



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 2nd October 2025

1) Welcome, recording of those present, apologies

Present: Stuart Freckingham (Chair), Craig Potter (Vice Chair), Chelsea McKinnon (Member), Alison Limbert (Member), Sue Bell (Treasurer), Stuart Duffy (Member), Laura Shaw (Minutes)

Apologies: Fiona Shaw (Member)

In Attendance: Jim Thomson (Visitor), Ian Denvir (Stirling Council; Visitor), Andy Ireland (Start Up Stirling; Visitor), Craig Anderson (Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau; Visitor)

2) Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the meeting on 4th September 2025 were proposed by Craig Potter and seconded by Alison Limbert.

3) Offer of Full Membership

The Balfron Community Council invites Stuart Duffy and Chelsea McKinnon to become full members of the BCC. Both Stuart and Chelsea accepted this offer and are now full members.

3) Matters Arising

Signage in the village

Jim Thomson attended the meeting to propose a new idea for signage at the top end of Dunmore Street by the roundabout. The sign would include history on the east of the village. BCC agreed that this is a good initiative and that more signage was suggested in the Local Place Plan. BCC will raise a query with Stirling Council about who owns the patch of grass with the existing green 'Welcome' signs.

Action: BCC

Start Up Stirling

Andy Ireland (Start Up Stirling) and Craig Anderson (Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau) joined the meeting to propose a new community hub and advice centre in Balfron. There are already community hubs and advice centres in Callendar, Bannockburn, Killin and Buchlyvie that are well attended. They provide free tea, coffee, lunches, a warm place to meet others in the community, and a food bank. In Callendar, they also provide a counselling service and hardship fund. They run a referrals system for further support (e.g. energy insecurity, social isolation, mental health, veterans homelessness support).

They are proposing a free community cafe in McKlintock Hall and will donate any unused food to the phonebox. BCC will send Start Up Stirling more details about the lunch clubs and social events that take place so that their service doesn't clash with another.

Action: BCC

More information about their support can be found here: <https://startupstirling.org.uk/>

Remembrance Sunday

Craig will ask Stirling Council roads department for the form to close the road for a few hours on Sunday 9th November.

Christmas tree light switch on

The Christmas tree light switch on at the Tontine corner will take place on Sunday 7th December at 4pm. Stuart will contact Duff trees to arrange a Christmas tree, the group responsible for the Christmas lamppost lights to find out when they will be switched on, and the school to arrange the choir singing. Craig will contact the Co-op to request festive refreshments and Morrisons to ask if they would like to donate something to whoever switches on the lights.

Secretary position

This role will be shared between Craig and Stuart until the post is filled.

Resilience Plan

Craig has put in an expression of interest for funding from FEL for a Community Action Plan and Resilience Plan.

4) Declarations of Interest

None.

5) Projects

Apple Day

Chelsea updated the meeting. The apple day was successful and the group raised money to cover their annual insurance. Chelsea is going to apply for funding for a community apple press.

Action: CM

6) Police Report

Road traffic

A driver was stopped on A811 by Road Policing officers and charged with Careless Driving. The driver was issued with a Conditional Offer.

Theft by shoplifting / assault of retail worker

A theft was reported from a local convenience store during which a number of items were stolen. On leaving the premises the male suspect pushed past a member of staff. Enquiries were carried out however the suspect was not identified.

A report was received in relation to an incident where two male suspects entered a local convenience store, stole several items before leaving the premises. One of the male suspects returned some time later and stole further items. On leaving the store the male suspect pushed past a member of staff. Enquiries were carried out however the suspect was not identified.

Anti-social behaviour

A report was received of a male suspect acting in a threatening and abusive manner and causing damage to the victim's front door. Enquiries into this incident are ongoing.

Incidents of note

A report was received in regard to a fraudulent scheme. The reporter was contacted by someone reporting to be from John Lewis (reporter has a credit card through the company) and who advised the reporter there had been a considerable amount of money taken from their account. The reporter immediately suspected this to be a scam so hung up and went to check her credit card balance, which was in order.

7) Elected Councillor's report

None.

8) Treasurer report

Sue updated the meeting. She has received notification of the annual admin grant; this is £321, plus money for the monthly minutes. The next payment for the phonebox is in November from the Co-op. Sue has received a purchase order from the school to fully replace the trim trail in October. The BCC agreed that they will give £2000 to support the fundraising for the trim trail. Sue has also received money from the apple day fundraising.

9) Planning report

There has been one new application this month. This is a change of use of Unit 1 at Balfron Business Hub (25/00442/FUL) from storage and distribution to a day-care facility for dogs. Stirling Roads commented about potential increased traffic but has no objections and they think there is adequate parking.

10) Chair's report

A resident contacted Stuart about the slippiness of the pavements around The Clachan due to moss. They have contacted Stirling Council and this will be sorted before Remembrance Sunday.

11) 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 (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 6th November 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.

