

**Draft Minutes of the AGM of Biggar Community Council**  
**Held on 10th December 2018 in Biggar Library meeting room at 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Community Council

Thelma Ingram (vice chairperson)  
James Ritchie  
George Cunningham  
Gil Dunn (chairperson)  
Jan Currie (secretary)  
Jerry Sumpster  
Janet Moxley  
Lesley Craise (minute taker)  
Laura Shirley

Ex officio

Councillor Ian McAllan

Members of the public in attendance

Mike Fleming  
Neil Ingram  
James Softley

**Apologies:**

Councillor Alec Allison  
David Wardrop-White  
Sue Pacey

**Adoption of Minutes of Last AGM**

Adoption of the minutes of the AGM of Biggar Community Council held on 20th November 2017 in the Municipal Hall, Biggar, was proposed by James Ritchie and seconded by Janet Moxley. The minutes were approved.

**Chair's Opening Remarks**

Gil Dunn introduced herself as the new chairperson of Biggar Community Council and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She stated that there are seven new members on the community council and two long standing community councillors. Peter Rae has resigned, leaving one vacancy. Gil said that those new to the community council were relying on the long standing members' expertise and knowledge.

Gil stated that the new community council intends to be as open and transparent as possible, emphasising the need to communicate with the community. A new website is being developed which will include information about local grants available, and minutes and agendas will be posted there, and on Facebook, as well as on the noticeboard in the High Street.

A database of community organisations is under development. Sensible debate on social media will be encouraged and a Community Fayre/Community Consultation event is in the early stages of planning.

Gil said the new community council was keen to retain and build on existing links with South Lanarkshire Council and other influential organisations, and is also keen to develop links with other community councils to see how they operate.

Members of the public will be encouraged to speak at Community Council Meetings, but are asked to submit agenda items in advance if they are raising an issue, in order to allow the community council time to gather information.

Mike Fleming stressed the importance of communication, he had found out by chance that there was a community council in Biggar. Janet Moxley suggested a newsletter to celebrate successes.

### **Election of Office Bearers**

Peter Rae's resignation left the position of treasurer vacant. Jan Currie nominated Jerry Sumpster and this was seconded by Laura Shirley. There was unanimous agreement.

### **Outgoing Chairperson's Report**

James Ritchie welcomed all present and extended a special welcome to the new community councillors. He gave the following report.

This year had been difficult for the community council because their liaison person within the council, Margaret Armstrong, had retired.

Work on lighting in the Burn Braes will start shortly. Parking at the Wynd and Kirkstyle are ongoing issues which will need to be pursued. Parking at the school is still causing problems, despite a meeting being held to address the issues. Further meetings will be needed. There are many other issues, including bus parking.

Jimmy thanked the following people:

Vice Chairman Graham Kerr for all his help

Treasurer Peter Rae for all his hard work keeping the community council's finances in order

Secretary Diana Nutt for a great job carried out efficiently

Karen, minutes secretary who also did a great job

Anne Harrison

Billy Buchanan, who we wish a speedy recovery from his stroke, and who worked hard for the community council

Gordon Cunningham for all his support and hard work over the last year

Last but not least our three local Councillors.

Jimmy concluded by wishing the new community council all the best and thanked everyone for their attendance.

### **Treasurers Submission of Balance Sheet and Annual Accounts**

The Treasurer, Jerry Sumpster, presented the 2017 - 18 Accounts, as drafted and approved by SLC, with supporting spreadsheets showing a more detailed analysis. The number and total value of all micro grants was also provided. The spreadsheets and annual accounts were presented to all in attendance and remain available to members and public upon request.

Jerry stated that at 31/3/18 year end the various positions were as follows:

Business Account - £344.00

Incentive Account - £1753.08 of which £870 is Glenkerie Windfarm Grant moneys.

Windfarm Account - £3231.00

Over the 2017/18 year the following numbers of Grants have been approved and paid:

Glenkerie Fund, 5 grants totalling £1131.20

Clyde Windfarm (Windfarm A/c), 13 grants totalling £5260.00

There were some minor errors in the ledgers supporting the annual accounts e.g. an entry that suggests "Biggar Masonics - New Regalia" which was in fact a contribution to repairs to a building which is used by the community. These minor errors will be amended and there is also a need to update the list of the whereabouts of fixed assets.

Jerry advised that there was a need for him to perform a similar exercise to correct narratives against grants issued from the Clyde Windfarm Fund.

The (Business Account) Grant from South Lanarkshire Council each year operates on a "top up" basis; in other words SLC provide a sum of £500 per year, but reduced by the unspent Grant from the previous year.

Gil Dunn proposed the adoption of the treasurer's report and this was seconded by Janet Moxley. The meeting adopted the report.

### **Date of Next AGM 21st October 2019**

There was some debate about this, some preferring less of a gap between the financial year end and the AGM. It was pointed out that the accounts are generally not audited until at least June and time also has to be allowed to respond to any questions raised by the auditor. Jerry said he would not recommend changing the timing of the AGM and stated that he would provide a monthly financial report.

It was agreed that the AGM minutes be ratified at the next Ordinary Meeting, and then formally accepted at the time of the next AGM.

A member of the public asked whether copies of the Standing Orders for Community Councillors could be made available to them. Gil confirmed as these are available to the public on SLC website there would be nothing to preclude this. An email address was taken in order to send a copy to the requester.