



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 2nd April 2025

1) Welcome, recording of those present, apologies

Present: Craig Potter (Vice Chair), Fiona Shaw (Member), Michelle Gifford (Coopted Member), Carol Harvey (Nominated Coopted Member), Stuart Freckingham (Chair)

Apologies: Sue Bell (Treasurer), Chelsea McKinnon (Member), Stuart Duffy (Member),

In Attendance: PC Darren Gibson, Archie Steel, Trish Steel, George Harvey, Callum Jackson, David Maxwell, Dayle Tucker, Louis McIlheron, Les McIlheron, Andy Wilson, David McFren, John More, Joan More.

2) Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the meeting on 5th March 2025 were proposed by Craig Potter and seconded by Fiona Shaw.

3) Cooption Nomination Forms Received

As reported in March, 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

Carol Harvey and Michelle Gifford were coopted onto BCC with unanimous support from all BCC members. Carol and Michelle were welcomed aboard and informed that they would be required to attend 3 meetings before they were eligible to become full members. This record supersedes the cooption of new members record in the minutes from the 5th March 2026.

5) Matters Arising

Thefts from local farms.

Many local farmers attended the meeting to raise concerns directly with the police over the continuing high numbers of thefts locally directed specifically at these businesses. This was a lengthy, wide ranging and good natured discussion and these minutes do not seek to record the full discussion. Listed below is a summation of the main points raised but it is noted that those present have reservations over police numbers and how they respond to these incidents.

Concern was also raised over the safety of workers who may encounter criminals during their day-to-day activities.

- Communication between the centralised reporting room and local officers was noted as poor with too long a time between reporting and investigation;
- Farms across a large area are being targeted and drone use appears to be a common factor;

- Police response to rural crime appears to lack priority. This is particularly frustrating due to spring being a very busy time of year for farmers;
- PC Gibson stated that police across the region are coordinating and feedback is shared;
- PC Gibson offered to attend the next NFU branch meeting.

5) Declarations of Interest

None.

6) Projects

No update due to lack of time.

7) Police Report

One police officer was present at the meeting. Latest police report is appended to these minutes.

8) Elected Councilor's report

None present.

8) Treasurer report

Noted that there is only £110 remaining in the phone box budget.

Since last meeting we have made payments for fruit & veg for the phone box, and also for the web domains and hosting following majority agreement via What's App to continue with Webreturn for the next year.

We have received £35 interest on savings.

The asset list for insurance was submitted to Stirling Council discussed last month.

Our financial year finishes on March 31st. Sue will make up the accounts and seek approval by an independent examiner in time for the AGM.

9) Planning report

1. As reported in March, Craig submitted a comment on the proposed erection of dwellinghouse in principle on land adjacent and north of 147 - 149 Buchanan Street Balfour (26/00076/PPP). Comments submitted as follows:

* The proposed parking to the front of the property would be very disruptive. Creating access, in the location indicated on the plan, would create significant safety issues. The pavement area is one of the busiest in the village and particularly at lunchtimes when the school children come into the village centre. The proposed access is also considered incompatible with the location of the pelican crossing. We note that the Design Statement does indicate that access to the rear of the proposed property is possible so this should potentially be explored in more detail.

* The area of the proposed dwelling is largely dedicated to commercial properties (shops), some with flats above. Whilst we acknowledge that a domestic dwelling in this location is possible, it may be more appropriate to consider a property with a shop frontage with

accommodation above and to the rear. On a final note, we acknowledge that the proposed property is intended to be low carbon and integrate energy efficiency measures and renewable technologies. We certainly support these elements. However, in general, we do have significant concerns and that the design needs to be reconsidered.

2. Craig has requested an update on the 'call for ideas (sites)' to attempt to have some sight of where there is proposed development planned and potentially included in the forthcoming LDP.

3. Craig submitted comments to Stirling Council re. the proposed recycling facility as discussed this at the meeting in February.

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 local resident has proposed a community litter pick to help Isabel Mitchel who is currently unable to carry out her much appreciated work keeping the village clean. A date is to be fixed for this, but a suggestion was raised to involve the primary school. By coincidence Stirling Council are also keen to promote such activities and Stuart will contact both Stirling Council and Balforn primary school for suitable dates.

11) AOB

Nothing raised due to lack of time.

12) Next meeting Thursday 7th May 2026, 7.30pm, at Balforn 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