

**ADOPTED Minutes of  
Buchanan Community Council Meeting  
7/3/2016  
Milton of Buchanan Memorial Hall**

**PRESENT**

BCC Councillors D Morris – CHAIR, (J. Bannerman unable to attend). J Twaddle, L Buchanan, A Peebles

Attendees –Councillor I Muirhead, Kenny Auld Recreation and Access Advisor LLTNP, L Walker Recreation & Tourism Manager, Cowal & Trossachs Forest District, Forestry Commission, Alex McCoskrie (Tourism Manager LLTNP Park), PC Stephen Graham, Pam Campbell, B Twaddle, S Fraser, Stuart Fraser, T Thompson, K McHugh, P Bracewell, M Storie, D Arcari, M MacDonald, Alan Murdoch, Maggie and Joel Milner, Jamie Graham, G Bannerman, D & A Henson  
Apologies - J Bannerman, A Hannan, D Fraser, B Crooks, Alec Peebles, W. Nisbet, Steven Cameron

**Police Report by PC Stephen Graham**

**Summary**

5/2/16 M/F arrested in Balmaha Car Park with possession of Cannabis

12/2/16 Disturbance by guests at Rowardennan Hotel

27/2/26 Disturbance in Milton of Buchanan

**Roads Report by PC Stephen Graham**

16/1/16 C6 car accident with telegraph pole

13/2/16 Collision on B837

Continued patrols by Officers: Operation Ironworks to begin

Contact PC Murphy or PC Graham of any concerns or events taking place.

**Approval of January Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11/1/2015 were approved by A Peebles and L Buchanan

**Matters Arising**

**Whinny Drams**

Update from Jan BCC meeting regarding concerns about the “New” access to the Cycle Route at Whinny Drams. AP said that David Maley, SC Roads Dept. had advised her that the entry had been made to enable pedestrians to avoid the narrow pavement on the opposite side of the B837. The ownership and control of this new access has been retained by the land owner and appropriate signage had been ordered.

Later in the meeting Kenny Auld advised this work was nothing to do with the cycle path but came under Stirling Council Roads Dept.

**Site Meeting with SC Roads Dept. 17.02.16 Balmaha**

Attendees – David Maley, Area Roads Officer SC, JT, AH, AP and Sandy Fraser. Aim - to discuss the need for road closures on the B837. David Maley’s staff demonstrated that the width of the machinery combined with space required under H&S regulations left no room for vehicles to pass while work was being undertaken. The attendees now appreciate why closures are necessary. Convoy systems were not an option for the same reason.

**Treasurer’s Report**

No report produced

### Secretary Report

The BCC Secretary had received a letter from Stephen Cameron (Site Agent) on 6.3.16 which the Chairman read out advising that S Cameron intended to hold an Open Drop-in Meeting on 17.3.16 for members of the Community to discuss the Highland Way Hotel application.

### Planning

Pontoon Application 2015/0423/DET has been approved by the National Park Planning Dept.

Highland Way Application 2016/0024/DET The National Park have asked the BCC to respond to this application.

An open discussion took place with residents being asked for their comments. Concerns raised:

- Too many holiday chalets included in the application which is a long standing concern
- The imbalance they would create with the residential properties in Balmaha
- Current illegal properties on the site
- The development was at odds with the NP stated policy
- Lack of adequate parking provision on site.
- The community was not allowed to discuss this site with the NP at the MIR/Charrettes
- The East side of the loch was supposed to be the quiet side
- The Park should be looking to support outdoor amenities.
- It was a major item which required further discussion.

The Community Councillors decided that they would like to:

Formally respond to the Highland Way application but for this to be constructive they would need to consider the application within the wider context of Buchanan.

Have a workshop/meeting with the Planning Department to discuss the wider implications of development within Buchanan and clarify what issues we can raise in our responses.

Following that meeting the BCC would hold its own community consultation before making its response.

Community Councillors asked JT to contact Stuart Mearns and invite him to meet with the BCC as soon as possible after the Highland Way application Open Meeting which has been independently arranged by the Site Agent Stephen Cameron.

ACTION JT

The NP had already been asked to accept this lengthy delay on responding.

### Coldrach Farm Application 2016/0012/DET

It was decided that as this was a similar application to the Highland Way Application (being in part for new tourism accommodation) the BCC should delay responding until after the meetings described above.

### Grant Funding

BCC Councillors L Buchanan, A Peebles, D Fraser, A Hannan and J Twaddle had workshop on the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb to discuss funding applications.

It was established the BCC could not apply for grants for the Memorial Hall. That was the responsibility of The Hall Committee.

There was a suggestion that a local handyman was found to do jobs for people in the community who were unable to do them for themselves

There was a suggestion that films were screened in the Memorial Hall and refreshments offered.

The BCC had received a grant of £250.00 to analyze the volume of parking which now occurs in Balmaha regularly, with the proposal to get a traffic engineer to help identify solutions.

ACTION BCC

#### Affordable Housing Project

JT advised he had attended a RSHA meeting and reported work on the sale of plots and rental policy is being developed to its final stage and an explanatory leaflet will be sent to all households and a public drop-in will be arranged by RSHA.

ACTION RSHA

#### PBB

JT warned of stringent cuts to the Council budget with consequential reduction in services and questioned whether this would affect the future of Buchanan School.

LB had attended all the PBB sessions at Balfron Campus and conveyed that SC has no policy for school closures. Councillor Muirhead concurred and advised that SC does not have the power to close the school and any proposition would have to be put to Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Education.

E Twaddle, from the Floor, raised a concern that experience of past service reductions have shown that there can be negative results which are not obvious at the beginning.

#### Cycle Path Update

Kenny Auld, Recreation and Access Advisor LLTNP, gave an overview of the progress made on the cycle route from Drymen to Balmaha which should be suitable for confident 12yr olds and above. He consulted with the Community on the options for traffic calming measures in Milton of Buchanan and Balmaha. His proposal to have no white line in the centre of the road and dotted lines along the sides going through M o B which would help slow traffic and create a sense of place, was met with concern by the residents. (Evidence shows that this reduces traffic speed and improves safety). He also said that 2 crossing places would be provided

KA agreed to get actual designs sent to us by the Consultant Road Engineer.

Kenny suggested that it might be possible to revisit the traffic calming measures in Balmaha which were not proving very successful. The BCC agreed to this.

ACTION KA and BCC

Pam Campbell, Rural Worker, SC said she would also provide information from SC

ACTION PC

KA advised that he had put in a bid to improve the road surface up to the Castle on the Buchanan Estate. Following his next meeting with Sustrans he would email the BCC an update.

ACTION KA

#### Forestry and Tourism

Liz Walker (Recreation & Tourism Manager, Cowal & Trossachs Forest District Forestry Commission) and Alex McCoskrie (Tourism Manager LLTNP Park) introduced themselves and outlined the work they are doing to standardize signage. LW stated that the Blue Path at Balmaha would not be cleared until the end of the summer. The FC considered the Blue Path was not utilised and therefore they had decommissioned it. The Community disagreed and there was a keen interest to have it reinstated. LW agreed to look at the possibility of it being reinstated. The BCC asked LW to email the Secretary with details of

what information she would require from the BCC regarding the community's expectations for this walk.

ACTION LW AND BCC

#### Community Action Plan

This document provides guidance for what projects are of interest to the Community and evidence required for future grant applications.

Kevin Lilburn, is Chairman of the CAP Steering Group but was unable to be present.

AP reported that after some delays, copies of this document were now available at Drymen Library or from Community Councillors. AP had been advised by Anne Sobey (NP) that a lead organisation would be required to move this forward which was usually a Community Trust or Partnership. It would require an enthusiastic manager, a launch to inspire support from the community and meetings held at 4-6wks initially and then bimonthly to activate projects. Regular updates would be required to retain support. Projects fell into 3 categories – Grant lead, volunteer lead or lobbying. Grants were available for feasibility studies and training available from Anne.

There was a distinct lack of interest in the CAP by the attendees.

ACTION CAP STEERING GROUP, BCP AND COMMUNITY

#### Broadband

Dave Morris reported that he had had an exploratory meeting with Douglas Baillie of Stirling Council. Mr Baillie is their recently appointed Broadband Project Manager. His role focuses on helping communities to drive forward Next Generation Broadband initiatives. He has previously spent many years working for BT.

Mr Baillie emphasised that, to move forward, it was crucial to get a clear picture of the demand for improved services. That helped make a business case to funding organisations and infrastructure providers. He reported that some communities were making good progress on a "do it yourself" basis.

Mr Baillie would be happy to come to a BCC meeting and give us the flavour of what he is doing.

#### Car Park

L Buchanan advised that the National Park Authority's March Board Meeting agenda stated an intention to agree a Heads of Terms Agreement with Stirling Council for the Balmaha Carpark by 8th July 2016. S Fraser asked for this topic to be postponed to the next BCC meeting. L Buchanan requested that the BCC expresses its desire to Stirling Council to be consulted on any potential asset transfer or lease of the Carpark. J Twaddle, Secretary, refused this on the grounds that K Lilburn was looking into taking on the carpark on behalf of the Buchanan Community Partnership. L Buchanan stated that it was in the Community's interest to have input into any decision and this was within the remit of the CC. Pam Campbell (SC) offered to try to provide information on the current position. ACTION PC

#### AOCB

A Balmaha resident noted that one of the new street lights near the phone box in Balmaha had failed. J Twaddle offered to deal with the issue. ACTION JT

Next Meeting AGM and Ordinary Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016