



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 6th November 2025

1) Welcome, recording of those present, apologies

Present: Stuart Freckingham (Chair), Craig Potter (Vice Chair), Chelsea McKinnon (Member), Fiona Shaw (Member), Stuart Duffy (Member), Laura Shaw (Minutes)

Apologies: Alison Limbert (Member), Sue Bell (Treasurer)

In Attendance: Cllr Rosemary Fraser

2) Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the meeting on 2nd October 2025 were proposed by Stuart Duffy and seconded by Craig Potter.

3) Matters Arising

Start Up Stirling

In October, Start Up Stirling attended the BCC meeting to propose a new community and advice hub in Balfron that would run as a free weekly cafe. BCC has shared a list of activities already happening in the village to avoid a timing clash.

Remembrance Sunday

Craig will attend the War Memorial on Sunday 9th November on behalf of the BCC and lay the wreath. The application for the road closure for 20 minutes has been submitted.

Christmas tree light switch on

The BCC has invited Anne Adams to switch on the Christmas tree lights. This will take place on Sunday 7th December at 4pm at the Tontine Corner. Stuart will create a digital poster to be shared. Duff tree will donate two trees, one outside the library and the other at the Tontine Corner; these will be put up on Sunday 30th November.

Action: SD

Proposed Resilience Plan and quote

Forth Environment Link have indicated that they will fund the Resilience Plan. The BCC have received a quote from Imagine If and Place at the Table to develop the plan. The South West Stirlingshire Climate Action group is developing a regional plan that Balfron's plan could feed into. Some ideas that were raised to enhance resilience were batteries and generators and a text messaging system to alert vulnerable people to support services. The BCC is to ask Trossachs Rescue (and other existing networks) if they would like to be involved and to put out a call for volunteers to form a steering group.

Village communications

Members identified issues with the use of social media (e.g. a Whatsapp announcement group) and ownership of the website. Stuart will deliver a demonstration session at the next meeting with his proposed communications strategy to make better use of the website and social media.

Action: SD

4) Declarations of Interest

None.

5) Projects

Bike maintenance and charging station - Tontine Corner

Forth Valley Link have picked up on the proposed idea in the Balfron Local Place Plan to have a bike maintenance and charging station. They have funding available and have expressed support to put it at the Tontine Corner. Stirling Council will grant permission if required. Craig to ask Stirling Council if they can extend the power line already in place for the Christmas tree lights to the charging station. Craig will also make enquiries with other villages who have set up bike charging and maintenance stations e.g. Drymen.

Action: CP

6) Police Report

Police received a report from a complainer who had been walking in Balfron and had been bitten by a dog when passing a female walking the dog on a lead. The complainer had stepped off the pavement to allow room for the walker and the dog to pass when the dog bit the complainer on the thigh resulting in them having to receive a tetanus shot. Enquiries into this incident are ongoing.

Officers observed a vehicle which had left the road and was in a field on the A81 close to Balfron. The driver of the vehicle was asked to provide a breath sample owing to the officers believing they were under the influence. The suspect refused to provide a breath test and was subsequently cautioned and charged with failure to comply.

There were various calls to police over the month regarding fallen trees and animals, such as deer, sheep and cows, on roads surrounding Balfron. Police responded appropriately to these and contacted the relevant agencies to assist in removing them from the roads.

7) Elected Councillor's report

Cllr Fraser updated the meeting. Stirling Council has agreed a new administration and appointed Cllr Susan McGill as Council leader. Cllr Fraser has become Stirling's Lord Provost. New purple glass bins have been received by households and the old blue glass bins will be collected and recycled. There is an ongoing review of Stirling Council's recycling centres. There has been a call for development sites put out by Stirling Council seeking proposals for new developments. All proposals will be available online and will seek public feedback. Cllr Fraser also updated BCC about LPP's submitted throughout the district.

8) Treasurer report

The phonebox has received funding from the Coop. The Coop did not receive an application for the Balfron phonebox for this year for members to donate via their shopping.

9) Planning report

Demolition of former care home and erection of 6 houses (Ref. 25/00253/FUL)

An application was submitted to demolish the former Strathendrick Care Home and build 6 affordable houses - four 3 bedroom houses and two 2 bedroom houses. Houses will be built to a high specification with solar, batteries and good insulation. The housing will have sufficient parking for residents. The BCC is supportive of this proposal (Update: 17/11/2025 - The application has been approved with conditions. Craig will update BCC on the conditions at next meeting).

Dormer extension (Ref. 25/00601/FUL)

An application was submitted for a dormer extension at 9 Burns Begg Crescent, Balfron, G63 0NR. The BCC does not have any comments on this proposal.

Full details of all planning applications can be found here:

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

10) Chair's report

A resident contacted Stuart about their concern of low community police numbers; Stuart has passed this on to Police Scotland and Cllr McGarvey. Another resident was in touch that first aid courses for Duke of Edinburgh leaders are no longer funded; Stuart will look for other routes to funding or training (e.g. Trossachs Search and Rescue). The MacRobert Art Centre (Stirling University) has invited Balfron to support an initiative to have an artist in residence to be involved in the community - BCC agreed to support this.

11) AOB

Use of Registry Office

The Baptist Church has received planning permission to make changes to the registry office to turn it into a community hub.

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 (aged +16). 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/>

12) Next meeting 4th December 2025 at 7:30pm in BHS (possibly at McLintock Hall).

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