



Minutes of Meeting on 2nd December 2021

Present: Colin Cameron (Chair), Alison Limbert (Secretary), Christine Wilson (Treasurer), Fraser Allan, Alison Lamont Chalmers, John Nicholson, Luci Rooney

In attendance: Councillor Alistair Berrill

Apologies: Robert Young (Vice-chair), Claudia Duncan

Minutes were taken by Christine Wilson as the Community Council is still seeking to appoint a minute taker.

1. Recording of Declarations of Interest

None

2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the meeting on 7 November 2021 were proposed as accurate by Alison Limbert and seconded by Alison Lamont Chalmers.

3. Matters arising

- a) *Endrick Gardens-Buchanan St path* – Stirling Council has not yet had responses to the legal letters sent to the owner/occupiers of the properties that have extended their boundaries.
- b) As agreed at the last meeting Cllr. Davies raised access to the school broadband network with the Education Department to enable hybrid meetings of the Community Council. This was refused on the grounds of security. The meeting felt this was short-sighted and obstructive and Cllr. Berrill agreed to challenge the decision. **ACTION: Cllr. Berrill**
- c) The online workshops to prepare for the Scottish Census 2022 will not be recorded for distribution.

4. Projects

- a) *Space for Living*: this will be removed from the agenda until work recommences in 2022.
- b) *Phone box refurbishment*: The phone box has been taken away for refurbishment with our thanks to Alan Cuthbert for his help. Robert is to contact Alex Hailstones to put in the new base and surrounds. **ACTION: RY**
Luci reported that the temporary replacement boxes are still being used but not as much as previously, possibly because they are less accessible than the phone box. Luci will explore options for raising them. **ACTION: LR**
The National Lottery Community Fund wants to promote the project. Christine will set up a meeting. **ACTION: CW**

5. Police Report

The police report is available on the BCC website and noticeboards.

6. Elected Councillor's report

- Consultations open to the public via the Engage Stirling portal include rent on council houses, restricting access to dogs in play parks, educational placement requests, early learning, and a consultation on public transportation around Stirling. Concerns were raised by BCC members about the focus of this purely on Stirling and its Park & Ride services. It misses the opportunity to look at the needs for a sustainable public transport service for rural communities and what can be done to minimise the use of cars. Members of the community are encouraged to make their views known. Cllr. Berrill pointed out the need for central government to take action on this.
- Christine noted the upcoming road closure of Spokers Loan to enable Scottish Water repairs. She raised concerns that this would damage the newly laid road design. She will monitor the work and flag any problems. **ACTION: CW**
- Cllr. Berrill noted that he is now on the board of the Loch Lomond National Park if there are any issues to be raised.

7. Treasurer report

- £45.98 paid to cover 2 new temporary plastic boxes to hold donated food while phone box is under repair.

8. Planning report

A planning application has been submitted for a change of use for Shearer's Garage – fuel pumps and a shop. BCC welcomed the retention of a fuel station in the village but expressed disappointment and surprise that no electric vehicle charging points appear on the plan. A comment will be submitted via the Planning Portal. **Action: RY**

Details of all applications are available at <https://pabs.stirling.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

9. Chair - including Correspondence

- a) The Toll plaque has been removed for refurbishment – arranged by Jim Thompson on behalf of Balfron Heritage Group.
- b) Bins – there was an issue with the first monthly grey bin collection where a number of areas in the village were not covered. Colin contacted SC to chase this down and bins were finally collected. Also noted that White Yett's Glen had missed out on one glass collection also.
- c) Thanks noted to Fraser for volunteering to be the BCC rep on the Donaldson Trust Board.
- d) The Hub 63 are looking for volunteers in a number of areas. This will be publicised on the BCC Facebook page. **ACTION: Ali**

10. Christmas Plans

- a) Thanks to Claudia for arranging delivery of the Christmas trees, and a big thank you to Euan Duff of the Buchlyvie Christmas Tree Farm for donating them. They will be erected on Saturday 4th December.
- b) AlisonL will lead the switching-on ceremony outside the library at 4.30pm on Wednesday 8th, with special guest Elsie Andrews and the children from Balfron Primary School. Christine will arrange for the Tontine lights to be switched on later in the evening (no ceremony).
- c) Our Christmas Elf is considering options for a village tour on Christmas Eve. **ACTION: LC**

11. War Memorial Repairs

- a) War memorial dressed stone around the WW2 plaque is crumbling. Christine has contacted the conservationists who worked on the memorial in 2017/18. They will assess what needs to be done when they return the Toll Plaque. The War Memorial budget will cover the cost of the initial assessment work.

12. Update on Bridges

- a) The latest public meeting was attended by John. £1.5m to cover repairs of both Branshogle and Catterburn bridges. Meeting focused on Branshogle. A Contractor has been appointed and work started. Completion date not confirmed, but best endeavours will be deployed to open single lane at weekends asap.
- b) SC assessing all roads by 16th Dec that have been used for diversions, with aim to patch and repair as required.
- c) Diversion signs continue to be ineffective. Signs at Blane Smithy highlighting low bridge not illuminated, resulting in HGVs doing u-turns. Ballat crossing signs similarly inadequate.
- d) AlisonL raised the issue that Balfron 10K route, planned late April / early May, normally uses the Honeyholm Road, and had contacted SC to check the impact of a road closure for the duration. Alternative routes were also considered, but all involved closing a diversion road while Branshogle closed. Risk remains that bridge will not be repaired in time for 10K.

13. AOB

- Luci's proposal to research a Day in the Life of a blue bin has received no response from SC since September. Cllr. Berrill offered to follow up, and AlisonL suggested a chat with Dollar Community Development Trust over their related work for a recent Sustainability Festival.
Action: Cllr. Berrill /Luci
- The sandpit in Donaldson Park is empty. New sand has been requested but delayed due to Grounds staff working on storm repairs as a priority. Christine will remove the green box and most of the play items for the winter and purchase new play items to put out in Spring. AlisonL to let the village know on Facebook. **Action: CW/Ali**
- As the Community Council now has a break in January, Colin thanked all members and ward councillors for their commitment and wished them – and the wider community – a very happy and safe festive season.

Next meeting - **Thursday 3rd February 2022** at 7.30pm, Balfron High School