

Draft Minute of Biggar Community Council Zoom Meeting 17th August 2020

Present:- Lesley Craise – Chairperson, Thelma Ingram – Secretary, Janet Moxley – Treasurer, Jimmy Ritchie, Laura Shirley. Thelma Ingram took the minutes.

Ex- officio Members – Cllr Alex Allison.

5 members of the public also attended.

1. **Welcome** The chairperson welcomed people to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** - Cllr Ian McAllan and Cllr Eric Holford.
3. **Declaration of A.O.C.B.** This item has been placed on the agenda to assist with the management of the meeting and accommodate items that have come up in the last few days.

Trees with tree preservation orders TPO. Janet Moxley had been told that last week digging had started near to trees with TPOs in the area of Stephen Avenue and Broughton Road just after planning permission for a garage had been given. A member of the public had informed SLC and work ceased. The planning permission has conditions regarding protecting the TPO trees roots.

4. **Adoption of last meeting's minutes** – there was one amendment - in Item 6. Matters raised by members of the public etc – the first sentence was amended to read

“A member of the public had raised concerns **for** Stuart's bus drivers”

Laura Shirley proposed and Jimmy Ritchie seconded and the minutes were approved.

5. **Matters arising.**

- New members – co-option, associate members, election. There have been some offers for full and associate members. When people come forward we need to give to existing full members the names of prospective members 14 days before the meeting. In addition our procedure is to advertise for new members via posters, newspaper ads and social media. Any number of associate members can be appointed. They can contribute in many ways and can do anything apart from voting.

Action – Laura Shirley to draw up and circulate a advert.

- Bank Signatories - Following the executive decision on 21/7/20 to add Laura Shirley, Lesley Craise and Thelma Ingram as signatories to the BCC bank accounts and to remove Jerry Sumpster and Jan Currie.

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 Jerry Sumpster and Jan Currie and replace them with Lesley Craise, Thelma Ingram and Laura Shirley.

And the current mandate will continue as amended.

All members were in agreement.

- Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils – Rhonda Leith SLC Community Partnership Officer has been in touch about consultation on possible changes to the scheme. We agreed that as well as Including online meeting aspects the consultation should include other aspects of the Scheme.
6. **Police Report** There was no police report available. We are still waiting to hear from Police Scotland who is going to join PC Eric Hunter, our recently appointed local policeman.
 7. **Matters raised by the Public** - None
 8. **Treasurer's Report** – Presented by Janet Moxley, Treasurer.

Business Account Final balance £497.07.

Clyde Windfarm Account Final balance £4841. Top up payment of £4830.50 has been received from SLC. There have been no recent applications to this fund which is for non-COVID activities. Applications up to £500 need to be encouraged.

Incentive Account. Final balance £6951.58 This account has six distinct budget lines.

1. Glenkerie Windfarm Microgrant Fund. Final balance £748.92 No transactions on this budget since previous report. This fund is for non-Covid activities up to £250 and applications need to be encouraged.

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2. BCC Incentive Fund. Final balance £758.44 No transactions on this budget since previous report. This fund up to £100 and is for things not funded by the other funds.

3. Clyde Extension COVID fund. Final balance £3449.22. There have been three awards from this fund, all to facilitate reopening in COVID-safe ways.

a. Biggar Community Toilets £1000.

b. Biggar Youth Project £950.

c. Biggar Rugby Club £345.54.

The cheque to the Rugby Club and Youth Project have not yet cleared.

4. Glenkerie COVID Fund - £2000 additional Microgrant funding for COVID related activities has been received. Applications of up to £250 can be applied for.

5. Scottish Government Towns and BIDS Resilience and Recovery Fund. Final balance £0. £2120 was received to support re-opening the Community Toilets, not all that was applied for but BCT adjusted their plans and managed to reopen with the additional grant mentioned in 3a of this report. Jimmy relayed praise from visitors about the reopened toilets.

6. Biggar Community Action Group Funds held by BCC pending BCAG setting up their own account. Final balance £0. There have been several instances where we have been given cheques for hot meals which have been made payable to BCC. These have been cashed into this account, and reimbursement made to BCAG, resulting in a net change to the account balance. BCAG have been asked to ensure that future cheque payments to them are made out correctly.

Asset register. Thelma is now in possession of the assets previously stored at Jerry's house. Ink cartridges have been added to the register to keep tabs on where they are, although strictly speaking these are consumables. The custodians of the noticeboard keys have also been recorded.

9. **Secretary's report** - We wrote a letter in support of Quothquan and Thankerton Community Council regarding the parking at Tinto carpark and on the A73 and surrounding roads. There were weekly SLC planning notifications which are covered in the planning report. Although we are statutory consultees for licensing as well as planning, South Lanarkshire Council does not seem to be sending notifications - this will be checked. Improvement Services asked if they could publicise the recent Towns and Business Improvement District resilience and recovery fund received by Biggar CC for Biggar Community Toilets reopening. It was decided not to take up this offer as BCC had only facilitated and applied while BCT had done a lot of work to reopen.

Two invitations to online meetings - one in a series of meetings on Tourism in Clydesdale arranged by Aileen Campbell MSP and a Scottish Government teleconference about the proposed changes to Planning pre-application consultation requirements in September. It was decided that Janet and Thelma would attend both.

10. **Community Counsellors' Reports.** It was agreed to keep this on the agenda for the moment.

Speeding signs on the A702 as it comes in to Biggar from the north. Jimmy Ritchie said that he had been in discussion with Traffic Scotland and the police about enhancing the 30 mile an hour signage into Biggar. Jimmy agreed to continue pursue this further.

11. **Re-registration with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).**

It was noted that the Community Council is a not-for-profit organisation and according to the ICO website it should be exempt from the fee. The ICO said last year that we were not exempt from the fee but couldn't explain why, so we paid in the end. It is a legal requirement to be registered as we collect contact details and make and use mailing lists. It was decided to register and pay the fee, but to check with other CCs in Scotland as to what they have done. **Action** - Janet to organise payment of the annual fee.

12. Grant applications

1. Friends of Burnbraes (FOB) for their Park Day - previously awarded. Janet, Laura and Thelma declared an interest so did not take part in this item. The Friends advised their park day is not able to be held this year, and offered to return the microgrant of £350. It was agreed that they could keep it till next year, and if it were not used then it should be refunded.

2. Bigger Tinto Scouts. Application to the Clyde Extension COVID-19 Fund. It was decided not to include payment for firewood in the grant. The request for funding for sanitisers and floodlights to enable resumption of outside meeting was agreed. The total grant awarded was £818.95.

3. Gillespie Centre - for re-opening and curtains. This application was made to the Clyde Extension COVID-19 fund. The Gillespie Centre had already had a grant from this fund for a lockdown recipe book. It was decided that a second award from this fund was not advisable, and this application would be better directed at the Clyde Windfarm Microgrant Fund.

Action - Gillespie Centre to be invited to apply instead for a Clyde Windfarm Microgrant, and asked about progress with the recipe book. It was noted that the Gillespie Centre hopes to open on 2nd September.

12. Councillors Reports.

Cllr McAllan – Resurfacing of Station Rd – Cllr McAllan forwarded a letter from SLC Roads about **Potholes on Station Road at A702**. It said that the area had been recently inspected, and although it is rough and uneven no safety defects were noted. SLC were hopeful that more substantial patching works could be undertaken at the location before the end of this financial year. In the interim the area will continue to be monitored and any noted defects will be repaired.

Whilst Station Road has been recently patched, pressure to resurface needs to be kept up. Members of the public as well as Councillors were urged to report when they see the surface has deteriorated further, to increase the likelihood of it being scheduled for resurfacing in the next financial year.

Request For New Pedestrian Crossing On A702 –Transport Scotland responded after being contacted by Bob Brownlie, who was thanked for this.

Amey has looked into this and has come up with a couple of options.

One would be to provide a signal controlled crossing but the poles required for the lights would have an impact on the funeral parlour and would prevent vehicles pulling up onto the footpath. The other option is to create build-outs to narrow the carriageway, but this would not be signal controlled.

With the schools currently closed it wasn't possible to undertake a survey to determine accurate pedestrian numbers, but this will be considered at a later date when the schools have re-opened.

Cllr McAllan will now contact BEAR to push for another survey, now the schools have resumed.

Cllr Allison – The appeal to Scottish Ministers for the Draft Local Plan has been determined today, the 17th of August 2020. There has been no modification to the zoning of three sites in Biggar. This means CL1 Boghall Road, CL2 Lindsaylands Road, and CL3 Loaningdale are still not zoned for housing. There are separate comments on each site in the report. See **LDP-380-3** on dpea.scotland.gov.uk for details.

Electrical car charging points. The suggested places for four car charging points up from the bus stop near the Corn Exchange and the Coffee Spot has started go through the consultation process required.

Tinto and surrounding roads update - There is now a 30 mile per hour speed limit on the A73 on either side of the junction with Station Road, Thankerton and Lochlyoch Rd. SLC is confident that there will be funding to extend the car park long-term. There was a meeting on the 17th of August with the police and SLC to see what other measures could be taken. There are other routes and places to park and walk but it was proving difficult to persuade the public to use them. [Further advice and planned weekend supervision of the area was publicised shortly after the meeting]

Speeding – Coming out of lockdown drivers have continued to speed more than in the past. The police are taking measures and hope to have the situation under control soon.

14. Planning report. See Cllr Allison's report above about the Local Plan Appeal.

The appeal to Scottish Ministers against South Lanarkshire Council's refusal of Gladman's application for outline planning permission for the site of Boghall Road, Biggar is still to be determined. SLC sent over 20 documents at the end of July to the reporter and SLC have at least until the 27th of August to respond to Gladman's comments to the reporter as regards the status of Scottish planning policy in relation to the recent Court of Session ruling CSIH-8 2020. See **PPA-380-2085** on **dpea.scotland.gov.uk** for details.

There were no significant planning applications for Biggar since our meeting on 20th July 2020.

15. Online banking. The Treasurer reminded the meeting that she became Treasurer only if we did not have online banking as it was too much of a reputational risk if you have single authorisation, not having it protects both the Treasurer and the community council. Under the previous office bearers and whilst the RBS in Biggar was closed, a few transactions had been carried out online, using a signed paper voucher system.

The Bank of Scotland operates a completely free service for community groups where two people are required to authorise online transactions. They are not taking any new accounts at the moment because of Covid.

Janet is happy to continue with paper banking with the RBS until the Bank of Scotland take new applications for the double signature online account for community groups, cheques are also a feature of this account. She reminded us that SLC do not allow online banking so that we would have to check with South Lanarkshire Council if this Bank of Scotland account was suitable. It was agreed to use paper banking only for now.

Action : Janet when appropriate to check with SLC that this type of account is acceptable to them and if it was to open such an account.

16.Action/Resilience/Recovery Planning. Biggar Community Council had just started to draw up a community plan, and had had a visit from SLC's Resilience Officer and Community Partnership Officer just before the Covid lockdown. We should now start to draw up a plan so that we are prepared for emergency events, winter weather being one of them.

The chairperson said that we needed to hear what Biggar Community Action Group (BCAG) group's experience was. They are interviewing their service users and their volunteers to get feedback on what worked well and what didn't. BCAG are willing to share what they find out.

BCAG may have a role in future in relation to resilience planning. We will also involve the town. The possible emergencies should be considered from the beginning. We decided, as a first step, to invite relevant organisations to a Zoom meeting, but other forms of canvassing opinions will also be used. **Action** – all to suggest 4 or 5 organisations and people to be contacted, and to advertise this initiative.

17.AOCB

Clyde Extension Fund – it was asked who would replace Jerry Sumpster on the Clyde Extension Fund Panel, now he is no longer on Biggar Community Council. Lesley is in dialogue with the Clyde Extension Wind Farm about this.

Municipal Hall. Work has started on repairs to the roof and ceiling. SLC have resurfaced the apron parking area in front of the hall.

The meeting ended after an hour and a half after the Chairperson thanked all the members for attending and the members of the public for being there and contributing.

18. Date of next Zoom meeting – Monday 21st September 2020.