

Minute of Biggar Community Council Zoom Meeting 20th July 2020

Present:- Jan Currie – Secretary, Gil Dunn – Treasurer, Lesley Craise, Janet Moxley, Laura Shirley, Jimmy Ritchie (joined the meeting at item 6) and Thelma Ingram (minute taker).

Ex- officio Members – Cllr Ian McAllan and Cllr Alex Allison.

6 members of the public also attended.

Apologies – Jerry Sumpster – Chair.

Jan Currie took the Chair and opened the meeting and welcomed the public.

1. **Minutes of last meeting** on 15 June 2020 – Janet Moxley proposed and Gil Dunn seconded and they were approved.
2. **Matters arising.** These were covered in the rest of the meeting.
At this point the Chair was passed to Cllr Ian MacAllan for item 3.
3. **Resignation and election of Officers** –

Gil Dunn had indicated she wished to resign as Treasurer at the last meeting. On 23rd June Janet Moxley was appointed as Treasurer by Jerry Sumpster - Chair and Jan Currie - Secretary using the executive powers invested in them by SLC, after discussion with the other full members. The meeting agreed to the following wording in the minutes so that Janet Moxley could become a signatory to the BCC RBS accounts:

It was resolved that:

The Authorised Signatories in the current mandate for the RBS accounts, for the Biggar Community Council accounts, be changed to remove Gil Dunn as Treasurer and replace her with Janet Moxley.

And the current mandate will continue as amended.

Jerry Sumpster and Jan Currie had informed their fellow councillors that they were resigning their posts at this meeting and would continue to be ordinary members till the other accounts signatories could be transferred. The Chair, Cllr Ian McAllan said these officers had done a superb job and had made a major impact on the community and would continue to do so. He was sorry to see them go and looks forward to supporting them in the future.

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The Chair asked for nominations for the Chair of the Community Council. Lesley Craise was proposed by Thelma Ingram and seconded by Jan Currie. Lesley said she was prepared to stand for 9 months initially. Lesley Craise was elected unopposed.

The Chair asked for nominations for the post of Secretary. Thelma Ingram was proposed by Janet Moxley and seconded by Lesley Craise. Thelma said she was prepared to stand and pointed out her post would be up for re-election in October. Thelma was elected unopposed.

The Chair Cllr Ian McAllan congratulated the new officers. At this point Lesley Craise took over as Chairperson.

Lesley thanked everyone for trusting her with this post which is an important one for the people of Biggar. She thanked Jerry, Gil and Jan for their hard work and all they have contributed.

4. Finance Report – Presented by Janet Moxley, Treasurer.

Business Account Final balance £542.07. No transactions on this account since previous report. This account is used to pay for BCC's administrative costs.

Clyde Windfarm Account Final balance £10.50. No transactions on this account since previous report.

Janet has contacted Kenny Lean to enquire about the £5000 top-up payment which is due from Clyde. He advised that it has been passed for payment and should be in the account next week.

Incentive Account. Final balance £7247.12. This account has held four distinct budget lines.

4.1 Glenkerie Windfarm Microgrant Fund. Final balance £743.92. No transactions on this budget since previous report.

4.2 BCC Incentive Fund. Final balance £758.44. No transactions on this budget since previous report.

4.3 Clyde Extension COVID fund. Final balance £5744.76. £500 has been awarded to Wild Things from this budget.

4.4 BCAG Funds held by BCC pending BCAG setting up their own account. Final balance £0. There have been various items of expenditure related

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to BCAG COVID response activity and also some donations to BCAG since the last BCC meeting. These are detailed on the Incentive Fund Ledger sheet. On 10 Jul the balance of £3929.16 in this budget was transferred to BCAG's new bank account. A cheque for £30 for the Hot meals service has been received to be paid into the BCC account, it was agreed this would be cashed and a cheque for the amount written and given to BCAG so the money would be transferred for the Hot Meals.

Glenkerie have advised that they are making an additional £2k available for microgrants of up to £250 for specifically for COVID-related projects. This should be in the account next week. These new microgrants will be publicised once we are notified that this money has been transferred.

Asset register There is no change to the asset register. The assets currently held at Jerry's house will be moved to Thelma's house.

5. **New Members –**

It was suggested vacancies should be publicised in all ways we can, emphasising the many opportunities in Community Council activities as full members or as associate members like Al Stewart who represents the Bonfire Committee and the Cornets Club. Full members have to be on the Voters Roll for Biggar but Associate Members can include people involved in the town but not living in it, this would enable local business persons to join. BCC would also approach other local organisations and seek to have a wider diversity of people. It was agreed to have an email discussion to set this up shortly.

6. **Matters raised by public etc –**

A member of the public had raised concerns for Stuart's bus drivers some of whom were not wearing masks and there was no shield for them. Action - Cllr McAllan offered to contact Strathclyde Passenger Transport, Stuart's and the Police to find out what is proper practice now.

Quothquan and Thankerton Community Council have asked if we would support them in their efforts to improve parking for Tinto where there has been a sizeable problem. Cllr Allison was in touch with SLC Chief Executive to say the current situation is not acceptable and a solution needed to be found. The CE has agreed to find a solution. It was agreed to write to the CEO in support of QTCC and the real need to address the problem. Action- Thelma to draft and circulate letter.

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Thelma mentioned the recent exchanges on Facebook about the competing uses of the pavements in Biggar High Street. She said we needed to keep an eye on how these new arrangements affect movement and accessibility.

7. **Update on Biggar Community Toilets** - grants for reopening – It was proposed to award Biggar Community Toilets £1000 from Clyde Extension COVID fund conditional to them receiving a £5000 grant applied for from the Towns and Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) Resilience and Recovery Fund. Thelma abstained as she is on the BCT committee, Jerry was not at the meeting but indicated in advance by email that he did not support this grant application. The other Community Councillors were all in favour.
8. **SLC Review of Establishment of Community Councils** – Rhonda Leith, SLC Community Empowerment Officer has asked if BCC would like to discuss possible changes to the SLC Scheme for Community Councils prior to a proposal for the process to do so going to the full council in September. The Chair person advised this is a lengthy process but she is personally in favour of us engaging. All members present agreed we should engage with this offer. Action - The Chair to send letter of acceptance.
9. **Planning matters** – Thelma reported the appeal by the property company Gladman against the South Lanarkshire draft Local Plan on the grounds of inadequate provision of land for housing is being determined by Scottish Ministers. The examination report will be issued in August 2020. See **LDP-380-3** on **dpea.scotland.gov.uk** for details.

The appeal by the property company Gladman against the refusal of planning permission by South Lanarkshire Council for the land off Boghall Rd Biggar is also being determined by Scottish Ministers by a different reporter. See **PPA-380-2085** on **dpea.scotland.gov.uk** for details.

There have been no significant planning applications in BCC's area in the last month. Consent has been given for Biggar Rugby Club proposed extensions and other improvements which is good news for the club, the town and rugby.

10. Councillors Reports. Cllr Allison

Grass cutting - Due to late start and social distancing and other new work practices grass cutting will take 12 weeks and they will not be able to remove clippings.

Nursery places - SLC should be able to provide the 1140 hrs provision in Clydesdale, other areas may experience difficulty.

Recovery – SLC have set up a Recovery Board to take forward the issues that will be with us in next year and possibly further. Due to Covid, the SLC deficit is about £30 million, there will be a need to mitigate in order to balance the budget. The silver lining is the ways in which the communities have been helping themselves. The hope is to keep that possible for volunteers and the third sector involved.

Speeding – In Biggar, Market Road and the road going out of town beyond Campies Garage are particularly affected. It is a national problem unfortunately as we head out of lockdown. There is a new community policeman, Constable Eric Hunter and a second one is to be appointed soon.

Resurfacing of Station Rd - whilst it has been recently patched, pressure to resurface needs to be kept up. The pavement works and works compound at the Corn Exchange should be concluded by the end of Amey's contract with Transport Scotland, again social distancing has slowed the work.

Cllr Allison thanked Jerry, Gil and Jan for all their work on the Community Council.

Cllr McAllan – There will continue to be increased working from home in this area and a resultant need to improve communications and transport.

Additional Crossing on A702 near Station Rd - Amey were to resurvey in April after one they did earlier in the year but Covid intervened. Amey will be asked for the details of what they undertook so that the issue can be raised with Bear, who take over the contract in August.

Co-op and food prices etc. - He has written to the Co-op and will advise when they reply.

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Schools. Parents had been informed the pupils would go back on 12th August to blended learning. The latest government advice and infection levels have altered that and now they should go back with no social distancing but if infection levels rise the Schools have contingency plans to introduce blended learning. The officers in Hamilton and the teachers have been working hard to arrange everything.

11.AOCB None.

The meeting ended after just after an hour with thanks to all present from the Chairperson.

Date of next meeting – Monday 17 August 2020.

Additional note

On 21/7/20 a further executive decision was taken to add Laura Shirley, Lesley Craise and Thelma Ingram as signatories to the BCC bank accounts and to remove Jerry Sumpster and Jan Currie.