



Minutes of the meeting held on

9th October 2019

I. Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Ken Smith (Chair), Michele Bennett, Hendy Spence, Meg Duckworth (Planning/Licensing)
- Councillor Robert Davies
- 1 member of the public
- **Apologies:** Sue Wallace (Treasurer), Angela May (Secretary), Karen Milliken

II. Declaration of interest in any items of business

None

III. Approval of Minutes of last meeting:

To be approved.

IV. Stirling Councillor's Report

- At a meeting held last week, Stirling Council discussed the climate emergency; Brian Roberts presented the capital budget and it was confirmed that four percent of the roads will be renewed although it was also noted that there is a £17 million backlog for road repairs.
- Councillor Davies confirmed that the new bus timetable for Balfron will commence on 21st October 2019.
- A planning application has been submitted for proposed visitor facilities, car park and new junction at Finnich Glen.

V. Police Report

- It has been a fairly quiet period in the village in relation to calls and crime over the last month which of course is good news for residents and Police alike.
- ROAD TRAFFIC - A report was received in relation to a possible drunk driver in the village. Police attended immediately and ascertained that it was in fact an elderly driver, not drunk, all in order and relevant advice given.
There was a report of a Road Traffic Collision whereby a vehicle had struck a parked vehicle and failed to stop. Enquiries are still ongoing to trace the offending vehicle and driver.
- THEFT - There have been no reported theft in the village since the last report. I have however again submitted information we have been given in relation to anti-snap locks at the end of the report for home security. There have been reports in relation to suspicious vehicles and persons in other various surrounding villages. Police will always attend to these incidents with the surrounding areas been checked thoroughly with a negative result. As stated previously, the reporting of these incidents are always welcomed and will be dealt with immediately. There was a 'no speech' 999 call received. The caller was swiftly traced and it was verified that his mobile phone had activated in his pocket and all in order.
- SHUT OUT SCAMMERS - Doorstep Crime affects some of the most vulnerable within our communities. It manifests in many forms including online and telephone scams, exploitation

by persons known to the victim and the fraudulent activities of unscrupulous persons purporting to be bona fide tradespeople. There is no specific look to a bogus caller or rogue trader. If you have any concerns at all, do not allow an individual entry to your home, or provide them with any form of payment and do not hesitate to phone the police immediately. Always ask for ID and only let callers in if they have an appointment and you know that they are genuine. If you would like to receive any of our advice and guidance on preventing crime then you can visit your local police station, call 101 or visit our dedicated webpage at <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/Shut-Out-Scammers>.

- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REASSURANCE - PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are the only community ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area, based at Balfron Police Office. They can be contacted at Balfron Police Office, on 101, or by emailing ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. Please contact us at Balfron should there be any issues you would like to discuss and we will be delighted to assist. Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision
www.facebook.com/policescotland
www.twitter.com/stirlingpol
www.twitter.com/policescotland
- NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT - This is a community messaging system which sends alerts regarding crime, safety and resilience to communities. Ruralwatch is an information platform that has been set up by what was formerly Neighbourhood Watch; however the big difference being that any members of the local community can sign up to have the relevant alerts sent to them by various means including E-mail or Text message. To receive free alerts simply register at:
www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk Neighbourhood Alert
- PREVENTION IS THE CURE - Are you considering upgrading the locks on your external doors? Europrofile cylinders tested and certificated to the following standards should be considered:
 - a) Door Hardware Federation Technical Standard 007 (DHF TS 007) - 3-Star rating,
 - b) DHF TS 007 1-star cylinder may be utilised if accompanied by DHF TS 007 2-star external hardware (handle set or secure escutcheon) or cylinder protection.
 - c) Sold Secure SS312 (Diamond) standard cylinders;

How do I know if I have anti snap locks? Essentially there are two ways you can ensure the euro cylinder locks on your doors are anti-snap proof:

1. The lock is an SS312 Diamond Approved Cylinder (as below) SS312 Diamond is the highest level of approval for a euro cylinder lock.
2. Look out for the 3 Star Kitemark Logo

If your lock has the 3-Star Kitemark Logo on it, this indicates the lock is tested against snapping.



For further information on enhanced security products including doors, windows, glass and locking mechanism please go to www.securedbydesign.com and www.policescotland.co.uk

VI. Planning

- An application for two self-catering holiday chalets at Overton Farm has been approved.
- An application for an extension to a dwelling house at 19, Main Street for Ms Christina Pollock has been approved and an application for the demolition of the front wall of a cottage at 17, Main Street for Ms Christina Pollock has been approved with conditions.
- An application has been lodged for planning permission to erect a house on land south east of Buckingham Cottage.

VII. Cemetery Path

- There are still a few snagging issues to be completed including drainage, repair of the dry stone wall and erection of gates. The West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association have offered to repair the wall in March and will be happy to have any volunteers to come and assist and learn about dry stone walling. The gates are on order and will be fitted as soon as possible.
- Michele noted that all the contractors involved including Bob Pollock had worked really hard on the project and asked that Robert Rodgers be thanked formally for his help with storing vehicles amongst other things.
- Michele had met with Nicky Wallace from the Roads Department to ask if the grass verge leading from the Manse to the start of the Cemetery Path could be replaced by stones which are more appropriate for prams etc.

VIII. Roads

- A traffic order has been issued and signed for the 20 M.P.H. speed limits through the village and for double yellow lines around the junction of Main Street and Kippen Road so this work should commence within the next eight weeks.
- It was noted that flooding on the road near Clochburn has got worse recently. This has been reported to Stirling Council.
- The car park at the cemetery is due to be resurfaced.
- A recently published document regarding Stirling Council's parking policy did not include any proposals for Fintry.

IX. Kingsburn Grants

- Applications for both the macro and micro-grants are open until 17th November and a decision will be made by 15th December.

X. Culcreuch Castle Hotel

- Culcreuch Castle Hotel will be closing on 3rd January 2020. No further information is available.
- Councillor Davies will pass the information on to Stirling Council's economic department as the closure will have an impact on other local businesses as well as causing job losses for around 35 local people.
- There was some discussion over whether Historic Environment Scotland and The National Trust for Scotland should be notified as the castle is a Category A listed building.

XI. Sub groups update (Five year plan/village feature)

- Some progress has been made but Karen was not present at the meeting to give an update.

XII. Correspondence

- Correspondence had been received from Mr. McKnight regarding the removal of the Himalayan Balsam along the riverside path and the state of the path behind the Sports Centre. Advice had been taken about the Himalayan Balsam before it was tackled and the advice had been to uproot it and then leave it there to rot. It had previously been agreed not to commence any improvements to the path behind the Sports Centre until work had been completed on the Fintry Museum.

XIII. A.O.B.

- Funding has been obtained for a bench along the riverside path and for the replacement of one of the picnic benches in the Community Garden.
- Resilience funding – An application to the Prince's Countryside Trust is to be submitted for facilities in the Kirk Session House including a generator, an oven and a disabled ramp. Local tradesmen will be asked to give quotes for the work. Applications have also been made for funding for a generator and shed at the Menzies Hall.
- The Balfron Scout Group are interested in helping with the tree planting as part of a badge they can get and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) will be talking to the school soon to try and get them involved.
- SEPA have been making a video about flooding issues and how communities deal with the problems and have included Fintry and some members of FCC.

XIV. Questions from the floor

- Mrs. Roy commented that she was critical about the amount of public contact the FCC has with the community. The agenda for the meeting was not posted in the Sports Centre. Mrs. Roy felt it was a shame when the FCC are doing such good work that the community may not be aware of what was being done. It was agreed that the agenda should be posted in a couple of places around the village and maybe on Facebook. Ken will look into why the agenda was not posted this time.
- Also with regard to community contact, it was noted that the FCC no longer has representatives attending Sports Centre and FDT meetings. Ken will contact both groups to ask when their next meetings are and let them know that FCC representatives would like to attend.

XV. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday November 13th 2019, 7.30 p.m.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.