

Biggar Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on 21/1/19 in Biggar Library Meeting Room.

Present: Gordon Cunningham, Jimmy Ritchie, Jerry Sumpster, Laura Shirley, Gil Dunn, Jan Currie, Janet Moxley, Thelma Ingram.

Leslie Craise (from 7:20).

Ex Officio Cllrs Ian McAllan and Alex Allison – South Lanarkshire Council (SLC)

Apologies: None

Guests: PC Dave Wesencraft – Community Policing

8 members of the public.

Minute taker: JM

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Coulter Bridge Following a meeting between Amey and Coulter residents which TI attended, Amey have modified their proposals for traffic management. These will now involve traffic calming measures rather than traffic lights. There are currently speed sensors in place.

List of salt bins is incomplete. There are also bins on Mercat Loan and the Boghall Estate. SLC are having problems finding space for a bin on View Park Rd. **JR liaise with SLC to identify a location for this new salt bin.**

Cllr Allison explained that the absence of salt bins in Pentland Reach is because the roads have not been adopted by SLC. This won't happen until Phase 1 is signed off which will not be this winter. In the meantime Story Homes are responsible for providing salt

Legion Hall planning application for window refurbishment. LC asked for an update on progress. Cllr McAllan clarified that SLC do not generally favour uPVC windows in the conservation area. The planning officer has been to view the building and is in discussion with Alison Somerville.

Police report

Parking on the Wynd/Park Place. Routine parking enforcement is by SLC parking wardens not the police. Police will only take action if there is an acute issue with obstruction. A common sense approach to parking is needed. At Hogmanay parking problems on the Wynd affected police access and they took action which resulted in obstructing vehicle being moved.

The Police have asked other emergency services, notably the Ambulance Service if they have experienced problems due to parking on the Wynd, but they have none to report. They will contact the police if there is an issue. A member of the public (Bob Brownlie) questioned this as he had received correspondence from Gilbert Logan from the Scottish Ambulance Service a few months ago expressing concerns.

The yellow lines on Park Place have been repainted recently. SLC are not keen to extend them. The Parking Wardens have been out in the area fairly recently. JM commented that Parking Wardens' hours do not generally correspond to the times when there is the greatest parking pressure in this area.

The Police are aware of other areas in Biggar with parking pressures too.

Local police presence Shifts start and finish from police station, but it is not staffed. Local police follow rotating shift patterns and are not on duty every day. However 24/7 365 day per year cover is provided via the response line. The schedule for repairs to the

police station has not been decided. There is no truth in rumour that will be sold.

Cllr Allison asked about farm thefts. PC Wesencraft reported that there has been some progress with these. An arrest has been made for thefts in Robertson/Lamington area and this may also involve other cases including local break-ins in Biggar before Christmas.

A member of public raised the issue of drug dealers hitting smaller towns and asked whether this could be related to local break-ins. PC Wesencraft replied that the police have not established the motive for thefts, but that nowhere is immune to drug-related crimes.

A member of the public (Bob Brownlie) asked what could be done to prevent dog attacks on sheep, especially as lambing approaches. **BCC agreed to publicise that dog owners need to keep their animals under control when near livestock.** PC Wesencraft has discussed with this issue with Jim Higgins, the Community Safety Crime Prevention Officer. The Police have a stock of signs from the National Farmers Union, Scotland (NFUS) which could be provided at problem locations. These won't be made freely available, but police support the message. **PC Wesencraft to provide the wording on these signs so that BCC so it can be share it.** Cllr Allison pointed out that cattle may charge dogs, so owners may need to relinquish the lead for their own safety if charged. JM said that one local land owner had told her that he had been told to remove "Dogs on Leads" signs by SLC staff who said that the signs did not comply with Access legislation. **Cllr Allison said he would investigate this.**

Chair's report

Communication is key for BCC. Occasionally it may be necessary for the CC to make decisions by email between meetings in response to event, to meet deadlines or to reply to invitations. These decisions must always be ratified the next face to face CC meeting.

BCC is using social media (mainly Facebook) more to communicate with the public and have received with good feedback on this.

GD has been developing the new BCC website which has pages such as Useful Local Links, SLC complaint/fault forms, SLC councillors and surgery times, community group links.

TI asked about non-electronic communication. GD explained that a leaflet is in preparation to raise BCC's profile.

SLC Councillors Reports

Cllr McAllan

SLC have supplied maps of where they propose to stop mowing sloping areas. The areas would include several parts of the Burnbraes including area from the Rowhead Terrace hedge to the bottom path and the area below the Motte. Rowhead Terrace residents have indicated that they would prefer current regime to continue whereby most the slopes are mown twice a year but some other areas are mown more frequently. Cllr Allison was concerned that litter and dog poo accumulate in unmown areas.

LC asked for more information about the proposed changes to the mowing regime in the Langvout area.

The Station Rd grit bin has been replaced.

The 20 mph sign on Station Rd which is the wrong way round has been reported, but has not yet been corrected.

JR noted that an inspection cover in S Back Rd needs cleaned as it is not draining properly and causing flooding. **JR to follow this up with SLC**

Cllr Allison

The northwest side of Edinburgh Road is experiencing flooding on the pavement outside numbers 13 and 15 where the narrow pavement is lower than the road and is separated from it by a very low wall. The drain is further up the street than the puddle. When flooding occurs it covers the whole pavement. Amey is understood to be responsible for pavements in this area.

TI also raised the flooding at the junction of Edinburgh Road and North Back Road. In heavy rain the A702 floods to the crown of the road and across the junction with North Back Road. When flooded it is impossible to cross North Back Road and there is excessive water spray from passing vehicles. There are 5 drains in this area but some do not appear to work at all, and the others are slow to drain. Some are Amey's responsibility and the others are South Lanarkshire's. This has been reported many times with no obvious improvement.

TI to liaise with Cllr Allison to take this forward.

Secretary's report

A letter to Amey concerning the condition of the A702 is still being drafted. **Action JC**

LC has kindly offered to be Minutes Sec. This offer was accepted.

The library meeting room has been booked for future meetings, however it is not available in July. It was therefore agreed to cancel the July BCC meeting.

Treasurer's report

The only transaction since the last meeting was £250 received from Cornets Club for the extension of the BCC Public Liability Insurance to cover the bonfire. SLC have not yet invoiced for this additional premium.

Business Account Balance £705.00

Incentives Account Balance £833.40

Glenkerie Microgrants Balance £18.80

Clyde Windfarm Microgrants Balance £591.00

RBS are still sending statements for the Glenkerie/Incentive account to previous Treasurer. JS has contacted RBS to ask them to correct this.

A top-up payment of £1000 from the Glenkerie Windfarm Microgrant fund is expected in next few weeks.

A £5000 top-up to the Clyde Windfarm Microgrant fund was due in Sept, but this was not submitted by the previous BCC. JS has asked SLC for the papers to be able to complete this return. JS has spoken to SLC who advise that discretionary top ups are possible once the £5,000 annually allocation to BCC has been fully allocated, this is subject to BCC making a return to explain the allocation of funds; SLC acceptance of this information, and funds remaining available in the main Clyde Windfarm Community fund.

JS has contacted SLC regarding rules for use of money in the Incentives Account. (The Incentives fund was originally set up using monies from the sale of a community minibus). No written guidance is available. This fund has previously been used to provide High School prizes. SLC are happy for BCC to develop written guidance on the use this fund subject to the approval, by SLC of this allocation guidance. BCC could also raise other funds from other sources for Incentive Account.

Agenda Items

Change to BCC Constitution The proposed to change of wording of clause 11(i) of the BCC constitution was approved. This will amend clause 11(i) from:

"No member of the public is entitled to speak at meetings unless invited to do so by the Chairperson or by previous agreement of the Community Council"

to:

"Members of the public are entitled to speak at a meeting under the guidance of the Chairperson. If a member of the public wishes to raise an issue for discussion at a meeting, they should if possible contact the secretary in order that it can be added to the Agenda." Proposed GD. Seconded JM.

This will give members of the community the right to speak at BCC meetings rather than this being at the discretion of the chair. **JC to advise SLC of this change.**

Community Notice Board. It is unclear who owns this board which is outside the Crown. BCC and other organisations post material there. Mike Heale and JR have keys. A member of the public (Neil Ingram) advised that Biggar and District Civic Society (BDCS) is engaged in a project to upgrade signage on the High St including the notice boards. The notice boards were installed by SLC around 20 years ago as part of the streetscaping project. However it is non-statutory signage, so SLC have no responsibility to maintain it. The fibreboard to which notices are attached is damp as the glass cover does not close firmly. JR has asked SLC to replace the locks. BDCS will be upgrading all High St notice boards later this year. **JR to liaise with SLC and BDCS on this matter so that there is not duplication of effort or unnecessary spend.**

Glenkerie Microgrant applications

i) Biggar High School (BHS) Himalayas trip. Two individuals have applied for Glenkerie Microgrants. In order to be fair to all trip members, BCC have asked that an application be made on behalf of the whole group. **JC to send a response to applicants and BHS.**

ii) Wild Things Community Interest Company. It was felt that the organisation really needed a larger grant and so will be advised to apply to the main Glenkerie Windfarm Community fund. **JC to send response to Wild Things.**

Clyde Windfarm Microgrant applications

i) WomanKIND Clydesdale A costing breakdown has been requested and a decision on the application has been deferred until the next meeting. LS, TI, JM and JC declared an interest in this application as members of WomanKIND Clydesdale and agreed not to be involved in assessing it. **JC to contact WomanKIND Clydesdale for further costing information.**

ii) Friends of the Corn Exchange. An application received shortly before the BCC meeting. Not all CC members had seen the application. GD Declared an interest in this application as a member of the Friends of the Corn Exchange committee and agreed not to be involved with assessing it. **CC members (except GD) to review the Friends of the Corn Exchange Microgrant application and provide feedback by 28/1/19** to enable a decision to be reached. The decision will be presented for ratification at the next BCC

meeting.

Planning and Licencing Issues. Relatively few planning applications were made during the period since the last BCC meeting, and none appear to require a response from BCC.

A pre-planning notification has been received from Gladman Development who have a new proposal for housing development between Station Rd and the Boghall/Tinto View areas. They will be holding a pre-planning exhibition on Thurs 21st Feb 12 – 8 pm. The developers will collect comments from the public at this exhibition, but these will not be counted as comments for or against any planning application which is made subsequently. Any planning application has to be made within 12 weeks of exhibition after which views can be submitted to the SLC Planning Dept. Cllr Allison highlighted that responses submitted to SLC should be related to planning considerations.

There have been no licencing issues since the last BCC meeting.

Meetings with other organisations.

i) Gladman Developments have invited BCC to meet with them on 28th Jan. It was decided to decline this invitation, as the community's views on the proposals will not be available until after the pre-planning exhibition (see Planning Matters section above). BCC would be willing to meet with Gladman after this to put forward the community's views. BCC intend to hold a public meeting after the pre-planning exhibition to get feedback from the community and will also collect views via other channels such as social media, email correspondence and conversations. **GD to decline Gladman's invitation to meet on 28/1/19, but indicate a willingness to meet after the pre-planning meeting.**

ii) Scottish Government Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Good Practice Guidance on Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Developments. JM attended a meeting in Glasgow. The proposed changes would not affect the Community Funds from existing windfarms, but could mean that Community Fund contributions from future developments were lower. In addition there could be the provision for developers to make "in kind" contributions instead of cash payments. The consultation closes on 31/1/19. **JM will draft a response from BCC to circulate for comment prior to submission.**

Christmas lights. The Gala committee have asked whether the Fleming Queen could switch the Christmas lights on and the Christmas Shopping Night. JR pointed out that this would not be possible without significant changes to the street light wiring as the Christmas lights are linked to the it and switch on and off at the same time as the street lights. However the Christmas tree lights are thought to be on a separate circuit and so could be switched on separately by the Fleming Queen. **GD to contact CJ Brown on the Gala Committee to suggest this option.** It would be good if the first night that the Christmas lights come on could co-ordinate with the Christmas Shopping night. This would need to be raised with the contractors who install the Christmas lights.

Bonfire insurance GD and JS have met with the Cornets to discuss ways of strengthening links between BCC and the Cornets. Traditionally insurance for the bonfire has been covered by an extension of BCC Public Liability Insurance to increase cover. This may not be the most cost-effective way to obtain this cover. **JS to contact other towns which organise events involving fire to ask about their insurance arrangements.** e.g Peebles Beltane, Stonehaven Fireballs, Edinburgh Hogmanay, Lerwick Up-Helly-Aa.

Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership (LHSCP). LC offered to represent BCC on

the User Representative Group for LHSCP as she had heard there might be a vacancy. **LC to investigate opportunities for joining the LHSCP User Group.**

Patient group. GC reported on the December meeting of the Biggar Health Centre Patient Group.

There are good stocks of flu vaccines will continue to be available in January and February. The District Nursing team will offer these to patients they visit at home.

The paper form for repeat prescriptions will changing before the end of March offer the option.

The new blood pressure is monitor working well. This removes need for patients to go to Wishaw over a two day period for monitoring.

Ambulance Service . Demand is currently greater than capacity. The service is looking at how to address this. The Patient Group is pressing for action on this. There are two ambulances based in Biggar, but can they can be re-allocated elsewhere.

TI asked about the initiative to train First Responders. GC stated that this has been scrapped due to lack of volunteers. It is possible that a paramedic may be recruited to cover the Crawford/Abington area.

AOCB

i) Untidy garden area at the corner of Station Rd and Coulter Rd. Reported. Sorted.

ii) Potholes by the ford in the Burnbraes **JC to report to SLC**

iii) High St Phone Box Damage. Reported. Sorted.

iv) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This affects how organisations store and process personal data such as contact details. JS has checked with the Information Commissioner, and CCs are subject to GDPR. SLC don't have any guidance. JS will draft procedures for BCC to follow based on other groups' rules.

v) Leaflet publicising BCC. GD has been drafting a leaflet to raise BCC's profile. Cost of 5000 leaflets is £102. Spending of up to this amount on leaflet printing was agreed. Proposed JS. Seconded LC.

Date of next meeting Next 18th Feb 7pm in the Library Meeting Room.

Actions Table

Action	Owner	Due Date
Liaise with SLC to identify a location for this new salt bin on View Park Rd	JR	18/2/19
Publicise the need to keep dogs under control near livestock	All but particularly GD/JM via Facebook	Ongoing through the lambing season.
Provide wording of NFUS signs on dog control	PC Wesencraft	18/2/19
Investigate SLC stance on signage relating to dog control.	Cllr Allison	18/2/19
Contact SLC about getting drain cover on South Back Rd cleaned	JR	18/2/19
Liaise with Cllr Alex to press Amey and SLC to take action on puddles on Edinburgh Rd	TI	18/2/19
Write to Amey about High St condition	JC	18/2/19
Submit spending return for Clyde Microgrant fund to SLC	JS	18/2/19
Advise SLC of change to BCC constitution	JC	18/2/19
JR to liaise with SLC and BDCS regarding repairs to the community notice board.	JR	18/2/19
Respond to individual applicants and BHS re funding for Himalayas trip	JC	18/2/19
Respond to Wild Things suggesting that they apply to the main Glenkerie Community Fund for a larger grant to cover ongoing costs.	JC	18/2/19
Ask WomanKIND for costings to support their microgrant application	JC	18/2/19
Review Friends of the Corn Exchange's microgrant application and provide feedback by email.	All (except GD)	28/1/19
Decline Gladman's invitation to meet on 28/1/19, but indicate a willingness to meet after the pre-planning meeting.	GD	28/1/19
Draft a response to the SG Consultation on Windfarm Community benefit and circulate for comment prior to submission.	JM	31/1/19
Contact the the Gala Committee (CJ Brown) to inform them that BCC support the idea of the Fleming Queen switching on the Christmas tree lights/	GD	18/2/19
Contact other towns which organise public events involving fire to ask about their insurance arrangements.	JS	31/8/19
Investigate opportunities for joining the LHSCP User Group	LC	18/2/19
Report potholes by the ford	JC	18/2/19