

Biggar Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on 19/4/21 via Zoom

Present: BCC Community Councillors Lesley Craise (Chair), Janet Moxley (Secretary), Jerry Sumpster (Treasurer), Laura Shirley, Jimmy Ritchie, Caz Alcorn, Roger Curtis, Bobby Colquhoun, Gillian Gardener

BCC Associate members: Anne Lindsay, Neil Ingram, Ben Waine

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

3 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Alex Allison, Peter Rae, Karen Pilpel

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (15 Mar 2021) Proposed: Laura. Seconded: Bobby.

Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

i) Land Offered by Story Homes

Story are checking whether water can be provided to this area. John Riley's community growing group need a water supply to take the site on.

ii) What's on Biggar website <https://www.whatsonbiggar.com/> Few events were submitted to the site during lockdown, but it is now active again. As Karen Pilpel, who administers the site, was unable to attend, Janet gave a demonstration of the site, and explained how to register to post events. Agreed that this site will be useful to the town, and that all BCC members would publicise it. Suggested that it might be a good idea for Karen publicise the site via posters for people who don't use Facebook.

iii) Station Rd Junction BEAR Scotland will deal with issues on the A702 part of this junction and other problems on the High St in due course. BEAR, Amey (the previous contractor for the A702) and Transport Scotland still seem to be apportioning responsibility for defects in Amey's resurfacing work. Communication from BEAR to BCC has been much better than communication from Amey used to be.

iv Litter picking

Janet stated that she, Laura, Roger and Neil were members of Biggar and District Civic Society (BDCS) committee and that the BDCS Litter Pick will take place on Sat 24 Apr with multiple starting points to help with social distancing. Coop will be supplying refreshments for volunteers. Ben offered to join in and cover the public park.

Ben felt that more regular litter picks could be useful. Road verges are particularly bad. Agreed that Ben should arrange some monthly litter picks, but that these should not involve main roads for safety reasons. Noted that Jim Jack at SLC is extremely helpful to groups organising litter picks.

Cllr McAllan emphasised the importance of reporting litter to SLC particularly if there is information about the source.

Police report

None available.

Noted recent vandalism to garden at Bizzyberry Nursery which appeared to involve drink and drugs.

Cllr McAllan noted that a new community constable now is in post along with a colleague who can corroborate evidence.

Matters raised by members of the public

Incinerator near Stonehouse A new application has been made for an energy from waste incinerator at Overwood Farm, Dovesdale near Stonehouse. There was a previous application for an incinerator at this site in 2011. It was felt that while individual BCC members might wish to express views on this, it was too far from Biggar for BCC to comment. Noted that although there is a deadline for comments on the Scoping Study, SLC often accept late comments for large applications.

Action: Janet to share to link to information on this application with BCC members.

Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Anne Lindsay provided an update on the Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Forum. In recent months, the forum has been in contact with Heather Knox, the CEO of NHS Lanarkshire to raise a number of issues regarding service provision in Biggar:

- i. Availability of breast screening services in Biggar rather than Lanark.
- ii. Confusing messages about COVID vaccination locations
- iii. Transport provision to major hospitals from Biggar in general, not specifically related to the previous points. There also needs to be transport provision of families wishing to visit relatives in hospital.

The response received with regard to patient transport missed the point as it only referred to transport to COVID vaccination centres. The Health and Social Care Forum will continue to pursue this issue with NHS Lanarkshire.

Getting to Ravenscraig for COVID jags remains difficult for some people. Although some appointments are available at St Nicolas's Hall in Lanark, they are getting booked up well in advance. As the Ravenscraig facility can vaccinate far more people per nurse per hour than Lanark, residents are urged to get the jag at Ravenscraig if they can, but Lanark is an option of that isn't possible. Biggar Community Action Group can assist with transport to Lanark for jags. Ravenscraig may continue to be used as a "supercentre" for booster jags, so this is likely to be an ongoing issue. Anne noted that NHS Lanarkshire were offering shuttle bus services to vaccination centres. However if people are having difficulty using a service bus to Lanark, they would probably still have difficulty using a shuttle bus.

Action: Anne to find out whether a shuttle bus from Biggar to Lanark for vaccinations would be possible, and if so how this would operate.

Caz highlighted that St Andrew's Hospice are looking at setting up a day centre once a week in Biggar for cancer patients who are unable to travel to access this sort of service elsewhere.

Anne explained that at present out-patient appointments are only available to patients who have had surgery and need aftercare or to patients needing regular checks. Other issues can be dealt with via clinics with GP referrals if urgent. Some out-patient appointments are now being carried out online. While this may save time and reduce the need to travel, the forum has concerns about the effectiveness of these appointments for some types of diagnosis.

A significant backlog of both out-patients and in-patients has built up in the last year, and this will take some time to clear.

Anyone with issues which they would like the Health and Social Care forum to raise with NHS Lanarkshire should contact Anne Lindsay on 01899 221994 or email anne.lindsay@rocketmail.com

Roger noted difficulty with getting replacements for lost hearing aids even if paid for. Wearing masks increases the chance of accidentally dislodging a hearing aid.

Action: Cllr McAllan to investigate with NHS Lanarkshire. Lesley to look into how audiology services and hearing aid repairs are working.

SLC Councillors Reports

Cllr McAllan

There have been some unlicensed street traders operating in Biggar. This has been brought to the attention of SLC's Licencing Dept. Please let Cllr McAllan know of any further issues.

Arrangements to cope with visitor numbers on Tinto Hill are being reviewed. There have been calls for toilets in the car park and reduction to the speed limit on the A73. There is now a notice at Tinto Car Park stating the public toilets are available in Biggar.

SLC are working on a new litter strategy and could provide a speaker on this for a future BCC meeting.

Eric Carlyle, Chair of Symington CC will be standing down due to ill health.

Action: Lesley to send a message/card to Eric.

Treasurer's report

Annual accounts have been submitted to SLC, and top-up of Admin grant (£515) will be made once they have been checked.

The Glenkerie Windfarm top-up of £1000 has arrived.

The Clyde Windfarm year-end report has been submitted, and top-up payment will be made to bring this account back up to £5000.

Account balances

1. Business Account Final balance £0.
2. Clyde Windfarm Account Final balance £2215.02. This includes an uncashed cheque for £500.
3. Incentive Account. Final balance £5705.71. There are four funds within this account:
 - I) Glenkerie Windfarm Microgrant Fund. Final balance £1043.92.
 - ii) BCC Incentive Fund. Final balance £861.52.
 - iii) Clyde Extension COVID fund. Final balance £2300.27.
 - iv) Glenkerie COVID fund. Final balance £1500.

A £100 deposit paid for a booking of the Municipal Hall in Feb 2020 has been returned to the Incentive Fund.

It was unanimously agreed that Jerry should be added as a signatory for the BCC Accounts. The resolution in Annex 1 was unanimously agreed. This wording is specified by RBS. Jerry Sumpster shall be added as a signatory and Janet Moxley, Lesley Craise and Laura Shirley shall remain as signatories.

Action: Jerry to organise adding himself as a signatory.

It was unanimously agreed to keep the account with RBS although they do not provide free dual mandate online banking, but to authorise online transactions via a minuted agreement and dual

signed form (similar to that approved by SLC for cash transactions) providing that this is acceptable to funders. SLC have already given a dispensation for this during COVID.

It was agreed by a majority vote (7:2) that online banking with dual signatory authorisation forms (which could be scanned as well as paper) would be used as long as this was acceptable to microgrant providers. Foundation Scotland/Glenkerie have had concerns about this in the past. It is also possible that SLC might not extend the current derogation which allows CCs to use online banking during COVID indefinitely.

Action: Jerry to check with Foundation Scotland/Glenkerie, the Clyde Windfarm Community Fund and the Clyde Windfarm Extension Community Fund whether single action online banking backed up with countersigned authorisation forms is acceptable to them. Jerry will also engage with SLC to find out what banking arrangements they intend to allow for CCs post-COVID.

Payment to £9.57 to Laura Shirley to reimburse expenditure on laminator pouches was unanimously approved. This payment will be made from the Business Account once the top-up payment has been received from SLC.

Action: Jerry to arrange payment when funds available.

Peter Rae has kindly agreed to waive the reimbursement £6.66 that he was due for telephone expenses.

Unanimously agreed that £45 remaining from a microgrant from the Clyde Windfarm to BCC for the Community Fayre would be repaid from the Incentive Account to the Clyde Windfarm Account.

Action: Jerry to arrange transfer between accounts.

Microgrant Applications

There were no applications for decision at this meeting, but two applications have arrived recently and will be circulated to BCC members.

There is still funding for both COVID and non-COVID activities. Groups are encouraged to apply for microgrants. Janet has sent information about the COVID microgrants to groups which might be restarting activities. Information about microgrants is available on the BCC website including application forms and things which cannot be funded.

Planning Matters

There were no significant planning applications in the BCC area this month.

Covenanters House Sale

Biggar Museum Trust (BMT) have put the Covenanters House up for sale without consulting the community. The Civic Society have been trying to explore new uses, but to date have not been able to obtain funding for a feasibility study, although several grant applications have been made. BMT show no sign of reviewing their decision to sell. Earlier in the meeting under the item on Litter Picking, Janet had stated that Roger, Laura, Neil and herself were members of the BDCS committee.

Agreed by a majority vote that BCC would put out a statement acknowledging the hard work that has been done by BMT, particularly with regard to setting up the new museum, but expressing concern about the lack of community consultation on the sale of the Covenanters' House. Five BCC members voted for this the agreed statement; one voted in favour of a statement which praised

BMT's work in the town but did not mention the Covenanters' House sale; two voted for a statement that acknowledged the hard work done by BMT and noted strong views in the town both for and against the sale and one abstained. (If BDCS committee members are removed from the vote, three BCC members voted for this the agreed statement; one voted in favour of a statement which praised BMT's work in the town but did not mention the Covenanters' House sale; one voted for a statement that acknowledged the hard work done by BMT and noted strong views in the town both for and against the sale and one abstained.)

Action: Lesley to draft a statement to be put in Facebook.

Noted that James Dawney, Chair of BMT feels that BCC is not supportive of BMT. This appears to relate to BCC's stance on a proposed use of Moat Park several years ago (before most of the current members of BCC were involved). A more recent microgrant application from Friends of Biggar Museum which was not funded may also have contributed to this feeling.

SLC Use of Glyphosate

Following on from concerns about glyphosate use at the February BCC meeting, Friends of Burnbraes have contacted SLC about use of glyphosate weedkiller on grass areas at Knocklea where the application has caused grass to die-back around the kerb edges. The response from Ian Guild at SLC indicated that contractors had been asked to minimise use, and that as grass can be cut up to the kerbs some of this spraying may not have been necessary. Noted that SLC are investigating alternatives to glyphosate for weed control.

SLC Local Food Initiative

Janet reported that she had attended an online meeting organised by SLC who have some funding for activities to promote local food in Clydesdale via market-type events. They are looking for local events which they can link into. They are in touch with Biggar Little Festival with a view to having a local food contribution at their event at Loaningdale in the summer. Anyone else wishing to get involved with this initiative should get in touch with Janet.

AOCB

The shelter at the public park has now been removed. There are other issues with the public park, including increasing space occupied by caravans. Jimmy mentioned that he had heard that the shop and café is to be removed and replaced with a portacabin.

Actions: Janet to write a briefing paper on the public park for the next meeting.

Ian to find out what is happening with regard to the shop and café.

Date of next meeting Next 17th May 7pm via Zoom.

Appendix 1 Wording of Agreed Resolution on Addition of Jerry Sumpster to authorised bank signatories.

It was resolved that a banking relationship will be maintained with The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc (the **Bank**) in accordance with this mandate and that:

- the individuals identified as **Authorised Signatories** may, in accordance with the **Signing Rules**:
 - o sign cheques and give instructions for Standing Orders, Direct Debits, electronic payments, banker's drafts and other payments on the accounts even if it causes an account to be overdrawn or exceed any limit
 - o sign, accept or endorse bills of exchange.
- **Authorised Signatories** identified in the **Signing Rules** for unlimited amounts may, in accordance with the **Signing Rules**:
 - o sign agreements for electronic products, including payment systems, and appoint or remove administrators and operators of those electronic products. The Business / Organisation authorises the administrators and operators to exercise the powers detailed in the terms of each electronic product. These powers may be extensive and include the power to make payments and access information on behalf of the Business / Organisation, and in the case of administrators, the power to appoint and remove other administrators (with the same powers) and operators
- any **Authorised Signatory** may give other instructions or requests for information to the Bank in relation to the accounts; opening accounts with the same **Signing Rules** and **Authorised Signatories**; closing accounts; or other banking services or products
- the Bank may accept instructions that do not have an original written signature provided the Bank is satisfied that the instruction is genuine and subject to any other agreement the Bank may require for those instructions
- The mandate will continue until the Customer completes a new mandate / passes a new Resolution advising the changes in authority on the account(s);
- The Customer agrees to provide the Bank with a copy of its constitution and any amendment(s) to the constitution, certified as correct by the Secretary.