

## BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2008

### IN BALFRON CAMPUS

**Present:** Bill Astley-Jones, Jean Browning, Anne Fleming, Gary Scott, Mary Young, Alison McGregor, John McLean and Betty McVean.

**In attendance:** Councillor Colin O'Brien, Pam Campbell, Elizabeth Holmes and Mr and Mrs Harvey.

1. **Welcome:** Bill, as chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. **Apologies:** Sandy Shearlaw, PC Campbell Dunn, Kate Griffith and Archie Bell.

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Their adoption was moved by Alison and seconded by Mary.

#### 4. Matters Arising

4.1 **Signposts to Balfron:** Bill said he would write to Stirling Council as the direction signs to Balfron, promised 12 months ago, had not materialised.

4.2 **School Turbines:** Bill had spoken on the phone to Val Corry, the Balfron High School headteacher, but nothing further had happened. It was agreed to leave the item on the agenda so that the CC could monitor the situation.

4.3 **Website:** Jean had ascertained the teacher contact in the high school for the CC to speak to about high school pupils maintaining the website. It was agreed that Bill should contact the teacher, Mr Douglas Bell, and discuss the proposal that the senior pupils should be invited to look after the website. Other issues that would require to be addressed were the content and format. Both Killlearn and Arnprior had websites which could be seen as examples of layout and content. Jean said that Mike Stone, the former chairman, had been contacted by the company which held the domain name for the website asking for the annual fee.

#### 5. Police Report

Constable Dunn submitted a written report to the meeting which Jean read. Four incidents of vandalism, including spray painting in Kirkmill Road and Banker's Brae, and a car scratched in Strathview Terrace, had occurred since the last CC meeting. Persons should be charged with these offences in the near future.

PC Dunn also reported an increase in anti-social behaviour in Buchanan Street which coincided with the school spring break. One person was charged with a breach of the peace and others warned or taken home to parents. Police patrols have been increased as a result of this, including plain clothes officers keeping observations and this will continue for the foreseeable future.

Following the police report, the CC heard from Buchanan Street residents and councillors the extent of the anti-social behaviour which was centred at the bus shelter and outside the Co-op. The behaviour of a large group of young people aged between 12 and 16 was causing considerable nuisance, annoyance and disturbance to residents in the street and customers at the shop. One particular house and its owners were being targeted and it was also noted that the young people had been drinking. The meeting discussed whether removing the bus shelter would help solve the problem but Pam pointed out that the community had identified that the bus shelters in the village were inadequate and there would need to be discussions with other village residents if it was to be re sited so that it did not become a problem elsewhere. Bill also agreed to contact senior officers in Central Scotland Police to discuss the issue with them and impress upon them the need to resolve the issue.

**6. Finance:** The current balance in the bank was £4462.65. Jean had attended a meeting of the Donaldson Park Trust in Sandy's absence which discussed extending the footpath in the park. Jean suggested that the CC might like to make a contribution towards the cost of this. She also said that the CC should consider buying a new photocopier for the library.

## **7. Planning Matters**

1. The CC had submitted an objection to the planning application for 11 executive style homes on the gap site at Donaldson Way. Councillor O'Brien stated that the application had provoked interest from residents in Barnwell Drive and Donaldson Way. He would be challenging the application and said that the access to the development would be a matter of some debate.

2. The CC was taking a neutral stance on an application for a new house in Dunmore Street.

3. **Proposed Wind Farm at Ballindalloch Muir:** Bill had written a letter of objection about the wind farm development on behalf of the CC, the main objections being on environmental grounds, noise and the effect on air traffic in the area. He said that the new houses proposed for Kiltrochan Drive would be 1750 metres from the nearest turbine. A holding letter objecting to the plans had already been sent to Stirling Council planners. Councillor O'Brien said that council planning officials were unlikely to deal with the application until May, if not later. Stirling Council were in the process of producing a report on areas where it was suitable or unsuitable to site wind farm developments. Pam said the report should be available from 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**8. Items of Other Specific Business:** There were no matters under this heading.

## **9. Correspondence**

- An email address was requested to advise consultees about planning regulation changes, Gary agreed that he should be the contact.
- Notification of the Areas Forum meeting in Balfron on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> February.
- Letter from Anne McGuire about a meeting in the Smith Art Gallery, Stirling, which would be attended by Douglas Alexander MP.

## **10. A. O. B.**

a) Mary had received complaints about over hanging bushes in Dunmore Street. It was the landowners responsibility to trim these.

b) The banking firm HSBC were keen to offer funding for community council projects nationwide.

c) Local residents were organising a retirement gift for Jimmy and Marilyn McLellan, who ran the Post Office and newsagents in the village. Contributions could be made at the library.

Date of next meeting --- **Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008 at 7.30pm** in Balfron Campus.

