

Biggar Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on 18/10/21 via Zoom

Present: BCC Community Councillors Lesley Craise (Chair), Janet Moxley, Jerry Sumpster, Laura Shirley, Jimmy Ritchie, Roger Curtis, Peter Rae, Gillian Gardner, Bobby Colquhoun.

BCC Associate members: Neil Ingram, Al Stewart, Robin Laing

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

7 members of the public. 2 members of the public left the meeting when asked to identify themselves, and further 2 members of the public did not identify themselves when asked to do so and were removed from the meeting by the Chair.

Apologies: Anne Lindsay, Ben Waine

1) Minutes of the Previous Meeting (20 Sept 2021)

Proposed: Peter. Seconded: Jimmy

2) Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

Date of meeting regarding Health and Social Care has not been decided yet.

3) Matters raised by members of the public

i) Social media comments Jim Gibb, who holds the managed service contract for the caravan site and public park, stated that he felt that comments which Janet had made on Facebook in a personal capacity about the contract and management of this area breached the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors and proposed a vote of no confidence in Janet's suitability to be a member of BCC and called for her resignation.

Lesley explained that SLC are responsible for enforcing the Code of Conduct and that this matter has been referred to them. The Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils and BCC Constitution do not provide any means for Community Councils themselves to deal with breaches of the Code of Conduct or to remove members.

It was agreed that Lesley would contact Cleland Sneddon, the CEO of SLC to ask for the S Lan Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils be reviewed to consider this issue as well as other areas where it is in need of updating. A full view of the Scheme was promised last year after changes were made to allow online meetings, but this review has not happened yet. Cllr Allison stated that this review would be unlikely to be possible before the council elections next year.

Jerry proposed an amendment to the Biggar CC Constitution, which would need to be approved by SLC.

A member of the public offered to provide a template for a social media policy for BCC.

Lesley reminded BCC members that they should consider how opinions they express reflect on BCC even when these are given in a personal capacity.

Action: Lesley to contact SLC CEO to request a review of the Scheme of Establishment for CCs, draft an amendment to the Biggar CC Constitution and develop a social media policy.

ii) High St Pavement Flooding Cllr McAllan gave an update on SLC's plans to remediate the flooding on the pavement around Charcoal Grey. This was due to have been done in Sept. SLC plan to revise pavement levels, but there are currently unusually long delays in obtaining materials. SLC aim to carry this work before the end of October.

iii) Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Cllr Allison stated that SLC still intend to install additional charging points on the High St between the Museum and the Corn Exchange and there may be some in the new car park by Story Homes on North Back Rd.

A member of the public asked about SLC's policy on EV charging. Cllr Allison was not aware

of any particular policy, but stated that SLC were installing charging points as and when possible.

Neil mentioned a newspaper article suggesting that some of SLC's charging point installation would be delayed, including that in Biggar.

Concerns were also raised about vehicles parking at EV charging points when they were not using them.

Action: Cllr Allison to check SLC's timescale for delivering additional EV charging points and the legality of vehicles parking EV charging bays when not using them.

iv) Removal of banners from street furniture What's On Biggar banners have been deliberately removed from outside the bank and the end of Station Rd, although other banners in the same locations were left in place. This was not done by SLC, who would only remove banners if there was a complaint. SLC stated that their permission is not required for banners on private property, however banners cannot not be put on SLC's street furniture.

Caz stated that once the Gillespie Centre external renovations have been done there will be a specific space to hang banners. They will publicise the dimensions and run a booking calendar.

Action: Cllr McAllan to seek clarification from SLC regarding displaying banners

4) Police report 20/09/21 – 15/10/21

19 Incidents recorded. For comparison, in the same period there were 122 incidents recorded for Lanark and 171 for Carluke.

4 crime reports raised – 2 thefts, 1 incidence of fire-raising and 1 case of vandalism.

The police confirmed that all reported crimes are fully investigated and where sufficient evidence exists the perpetrators are reported. In August, a number of shoplifting crimes took place locally. A 33 year old male, not local to the area has been identified. This male, when traced will be charged with these crimes and reported to the Procurator Fiscal at Lanark Sheriff Court.

Thefts of Quad Bikes from farms have increased in recent weeks throughout the area and the police urge anyone observing any suspicious vehicles or activity in rural areas to report this using the 101 phone number. Cllr Allison had been informed that more patrols would be deployed in the rural area.

Action: Janet to post on BCC social media to publicise the increase in quad bike theft and importance of reporting suspicious activity.

The police also informed that they will be redeployed to Glasgow for three weeks for the COP talks.

Biggar Police station is being cleared out with a view to being sold, but no new location for police in Biggar has been identified. BCC members were concerned that there might not be a police presence in Biggar. Cllr McAllan has had assurances that there will be some sort of presence, but it is not clear exactly what. SLC Councillors will keep up pressure for police to have a base in Biggar. Neil pointed out that the under Community Right to Buy legislation community should be offered first refusal on purchasing the Police Station if it is to be sold.

Action: Cllr McAllan to contact the Divisional Commander for an update.

5) SLC Councillors' Reports

Cllr Allison has been mainly focussing on constituent's individual issues.

CLlr McAllan Westercrofts burgundy bins have not been being uplifted due to difficulties with the vehicle accessing the area, but this collection will now be reinstated.

Scottish Water are investigating the smell of sewage on Rowhead Terr which has been an issue since McAlpine Court was built. The connection from McAlpine Court has not yet been adopted.

6) Treasurer's report

Account balances

1. Business Account Final balance £465.43. £40 paid for Information Commissioner registration.
2. Clyde Windfarm Account Final balance £3521.32. No transactions since last meeting.
3. Incentive Account. Final balance £3993.50. There are four active funds within this account
 - i. Glenkerie Windfarm Microgrant Fund. Final balance £1735.52. No transactions since last meeting.
 - ii. BCC Incentive Fund. Final balance £544.52. No transactions since last meeting.
 - iii. Clyde Extension COVID fund. Final balance £1670.27 No transactions since last meeting.
 - iv. Community Action Plan fund. Final balance £543.19. £500 paid in from Clyde Extension fund grant.

Treasurer Jerry has resigned as Treasurer. Bobby was elected to replace him. Noted that Bobby does not have Excel, but Open Office (which is free) can be used to work with Excel spreadsheets. Agreed that account signatories should be changed to remove Jerry and add Bobby while keeping Lesley, Laura and Janet. The wording of the formal resolution to do this as required by RBS is recorded in Annex 1.

Lesley thanked Jerry for the work that he has put in as Treasurer.

Action: Janet to arrange change of signatories using RBS's online procedure.

It was agreed that Lesley would be reimbursed £30 to cover the admin charge to change the name on the Temporary Entertainment Licence for the Bonfire from the Cornets to BCC.

Action: Bobby to organise a cheque from the BCC Business Account.

7) Microgrants

Microgrant Awards A Ventient Glenkerie microgrant of £250 has been awarded to Biggar Area Climate Care to run a bike repair workshop. As this is a new group which does not yet have a bank account, the funds will be kept in the BCC account and reimbursed against receipts.

A further four microgrant applications are in the pipeline.

Microgrant Process This should work as follows:

- Neil checks forms for completeness, then circulates to BCC members
- Members send any questions or comments to Neil ONLY and let him know if they have no questions. Timescale 5 days.
- Neil forwards questions to applicant to respond.
- Questions, comments and applicant's answers are forwarded to BCC members
- BCC members vote on application. Timescale 5 days.
- Applicant informed of result.

8) Planning Matters

i) Grayside Windfarm. The agents for the Grayside Windfarm proposal near Coulter have offered a meeting with BCC. Although not in the BCC area, this area is used by people from Biggar for recreation. Agreed to accept the invitation if the developers are amenable to a specific online meeting on this issue which is open to the public.

ii) Crown Fire Escape. A revised application has been submitted for a fire escape at the Crown. BCC had concerns about a previous application which was withdrawn. The revised design addresses the concerns. Agreed that BCC should not respond to this application.

9) Remembrance Day Arrangements

There will be no parade this year due to COVID concerns, but there will be a short wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial.

BCC agreed to expenditure on a wreath. Alan Michie will arrange for this to be delivered to Jimmy. A receipt will be with the wreath.

Action: Bobby to arrange to arrange payment for the wreath to go to Alan Michie.

BCC have been contacted by the Diplomatic Representative of Flanders who would like to provide a wreath because of the historic links between Biggar and Flanders dating back to the Flemings of Boghall Castle. A wreath from them will be delivered to Alan Michie.

10) COVID Memorial Orchard

SLC intend to plant COVID memorial orchards in parks throughout the area. 64 fruit trees are going to be provided for Biggar. BCC and other groups had been asked about potential locations for these and BCC members had been asked by email to suggest locations. SLC have decided that these will be located along the Burn in the Burnbraes. SLC hope that community groups will be involved in planting these when they arrive in December and with harvesting fruit for community use once the trees mature. Friends of Burnbraes will co-ordinate recruiting volunteers for this.

11) Community Action Plan Update

The surveys for individuals and businesses have now closed and responses are being analysed. The survey for community groups is still open. The analysis will give an overall view and also assess how views vary between different sections of the population.

12) AOCB

- i. Gillespie Centre Security Caz explained that following the stabbing of David Arniss MP, the Gillespie Centre are reviewing security arrangements for political surgeries. Alex reported that politicians are all reviewing arrangements for meetings with the public.
- ii. Land on market road. Robin Laing asked whether BCC had established who owned the land with the bushes on Market Rd when looking into getting the bushes trimmed. BCC research suggests that it belongs to a company which has been wound up.
- iii. Format of future meetings Agreed to do a trial of a blended format meeting combining physical and online attendance. This will need a venue with good broadband speed.
Action: Janet, Peter and Gareth Kirk to check connectivity at the Gillespie and the Municipal and make arrangements for a trial. No business will be conducted at this trial meeting.

Date of next meeting Next 15th Nov 7pm probably via Zoom, unless the blended format trial has been run successfully.

Annex 1 Resolution on change of 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:

- authorised signatories shall be Janet Moxley, Laura Shirley, Lesley Craise and Robert (Bobby) Colquhoun. Jerry Sumpster shall be removed as a signatory.

- the address for bank correspondence shall be Bobby's address, 22A South Back Rd, Biggar.

- 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.

- o request and give counter-indemnities for the issue of letters of credit or Guarantees (including bonds, indemnities and undertakings)

- 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 Authority advising the changes in authority on the accounts.