

BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 3rd APRIL 2008

IN BALFRON CAMPUS

Present: Bill Astley-Jones, Gary Scott, Mary Young, Jean Browning, Sandy Shearlaw and Alison McGregor.

In attendance: Archie Bell, Gladys Farquharson, Pam Campbell, Elizabeth Holmes and PC Campbell Dunn.

1. **Welcome:** Bill, the chairman, welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. **Apologies:** Councillor Colin O'Brien, John McLean and Anne Fleming.

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved and their adoption proposed by Mary Young and seconded by Alison McGregor.

4. Matter Arising

4.1 Signposts to Balfron: No action had been taken by Stirling Council to install a signpost to Balfron at the turn off from the A811 and it was agreed to invite Alan Ogilvie from the roads department to the next CC meeting to discuss this. The pothole at the exit of the Co-op car park was also discussed and Pam advised reporting this direct to the council roads department by telephone or email.

4.2 High School Turbines: Pam advised the CC to contact Dave Thoroughgood at Stirling Council to ask if the wind turbines at the high school required planning permission or not.

4.3 Website: Bill had not contacted the high school teacher Douglas Bell about involving pupils in the running and maintenance of the CC website but agreed to do so for the next meeting.

5. Police Report

PC Campbell Dunn said the complaints from local residents about young people hanging about the street adjacent to the Co-op and the houses across the road causing disturbance and annoyance had received considerable police attention since the last CC meeting. This had entailed moving the young people away from the area and patrols round the village by plain clothes police officers. Three people had been charged with various offences and the problem appeared to have diminished considerably. Local shops' policy on the sale of alcohol to young people had also been tested. Nine calls had been received by the police reporting anti social behaviour in and around Buchanan Street and in other parts of the village. Bill had also spoken at length with PC Dunn about the complaints the CC had received about youth disorder in the village. There had been four drug related crimes reported in the high school recently despite PC Dunn carrying out drug awareness education with 1st years during January and February. He had also been speaking to Balfron Fire Cadets on the same topic. Two people had been reported for supply of drugs in the village and there had been one theft reported.

6. Finance: Sandy reported that the balance at the bank in March was £4361.84 but he had banked a further £700 since the statement had been received which was income from the photocopier. This brought the total to over £5000. He suggested that the CC should replace the photocopier with a more up to date model and he had asked Carol Murphy, the librarian, to make enquires about the price of another copier. Sandy was also going to approach Stirling Council to see if it would be possible to get a grant towards buying the new equipment. Pam said it might be possible for the CC to get a £1000 from the council's community grants. Jean asked if it would be possible for the CC to give £500 to the Donaldson Trust to help with the costs of extending the path in the Donaldson Park. Sandy said that this might be possible. Mary and Gary were looking into the possibility of resuming the Hogmanay celebrations in the Co-op car park without the fireworks. The high cost of insurance cover for the event had been the reason for it being stopped and this would need to be explored before anything further could be done. Gary suggested that the CC and the Community Futures Trust might join together for

this to raise the profile of both local organisations. Sandy said that there was money available to support this.

7. Planning

Gary said that Councillor Colin O'Brien had written to say that the proposed plans for 11 five or six bedroomed houses on the gap site on Donaldson Way was being re-drafted so that the houses faced out on to the street. He was also going to challenge the new plan. The developers, West Point Homes, might also be expected to develop the proposed children's play area.

Keith Harvey of Careth Landscapes had received outline planning permission for a house and storage yard on land at the entrance to Meikle Camoquhill. The house would be subject to section 75 order which stipulated that the house would be tied to the business.

8. Items of Other Specific Interest

8.1 Proposed Wind Farm at Ballindalloch Muir:

Mary said that there was currently a lull. The Scottish Government was asking Stirling Council why the planning panel had approved the plan for a wind farm at Craigengelt, near Stirling, against the planning officials' recommendations. The landscape sensitivity report produced by Stirling Council, SNH and LLTNP, endorsed by Councillors, had drawn the conclusion that there was little further scope for wind farm development in the council area. However, it was unlikely that npower would pull back from the development at this stage. The end of the Council's statutory deliberation period is mid-May. Both Scottish Natural Heritage and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park authority had objected to the proposal. Bill said that a letter was being sent to the Scottish Government on behalf of four local community councils, including Balfron, about the poor communications by npower with regard to the proposals.

8.2 Extension to National Park: The CC agreed to write in support of a letter written to the Scottish Government by Mike Stone, the former CC chairman, asking for an extension of the current national park boundaries to include Balfron and the Endrick Valley.

8.3 Traffic Speed in the Village: The issue of speeding traffic entering the village was discussed. Members felt that the flashing signs asking motorists to reduce their speed would be appropriate to address this issue. As nothing further had been heard about the Safer Routes to School initiative, Pam offered to make further enquiries about this. She also suggested that the CC ask a roads official to come out and see if it would be possible to site a flashing "slow" sign at the entrance to the village.

9. Correspondence

- Community Council training session on changes to planning regulations on 26th April from 9.30am until 12 noon in the Municipal Buildings. Gary would attend this on behalf of the CC.

10. A. O. B.

a) Jean said that the bushes in Dunmore Street had now been cut back.

b) It was agreed to ask Mr and Mrs Scrimgeour to present the retirement gift to Jimmy and Marilyn McLellan who had previously run the newsagent and Post Office in the village.

c) Jean asked about the proposed bridge over the River Endrick. Elizabeth explained that the bridge was part of the proposed West Stirlingshire Communities Trail which was being developed by BCFDT. Three out of the four landowners who would be affected by the proposal had not replied to letters sent by BCFDT asking for their views.

d) Archie asked if there had been response to the CC's letter to Carvill Homes re the state of the woodland behind Dunkeld Court as its condition remained very bad. No reply had been received

Date of next meeting --- **Thursday, 15th April 2008 at 7.30pm** in Balfron Campus.