

**Biggar Community Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on 21/6/21 via Zoom**

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

**BCC Associate members:** Anne Lindsay, Neil Ingram, Fin Laing, Ben Waine

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

4 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Mairi McAllan MSP

**1) Minutes of the Previous Meeting (17 May 2021)**

Accepted subject to AOCB Item i being amended to state that the Kello gardening project will be led by Clydesdale Community Initiatives.

Proposed (as amended): Caz. Seconded: Peter.

**2) Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

None not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

**3) Matters raised by members of the public**

**i) Bus Layby**

The recurring issue of congestion caused by buses taking their timetabled 4 min stop outside Brownlies has been raised again. SLC Councillors are aware of this issue and both they and BCC have contacted SPT who are not minded to re-instate the layby. Agreed to see whether the Community Action Plan identifies this as a key issue for people in the town.

**ii) Golf Course road speed limit**

Despite the speed bumps, there have been reports of traffic travelling at speeds which have alarmed pedestrians. BCC has contacted the Golf Club and the caravan site to ask them to remind their members and customers to drive considerately. BCC have also contacted SLC to requested signage showing the speed limit. The SLC Councillors pointed out that as this road is not adopted SLC may not be able to provide signage. The lower end of the road may be the responsibility of SLLC, while responsibility for the top end may be with neighbouring landowners.

**iii) Land between Northcrofts and Story Homes**

There has been a complaint about the state of the strip of land between the back of Northcrofts and Story Homes. The Story Homes site manager feels that it is SLC's responsibility as it is by their social housing development, but SLC do not agree.

**Action: Janet to check ownership of the area on the ScotLIS website. Laura to take some photos.**

**4) Fin Laing Introduction**

New Associate Member, Fin Laing, one of the outgoing High School captains, introduced himself and was welcomed by the Chair who hoped that Fin would be able to help BCC reflect the views of younger people.

**5) Police report 13/05/21 – 19/6/21**

37 Incidents recorded.

10 crime reports raised – 6 x RTA offences, 1 x Communications Act Offence, 1 x vandalism, 1 x sexual offence, 1 x fraud.

There is nothing to indicate any specific trends that should cause any concerns to the local community.

Due to staff absence, the police have not been able to carry out any speed checks, although they have positioned vehicles in areas which BCC felt were a concern (approaches to the town centre, Lindsaylands Rd and Broughton Rd).

Cameron Paton is moving on from his role as Community Policing Sergeant for Clydesdale and will be replaced by Richard Durie.

## **6) SLC Councillors' Reports**

### Cllr Ian McAllan

Roads are examining damage to cobbles by the Corn Exchange, and have inspected the drainage problem outside 98-100 High St. They intend to correct drainage problems on the pavement outside 98 – 100 High St in the autumn.

SLC will be removing the golf booking office which is in a poor state.

BEAR Scotland will be installing an informal crossing on the A702 between the undertakers and the War Memorial. This will have dropped curbs, distinctive road surfacing and signage, although the exact design is to be confirmed.

### Cllr Allison

The request to the Common Good fund for £8k to pay for lighting on the path between the Campsies and the Boghall Estate has been approved, and Roads are finalising the design. They are planning to contact residents on Cardon Dr with properties adjacent to the path to ensure that there are no problems with light intrusion or flooding.

A proposal to modernise the relationship between SLC and SLLC is being considered by SLC. This could have implications for management of the public park.

## **7) Treasurer's report**

Jerry has now been added as a signatory on the BCC accounts.

### Account balances

1. Business Account Final balance £0. Awaiting SLC top-up payment.
2. Clyde Windfarm Account Final balance £1345.12. Payments to WomankIND and Biggar Little Festival have been made since the last meeting.
3. Incentive Account. Final balance £4665.07. There are five funds within this account
  - i. Glenkerie Windfarm Microgrant Fund. Final balance £543.92. Payments to the Men's Shed and Biggar Little Festival have been made since the last meeting.
  - ii. BCC Incentive Fund. Final balance £861.52. No transactions since last meeting.
  - iii. Clyde Extension COVID fund. Final balance £1670.27 Payment to Biggar Institute since last meeting.
  - iv. Glenkerie COVID fund. Final balance £1500. No transactions since last meeting.
  - v. Community Action Plan fund. Final balance £89.36. This is money from the Clyde Extension Community Fund held on behalf of the Action Plan Steering group.

## **8) Health and Social Care Forum**

Anne reported on two Health and Social Care Forum meetings that she had attended, one on Home Care and one on the Integration Board.

Home Care services are stretched in Clydesdale and particularly in the Biggar area due to an increasing population of older people and the move to support people at home rather than in hospital where possible. COVID and long COVID has also increased demand. Health Boards and Local Authorities throughout the UK consider budgets for Home Care are inadequate and should come under Government review.

The Scottish Government are considering whether the Integration Boards should return to their original intention, namely, that they should determine the role of both Local Authorities and Health Boards in reporting directly to the Integration Board regarding care of the elderly and disabled whether long or short termed and how their finances should be allocated accordingly.

## **9) Microgrant Applications**

### **i) Decisions on Applications received.**

- a. Biggar Little Festival – £250 from the Glenkerie fund and £500 from the Clyde fund towards the cost of running the Biggar Little Picnic event.
- b. What's on Biggar Website - £360.18 from the Clyde Fund for leaflet distribution.  
There is one application in the pipeline.

### **ii) Wild Things outdoor learning project**

Due to COVID, Wild Things have not been able to complete their outdoor learning project at the Biggar Primary School as anticipated. It was agreed that that the deadline for completion should be extended until October half-term.

## **10) Planning Matters**

### **i) Grayside Windfarm**

Neil provided an update on a meeting with Arcus, the agents for the developer, that he, Janet and Peter had attended. Most site surveys are now complete. In the light of these and feedback from the community, the number of turbines has been reduced from 27 to 23, and access for construction traffic is being negotiated via the Clyde Extension access point at Wandel. There will be another round of online exhibitions in July to show the latest proposals.

### **ii) Rowhead Farm housing proposal**

2 new houses are proposed at Rowhead Farm. BCC commented on the application requesting that SLC assess the impact on traffic on the Wynd/Rowhead Terrace and through the Burnbraes but did not object to or support the application.

### **iii) Loaningdale Paddock housing proposal**

Planning permission in principle has been requested for 23 new houses are proposed in the field between Loaningdale House and Carwood Rd. Stewart Anderson, the agent for the applicant was present at the meeting and explained the background to the application. As currently envisaged, there will be no social housing on site, but the applicant would provide funding to SLC for 6 social housing units elsewhere. This is SLC's preferred arrangement, but the applicant has no objection to constructing these social housing units on site.

SLC asked BCC for views on this application and have indicated that it will be decided by the Planning Committee. The next Planning Committee meeting is 10 Aug, so this is the earliest date that a decision could be made. SLC will be able to accept responses until shortly before this date the application is determined.

It was agreed to run a survey to assess the community's view of this application. This will be via Survey Monkey and a paper survey, launching on Mon 5<sup>th</sup> July to avoid coinciding with the launch of the Community Action Plan survey. Caz agreed that paper copies of the survey could be collected and returned at the Gillespie Centre.

**Action: Janet to draft survey and circulate for comment.**

### **11) Conflicts of Interest**

Lesley has drafted guidance on how to deal with conflicts of interest. It was agreed to adopt this as long as SLC have no objections.

**Action: Lesley to send conflict of interest guidance to Elizabeth Harrison at SLC.**

### **12) Community Action Plan update**

The first phase of the Action Plan survey, which is for the general public, will launch on 26/27 June. Paper copies will be delivered to all houses in Biggar and be available at locations around the town. There will also be an electronic copy of the survey on Survey Monkey. Biggar High School pupils have already been invited to complete this survey. Specific surveys for businesses and community groups will follow.

### **13) Biggar, Saskatchewan**

Peter gave an update on the video to support Biggar, SK's town regeneration project. This has been completed. Peter provided archive footage and Rhyce Barry provided film of drive through Biggar and drone shots of the area. Ian Murray kindly allowed a new version of the Biggar Burgh song to be used in the video which was edited together by Janet. The video and has been well received both in Saskatchewan and Scotland. Biggar, SK are going to provide a video of their town asking people here to complete the Community Action Plan Survey. It was agreed to use £30 from the Incentive Fund to purchase an Amazon voucher for Rhyce Barry to thank him for his assistance in filming the video.

**Actions: Peter to submit an Incentive Fund application form and Jerry to purchase a voucher.**

### **14) AOCB**

- i. Glyphosate use. Neil reported that excessive glyphosate weedkiller has been used in kirkyard despite assurances from SLC that previous excessive spraying at Knocklea was an anomaly.  
**Action: Lesley to contact Ian Guild at SLC about this issue.**
- ii. Retaining walls Jimmy noted that retaining walls of the kirkyard onto Carwood Rd needed repairs. The wall at the Municipal also needs attention.  
**Action: Lesley to raise this with Ian Guild**
- iii. Strimming Over-zealous strimming in the Burnbraes has damaged fruit trees, despite tree guards being in place. Friends of Burnbraes have been in touch with SLC who will remind their staff to be careful when strimming near trees and will provide replacement tree tubes.

**Date of next meeting** Next 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 7pm via Zoom unless restrictions ease to allow a face to face meeting.