



# BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting 5th March 2026

### 1) Welcome, recording of those present, apologies

**Present:** Stuart Freckingham (Chair) Craig Potter (Vice Chair), Fiona Shaw (Member), Stuart Duffy (Member), Sue Bell (Treasurer), Chelsea McKinnon (Member), Michelle Gifford (Coopted Member), Rosemary Fraser (Councillor),

**Apologies:** Carol Harvey (Nominated Coopted Member).

**In Attendance:** PC Matt McCammon, PC Darren Gibson

### 2) Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the meeting on 5th February 2026 were proposed by Craig Potter and seconded by Fiona Shaw.

### 3) Cooption Nomination Forms Received

BCC received two Cooption Nomination Forms, as anticipated, from Michelle Gifford and Carol Harvey. No other nomination forms were received following advertising of the opportunity in early February.

### 4) Cooption of New Members

Michelle Gifford was coopted onto BCC with unanimous support from all BCC members. Michelle was welcomed aboard and informed that she would be required to attend 3 meetings before she was eligible to become a full member.

Carol Harvey had sent her apologies that she was not able to attend the meeting as she was on holiday. Hence, she will be coopted at the next meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.

### 5) Matters Arising

#### New Proposed Recycling Facility

Craig asked if anyone had received comments from the community about the new proposed recycling facility. No comments had been received. This could potentially be due to people being OK about the proposal, although it is suspected that many in the community are still not aware of the proposal. Hence, it was agreed there needs to be more advertising e.g. via Facebook, to raise awareness. Once, further advertising and comments have been received Craig intends to write to Stirling Council with a summary of comments. Action: **CP**

#### Communications Improvements

Stuart Duffy reported back to BCC following discussions with Derek Townsend during February. Stuart recommends a number of actions to improve communications, which includes: Enhanced Digital Presence - Updating the community council website for easier access to information and

ensuring it's user-friendly; Social Media Engagement - Utilizing platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok to reach a broader audience, with proposals to increase engagement through posts, videos, and regular updates about community events; Community Newsletters - Implementing monthly newsletters that would be printed and distributed in local spaces, including notices about events, updates on council activities, and important announcements, ensuring they are visually appealing and easy to read; QR Codes - Using QR codes in newsletters and public notices to link directly to more detailed online information, making it easier for residents to access resources; Collaboration with Local Groups - Encouraging local organizations and groups to contribute information for newsletters and other communication channels, fostering a network of community engagement; Feedback Mechanisms - Establishing methods for residents to provide comments or concerns, such as through emails or social media, encouraging two-way communication; Community Events - Hosting events such as open sessions or discussions, including the one about the King's Highway project, to gather public input and feedback directly from residents.

## **5) Declarations of Interest**

None.

## **6) Projects**

### Community Orchard

Chelsea updated BCC about the Balfron Community Orchard and the intention to purchase a new apple press. This could potentially be used by other community orchard groups e.g. Dunblane (Rosemary Fraser et al).

### Resilience Plan

Craig informed BCC that Frank Deas from SWSCAN had requested someone from BCC to be the main contact for the development of a Balfron Resilience Plan. Frank indicated that SWSCAN intends to develop a template for communities to follow. Craig has agreed to be the main contact for Balfron and will keep BCC informed as things progress.

## **7) Police Report**

Two police officers were present at the meeting. They informed BCC of recent developments. One positive development is that two police community officers are now reinstated for the area. Recent crime in the area included a youth charged with carrying a weapon to high school; vehicle incidents including petrol theft from the garage; and concerns regarding quad bike thefts in the area.

## **8) Elected Councilor's report**

Rosemary reported on recent Stirling Council news. The analysis of this year's Big Conversation has now been undertaken, which has influenced the budget allocation. Council tax for the Stirling area has increased by 8.7%. There was also mention of the forthcoming visitor levy, with one of the benefits being the creation of a community fund, which will be accessible to local communities such as Balfron.

There was also discussion about the forthcoming management changes at Balfroon High School and how this is affecting fees for local groups and businesses that use the school facilities. The proposed new costs are very high. Stuart F will forward emails to Rosemary about the issue.

### **8) Treasurer report**

Sue updated the meeting on the financial position. It was noted that the phone box budget will be exhausted in April and that the fruit and veg deliveries will be stopped. Chelsea agreed to investigate other possible sources of funds.

Members agreed there was no change needed to the fixed asset list for insurance and Sue will forward this to Stirling Council during March.

### **9) Planning report**

There were two new applications this month.

#### 1. Erection of agricultural building

Meikle Camoquhill Balfroon G63 0QW

Ref. No: 26/00093/NAG | Received: Thu 19 Feb 2026 | Validated: Mon 23 Feb 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

**BCC Response:** No Comment

#### 2. Erection of dwellinghouse in principle

Land Adjacent And North Of 147 - 149 Buchanan Street Balfroon

Ref. No: 26/00076/PPP | Received: Thu 12 Feb 2026 | Validated: Mon 16 Feb 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision

**BCC Comment:** There were a few concerns raised about this application. The access to the front of property across the pavement, and in close proximity to the pelican crossing is considered problematic. Also, is a house in this location the most appropriate use for the space, given that all surrounding properties include shop frontage? Craig has agreed to submit comments on behalf of BCC.

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**

Stuart F informed BCC that the Kings Highway project has been resurrected and a series of consultation events are planned.

### **11) AOB**

Chelsea is intending to attend one of Kings Highway project events. She is also intending to attend the forthcoming SWSCAN AGM and report back to BCC.

Craig has been approached from the University of Glasgow about BCC experience of creating its Local Place Plan. Craig has agreed to have a Zoom call with some students, and attend a workshop on the 19<sup>th</sup> March at the university.

**12) Next meeting 2nd April 2026, 7.30pm, at Balfroon High School. All welcome.**

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