



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 1st May 2025

Present: Stuart Freckingham (Chair), Sue Bell (Treasurer), Chelsea McKinnon (Member), Laura Shaw (Minutes), Fiona Shaw (Member), Luci Ronney (Visitor), J. Brown (Visitor), R. MacKenzie (Visitor), PC McCammon (Visitor, Police Scotland)

Apologies: Alison Limbert (Secretary), Craig Potter (Vice Chair), Stuart Duffy (Member), Alasdair Street (Member)

In Attendance: Cllr Rosemary Fraser

2) Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the meeting on 3rd April 2025 were proposed by Fiona Shaw and seconded by Sue Bell.

3) Matters Arising

Handyperson help

Volunteering Matters is a charity that supports older and disabled people with 'handyperson' jobs around the house (e.g. building furniture, changing light bulbs, unblocking sinks, etc). It is free to use and residents in the village are encouraged to use it by calling 01259 928 088 or visiting: <https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/project/rsvp-forth-valley/>

The charity is also looking for volunteers - jobs are matched based on skills and interests. Members of BCC suggested that they get in touch with the Thursday lunch club, the local churches and the repair cafe to raise awareness for new customers and volunteers.

4) Declarations of Interest

None.

5) Projects

None.

6) Police Report

Anti-social behaviour

A resident received a threatening phone call by a person known to them. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the person responsible.

Vandalism

A resident had an unknown item thrown at their kitchen window causing it to crack. No further lines of enquiry exist and this remains undetected.

Road Traffic

The driver of a lorry was issued with a fixed penalty notice for careless driving after they emerged from a junction into the path of another vehicle narrowly avoiding a collision.

Theft

A theft has been recorded after a parcel left on the doorstep of the victim's home address was taken. No further lines of enquiry and this remains undetected.

A theft has been recorded after a quantity of drystone wall stones were taken from a wall of a property in the village. No further lines of enquiry exist and this remains undetected.

Assault

A minor assault has been recorded after a youth football match at the high school. Following the match a volunteer referee was struck with a bag that was thrown at him by a member of the opposing team. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the person responsible.

Fraud talk

Last year, the community policing team organised and ran a talk at the bowling club to discuss the dangers of fraud. PC McCammon has suggested running a similar session again; BCC support and welcome this suggestion.

The full police report is available on the Balfron Community Council website and includes reports for the surrounding villages.

7) Elected Councillor's report

Cllr Fraser updated the meeting. Stirling and Clackmannanshire Health and Social Care Partnership is the only integrated health board in Scotland that is made up of two councils. The board currently cannot agree a budget as there is a £8 million overspend from 2024/25 and no agreement between councils as to how this should be managed.

Stirling Council is considering a visitor levy. Money generated would come directly to Stirling Council and be used to promote the area as a visitor attraction or for community benefit (e.g. improving transport). This is due to be agreed in December 2025 and would come into effect in 2027. There is currently a consultation period to collect residents' feedback. You can find out more here: <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/council-and-committees/visitor-levy-scheme/>

Other points raised included that Stirling Council have received a proposal for a community bus from Balfron High School and that the council currently has a number of buildings up for sale (e.g. the Balfron Registry Office).

8) Treasurer report

The accounts have been sent to the auditor for the annual audit. Insurance costs have been sent to the relevant community groups. The admin grant is due to be submitted by the end of July.

9) Planning report

One application was submitted in the last month. The proposal is to change the use from farm building (Dalfoil Farm, Balfron, G63 0QD) to residential flats including the upgrade of the existing access and track. BCC has no comments or concerns on this proposal.

Planning Applications can be found at

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications/>

10) Chair's report

Last month, a resident contacted the BCC about an ongoing issue with parked cars on Hillhead Brae that causes visibility and access issues. Stirling Council will extend the double yellow lines to improve accessibility and safety.

A resident contacted BCC about the closure and sale of the hardware store, suggesting that it could be bought as a community asset to maintain its current purpose. This would require significant funds and investment that BCC could not currently undertake, but would support community initiatives to do this.

A resident was in touch about organising a community event in memory of Lachlan Cameron, such as a community litter picking day. BCC would be happy to support this and discussed possible dates (likely August). Cllr Fraser suggested that Stirling Council could provide the litter pickers, bin/recycling bags and collect the rubbish. BCC are happy to support this and contact the council.

11) Local Place Plan

The Local Place Plan is currently in the Notice Period stage whereby residents of Balfron are invited to submit their feedback on the draft plan. You can share your feedback and read the plan here: <https://balfroncc.org.uk/local-place-plan/>

12) AOB

Joining the Balfron Community Council

The Balfron Community Council is looking for new members to join. It is a great opportunity to get involved in local projects and shape the future of the village.

BCC is open to all residents and we would be particularly keen to welcome students (aged 16+) from the high school. Members are expected to attend meetings on the first Thursday of every month (except January and July) at Balfron High School. You can find out more about the community council here: <https://balfroncc.org.uk/about-us/>

Annual General Meeting

The BCC AGM will take place on 5th June. Residents are welcome to attend and join the community council at the meeting.

Primary School Summer Fair

The Primary School Fair will take place on 7th June. Stuart will enquire about BCC having a table at the fair.

Action: SF

13) Next meeting 5th June 2025 at 7:30pm in Balfron High School.

As per Stirling Council Scheme of Establishment, these minutes are classified as draft until they are adopted at the next meeting.