Audrey Bissett has asked for an update. Bill Noblett will contact Peter Craig and report back to the meeting. **ACTION: BN**
- Bunker: Lee Rooney has offered the use of part of a Portakabin for storage at a reasonable rate. This was agreed and items will be moved once he has it prepared.
- Re-cycling Centre: The plan to extend the timetable has been circulated, but it's not clear whether it is yet operational. **ACTION: CC**
- Co-op Community Fund: Bill has submitted the application to fund supplies for the on-going food project. A response is due at the end of July.

5. Covid-19 Response

Balfron Covid-19 Support Group update: Christine W asked Cllr Davies for an update on the Stirling Covid-19 numbers. This would be useful in planning the period until the August meeting to ensure that support is in place if required. **ACTION: Cllr. Davies**

The Food Exchange: Luci reported that the Food Exchange was operating well but, as restrictions were easing, donations of fruit and vegetables were dropping off. Luci will put a reminder on Facebook. **ACTION: LR**

6. Projects

Space for Living: Work on Buchanan Street North is scheduled to begin late September/early October.

Phone Box Refurbishment: The Crowdfunder appeal stands at £1,085 with 10 days to go. A further £1k has been received from the Paul Trust. The National Heritage Lottery has generously agreed to support the application with a grant of £6k. Many thanks to all concerned in these applications. It was agreed that a project team was necessary to drive this forward and Colin proposed that Robert Young should lead. Luci and Christine W will join the team. Colin will contact Stirling Observer to get a piece in next week's edition. Facebook and the website will be updated, and Bill will post an update on donations.

ACTION: RY; CC; CW; BN

Small Playpark – Donaldson Park: Christine W said the new fencing is in place and gaps have been minimalised following adjustments to the soil level. The bark level is low in parts and small children are having difficulty reaching the equipment. Cllr. Davies offered to raise this with Stirling Council. Christine W will contact Donna to get a date for the completion of the sandpit. Vandalism appears to have settled and teachers from the High School are dropping by. The park is also being used by the Primary School for outdoor lessons. The rubbish bins are over-flowing in the park and in Cotton Street and this will be reported to Stirling Council. It was encouraging that older children were visiting the park after school and picking up litter. Christine W will forward a link to the portal. **ACTION: CW; Cllr.Davies**

7. Police Report:

BCC noted a written report by Police Scotland. This will be available on the BCC website and noticeboards.

8. Elected Councillors report:

There have been two council meetings since the last BCC meeting and Cllr Davies raised the issues of the poor state of the roads, and in particular bridges. He told the meeting that a £4.6m road improvement budget had been approved. Part of this has been allocated for the A875/A811 junction.

9. Treasurer's Report:

Bill reported the purchase of 3 bay trees for 'Balfron in Bloom'.

10. Planning Report:

Two new planning applications have been submitted since our last meeting. No concerns were raised about either.

11. Chair including Correspondence:

Rural South West Area Forum: Colin attended the meeting on 17th May. A PowerPoint presentation from the Risk & Resilience team was shown and has been forwarded to Fraser for information.

Roads: Colin had contacted Stirling Council regarding the poor state of the road lines around the village and also noted that the vehicle activated signs are incorrect and need to be changed from 30 to 20mph. The lines around a number of disabled bays also require attention.

Health & Social Care Partnership: Following our submission to the consultation document the partnership has issued a draft strategy. Concerns were raised about how this was derived from the consultees. It appeared to be a paper exercise with decisions already made. Cllr Davies said he had not been involved with the proposed strategy but he would contact Cllr Berrill and they would see what could be done. **ACTION: Cllr.Davies**

Eco-Opera: Graham Leak, an Australian musician resident in Balfron since 2017, had asked for a letter of support for funding from Creative Scotland for his joint Australian/Scottish project, Eco-Opera. BCC agreed to a letter of support for the project. **ACTION: CC**

Litter: Colin has been contacted by a resident who was concerned about the amount of Styrofoam litter around the village. Alison Limbert said that single-use plastic containers are soon to be banned by the Scottish Government. An informal audit of local businesses suggests most are now using waxed paper wrappers, paper bags, etc. It was thought that the High School might still be using Styrofoam containers. Distribution of items such as knives, forks and napkins could be reconsidered as they are often unused and left as litter. Alison Limbert will contact the chip shop, Luci will contact the bakery and Colin will speak to the High School to see how the situation might be improved. **ACTION: CC; AL; LR**

Potholes: Fraser Allan said he had been in contact with Councillor Davies who had been helpful. Some repairs had been done but the situation was still dangerous and Bill commented that Stirling Council needed to be pushed on this.

12. AOB

Following this meeting Bill Noblett is standing down from the Community Council. He thanked everyone who has given him support over the years and commended the positive changes that had taken place in the village in that time. Colin thanked Bill for his commitment and enterprise: he has taken on many initiatives beyond his role as Treasurer, and the Community Council will miss his input both fiscally and more widely.

13. Next Meeting: 1930 Thursday 5th August 2020