

Draft Minute of Biggar Community Council Zoom Meeting 21st September 2020

Present:- Lesley Craise (LC) – Chairperson, Thelma Ingram (TI) – Secretary, Janet Moxley (JM) – Treasurer, Jimmy Ritchie (JR), Laura Shirley (LS), and after Appointment at Item 5, Peter Rae (PR) – New Community Councillor and Neil Ingram (NI) - New Associate Member.

Ex- officio Members – Cllr Ian McAllan (Cllr IMcA) and Cllr Alex Allison (Cllr AA).

Guest:- Gareth Shields Clyde Extension Windfarm – Community Investment Manager.

7 members of the public also attended.

1. **Welcome.**
2. **Apologies** – none.
3. **Declaration of AOCB.** Jimmy Ritchie to update on the Bonfire.
4. **Minutes of last meeting** on 17th August 2020 – Approved, Janet Moxley proposed and Laura Shirley seconded.
5. **Matters arising.**
 - **Peter Rae** was appointed unanimously by co-option and welcomed as new Community Councillor. **Neil Ingram** was unanimously appointed as new associate member.
 - **Laura Shirley's** appointment by email prior to the meeting was confirmed as Clyde Extension Wind Farm Panel rep, to join LC who had already been agreed. On JM's suggestion LC to draft agreement for all wind farm panel reps to sign, regarding expected standards of attendance and engagement. PR offered himself for service on wind farm panels as he had done so in the past. LC advised that there should be an opportunity for PR to fulfil this role in the future.
LC explained that there are two different Clyde wind farm funds, the Main Fund - Jimmy and Lesley are reps, and the new Clyde Extension Fund - LC and LS are the reps. ACTION – LC to draft agreement.
 - **Scheme of Establishment for CC review.** Cllr IMcA stated that a proposal to review the Scheme is going to full SLC Council meeting on Wednesday 23rd September. There will be a limited consultation period and this is a response to ensure CCs can follow new protocols during these times of restriction.

Common Good Fund update – JM updated – SLC have responded to our list of potential CG sites. They agree that the War Memorial and Breathing Space

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garden are CG, and have suggested that some other sites might be (Burnbraes, Public Park, parts of the Golf Course and former Rowhead tip). Some locations in Biggar do not have any owners registered with the Register of Sasines e.g some areas around the High St, but might be covered by the Burgh Charter from 1451. SLC appear to be using some criteria to define CG which go beyond legal definition and SG guidance e.g SLC requirement for items to be gifted to the town and to have written restrictions on usage goes beyond SG guidance. JM to arrange a meeting with Alan Kelly from SLC's legal team to discuss further. Separate paper on this to follow. Mike Chad noted that the CEx trust has a 25 year lease on the building, but does not own it, contrary to SLC's assertion. Separate paper on this to follow. ACTION - JM to arrange a meeting with Alan Kelly from SLC's legal team to discuss further.

- **Tinto Car Park.** Noted that problems regarding poor parking seem to have reduced recently. Cllr IMcA said that he had received complaints about the length of the 30 mph zone. He said that speeding tickets had been issued. JM asked whether signage was going to be improved e.g permanent sign at eye level with countdown markers. Current arrangements give a sudden transition from 60 mph to 30 mph resulting in hard braking. ACTION Cllr IMcA check out this.

6. **Police Report** – none.

7. **Update on Clyde Extension fund** by Gareth Shields, Community investment Manager for SSE

- Currently £1m in the pot.
- Will accrue £235k p.a.
- £0.5m will be released initially (possibly Jan), with rest in reserve for large projects or future needs.
- 6 communities in fund area. Leadhills and Crawford and Elvanfoot CCs wish to work independently. Biggar, Q&T, Symington and Duneaton will pool their funds.
- Communities set objectives for fund. Could target particular needs, although none identified so far.
- Microgrant funds of £3k per community pa with potential for top-ups to £5k. They have a simple template for forms and ask for a simple CC yearly report.

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- Microgrants of up to £500
- Main funds start from £501 Indicative upper limit is £50k. Projects over £50k might be considered, but would need pre-approval via a large grant application.
- Quick turn around for routine applications. Quarterly meetings for large or less clear applications.
- There has been discussion about appointing a development worker or workers to develop Community Plan. £10k per CC could be ringfenced for this. The Panel felt this might be a good thing to do soon after the Fund's launch.
- More COVID microgrant funding may be in the pipeline.
- Revenue funding is possible. This might be for a 3 year start-up period, but can be decided by the panel.
- They are keen to support a variety of projects and to share different approaches used elsewhere.

8. Matters raised by the public

Bob highlighted that a tree from a garden is overhanging the path by Campsie's steps and reducing the light reaching the path. Cllr AA offered to take this up. ACTION. Add to infrastructure log.

Bob stated that the new footpath at Causewayend has raised the level of the ground so that there is only about 5 feet clearance for the speed delimiting sign. He is concerned that someone might catch their head on the sign and has raised this with BEAR Scotland. ACTION. Add to infrastructure log.

Anne Lindsay raised concerns about tables outside cafes obstructing the pavement. This is particularly difficult for those with visual impairments. PR asked whether all venues which currently have tables outside have the appropriate licences. LC felt we should be trying to support businesses at present. Agreed that a quiet word would be better, reminding businesses to leave a clear passageway. ACTION. LC to contact businesses about this.

9. **Treasurer's Report** – JM reported that due to COVID Bank of Scotland are not yet taking on new business accounts. When they do BCC will move BCC's accounts to Bank of Scotland's Treasurers Account package which includes cheques and if needed dual authorisation online banking. JM encouraged community groups to apply for micro grants either from COVID or standard funds as appropriate.

Business Account Final balance £457.07. It was agreed at this meeting to reimburse LS for laminating pouches for notices. ACTION. Laura to invoice and be paid.

Clyde Windfarm Account. Final balance £4465.02. Microgrant payment of £375.98 made to the Gillespie Centre for new curtains, table coverings and sanitizer. This was agreed by email and ratified at the meeting.

Incentive Account. Final balance £6132.63 (including uncashed cheque to Information Commissioner for £40).

This account has six distinct budget lines.

1. Glenkerie Windfarm Microgrant Fund. Final balance £743.92. No transactions on this budget since previous report. This account is for non-COVID activities, and applications need to be encouraged .
2. BCC Incentive Fund. Final balance £758.44. No transactions on this budget since previous report.
3. Clyde Extension COVID fund. Final balance £2630.27 (including uncashed cheque). A micro grant of £818.95 has been awarded to Biggar Tinto Scouts for equipment to allow them to restart activities . A cheque for £950 to the youth project has still not been cashed.
4. Glenkerie COVID fund. Balance £2000. There have not yet been any applications to this fund. Grants of up to £250 are available for COVID-related items.
5. Scottish Government Towns and BIDs Resilience and Recovery Fund. Final balance £0. This grant was to fund reopening the community toilet. An interim report to Scottish Government is due by 30th September and is in preparation.
6. BCAG Funds held by BCC pending BCAG setting up their own account. Final balance £0. One further incorrectly made out cheque in relation to hot meals since the last meeting. This was cashed and a replacement cheque issued to BCAG. No repetition of this problem since 20th August.

Asset register There is no change to the asset register.

10. Secretary's Report. Most of the communications were discussed elsewhere in this meeting, or came from conversations in the street. Official notifications have been shared on Facebook.

11. CC members reports. Jimmy stated that bonfire is unlikely to happen this year due to COVID, although this has not been widely publicised yet.

PR Noted that the road surface from the Museum to the Corn Exchange continues to disintegrate. TG said Bear inspect regularly. Traffic Scotland are intending permanent repairs in the next month. ACTION- TI continues to check and will report to Traffic Scotland, last report no 823.

12. AGM. Agreed to defer to January when hopefully the revised Scheme for CCs will officially allow it.

13. Grant applications. None to approve other than grant from Clyde Windfarm Account to Gillespie Centre referred to at Item 9.

14. SLC Cllrs reports

Cllr IMcA

- Cllr IMcA will be arranging a meeting with BEAR regarding provision of A702 crossing in the vicinity of the Wynd/Station Rd. May not be easy to find a suitable location. Cllr AA and Bob Brownlie will also attend. TI emphasised that crossing in this area is very difficult, especially for those with visual impairment.
- School is looking to put a mural on walls of Clydesdale Close archway. SLC are not the owner of the walls. Walker Carpets were suggested as the possible owner by JR.
- School return seems successful so far, although some issues about buses from outlying areas to High School.

Cllr AA

- There are issues with visibility at Carwood Rd/Northcrofts junction. Vegetation has been cut back, a fence may also need re-aligned. Realignment is planned as part of the new development with a new pavement.
- Library has opened and other leisure services are starting to come back, but smaller leisure facilities like Biggar are lower priority. Current hope is to re-open in Nov, but this will depend on how COVID progresses.
- Much of the SLC Capital Programme has been deferred due to COVID. Funds will be carried forward until next year.

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- Biggar Telephone Exchange is a priority for the R100 Broadband programme. Aim to upgrade by Christmas, then roll out in the more rural areas.
- Jimmy highlighted that the graveyard wall is in a poor state at Carwood Road.

15.Planning matters - Boghall Rd appeal - Since the last meeting SLC and Gladman have commented on the outcome of the Local Plan Appeal, and now have until the end of September to comment on each other's position. SLC have also confirmed that they will implement the recommended changes to the new Local Plan, so the areas that might have been scheduled for housing in Biggar will remain not allocated for housing.

TI stated that a scoping notification **P/20/1216** had been issued for a development of 27 turbines over 200 metres high at Greyside windfarm near Cowgill/Coulter reservoirs. Some would be visible from parts of Biggar. This application will be handled by the Scottish Government because of its size, over 50 MW. No significant planning applications this month.

JM had attended a Planning Democracy meeting about a consultation on changes to Scottish Planning policy and will provide a briefing note. BCC may wish to respond.

16. Online Banking. See Item 9. Treasurer's Report.

17. Resilience Planning. Neil and Bob to lead on planning for Resilience to create coherent and coordinated planning with a focus on winter weather, and to identify key contacts, before the next meeting. Jimmy highlighted that salt bins need refilling. All CC members and members of the public are requested to let Neil and Bob know about winter resilience issues that they are aware of.

18. AOCB. PR needs a BCC email account. ACTION - Janet/Thelma enable this. JM to add PR and NI to BCC website.

19. Next meeting Monday 19 Oct at 7pm. The AGM is deferred to January 2021.

Minute prepared by Thelma Ingram.