

Biggar Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7:00pm on 19/8/19
in Biggar Library Meeting Room

Present:

Community Council

Jerry Sumpster (Chair), Gil Dunn (Treasurer), Jan Currie (Secretary), Thelma Ingram, Jimmy Ritchie, Laura Shirley, Janet Moxley, Lesley Craise (Minute Taker)

Ex Officio

Cllrs Ian McAllan and Alex Allison

No members of the public

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Chair's Opening Remarks

Jerry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Minute of the meeting held on 17/6/19

Correction to item 2.1(m). We will finally decide whether to register with the Information Commissioners Office at the meeting held on 19/8/19 and the fee is £40, not £50.

With these corrections, the minutes were proposed by Gil and seconded by Jerry.

3.1 Matters arising from the meeting held on 17/6/19

All actions listed in the actions table have been completed. Jerry, rather than Janet as stated in the actions table, wrote to SPT about the bus stop in the High Street causing traffic problems.

4. Police Report

The police were not in attendance and no report or correspondence had been received. Cllr McAllan advised that this might be due to staff changes. He will ask Police Scotland to let us know if they cannot attend a meeting or send a report. We acknowledged that attending Community Council meetings will not be Police Scotland's top priority. An email was received subsequent to the meeting.

5. Chair's Monthly Report

Jerry noted the significant pieces of work undertaken since the last meeting, the production and distribution of the newsletter and the Transport, Health and Social Care **Consultations**.

5.1 Bonfire

Jerry gave an update on the bonfire insurance and public event license. He met with Al Stewart from the Cornet's Club. There is now a separate bonfire committee. The bonfire insurance has been confirmed but there is a need for clarification about whether torch bearers, including children, and the public attending the event, are insured. Jerry will clarify this.

Jimmy has submitted the request for the public event license.

In connection with the insurance, Jerry has taken new measurements and will check them in response to a query from Cllr Allison about whether having the barriers 20m from the centre of the fire is viable in terms of layout. Jimmy advised that the cornets are planning to invite Jerry to their next meeting.

6. Secretary's Report

A letter of thanks had been received from Biggar High School with respect to our Incentive Fund grant for a school prize.

The gardener's club returned their cheque because the bus did not turn up for their trip.

Jan had received an equipment brochure which she thought might be useful for the Burn Braes. Janet will have a look.

7. Digital Correspondence

Gil provided a summary of digital correspondence received since the last meeting. A copy of this is available on our website <https://biggarcc.weebly.com>, or at the Library.

8. Specific matters brought to meeting by public

No members of the public were present.

9. Treasurer's Report

Balance figures given are correct at 19/8/19

Business account balance **£391.30**

Incentive account balance **£1578.55**

(Glenkerie balance £769.12, Incentive fund balance £809.43)

Clyde windfarm account balance **£2813.50**

The business account has been topped up, but an expense of £30 for flowers for the retiring minutes secretary for the previous community council was disallowed and our top up reduced accordingly.

The annual accounts have been approved by SLC.

The £150 grant to the Gardener's club which was returned has been paid back into the Glenkerie funding in the incentive account.

10. SLC Councillors Reports

Since our last meeting Councillors have dealt with complaints about:

- Speeding
- The bus from Edinburgh not stopping at Hamilton's the butchers
- Fireworks at Cornhill

People's main complaint about the fireworks at Cornhill was that they had been given no information about this and so could not make appropriate arrangements for animals.

They also reported on a rumour going round that Gladman are planning to circumvent the planning process and go straight to Holyrood. Cllr Allison explained that if the planning application is refused or taking an unusually long time Gladman can appeal to Scottish Ministers. What may have given rise to the rumour is that Gladman are appealing to the Scottish Ministers over the draft local plan.

11. Agenda Items

11.1 Clyde 1 and 2 main fund panels

We confirmed that Lesley and Jimmy are our representatives for Clyde 1 and Lesley and Jerry for Clyde 2.

Lesley explained that Clyde 2 would work differently to Clyde 1 because it would not be administered by SLC, and also that four community council areas – Biggar, Duneaton, Symington and Thankerton, had agreed to work together to share a joint pot of money. This facilitates joint working between local community councils and allows for larger applications.

11.2 ICO Registration Fee

We unanimously agreed to pay the £40 registration fee and register. This was proposed by Jerry and seconded by Jan. Jerry will take this forward.

11.3 Vacancies Process

Jerry will produce a summary of what we agreed.

11.4 Pavement Obstructions

This had been raised by a member of the public. Main hazards are parked cars, A boards and, on bin emptying days, bins left lying across dropped kerbs by bin men. The councillors advised that parked cars causing obstructions is a matter for the police. Although parking on a pavement is not a criminal offence, causing an obstruction is, so members of the public should contact police with details of the obstruction being caused. We will publicise this recommended course of action via our newsletter, website and Facebook. The community council could have a role in raising awareness in the community.

11.5 Micro-grant Applications

An application from Biggar Science Festival to the Incentive Fund for a grant of £100 to cover prizes for their writing competition was approved, and also an application from Biggar Mental Health Network for £228 to the Glenkerie Fund towards the cost of an awareness raising day. We agreed it was not useful to consider in kind costs when looking at applications.

11.6 Local Action Plans

We agreed to begin to work towards a Community Action Plan. A working group was appointed, members being Janet, Laura, Thelma and Lesley.

11.7 Planning

11.7.1 Application for Social Housing at Pentland Reach

The recent planning application was for detailed plans. Thelma is trying to clarify whether SLC will pay a contribution for the upkeep of the play park as there is a charge for existing residents. Cllr Allison advised Thelma to contact the planning department of SLC. Jan will reply to SLC re the planning application as a courtesy.

11.7.2 Gladman Developments planning to appeal local plan

Noted

11.7.3 Change of Use – Hartree House

This planning application relates to Borders Council. We publicised it via social media. The vast majority of responses on social media were positive. Janet will collate these responses and any others passed on to her by BCC members and respond to Borders Council.

11.8 Update of Transport, Health and Social Care Consultation

Health and Social Care

Lesley had circulated a report prior to the meeting. She stated that she stills wants to talk to the Carers Group and the Young Carers group. The biggest issue from the survey was the lack of transport to medical appointments, particularly hospital appointments. Lesley tabled an agenda item for our October meeting, namely discussion about a community transport scheme. Lesley will get in touch with Gordon Muir at the Community Development Trust, based in Douglas, to see if there are any possibilities for collaboration and to find out how their community transport scheme works.

Transport

Janet had circulated a report prior to the meeting.

Main issues were the:

- 101/102 service: lack of a service in the evenings; poor service SW of Biggar and criticism of the comfort levels in the buses
- The poor bus/train connections at Lanark

Both reports, including a summary of actions which will be taken will be available on our website <https://biggarcc.weebly.com>, or at the Library.

11.9 Addition of links to larger windfarm grants on website

This was agreed. Gil will do this.

11.10 Meetings with other organisations

Janet advised that there is a meeting of the local access forum in September.

11.11 Community Radio Licenses

A member of the community is interested in this and will keep us apprised of developments.

11.12 Ratification of email of letter of support for the Civic Society application

This application is to convert the Covenanters Cottage (Greenhill Covenanter House) into a bothy, and had to be made very quickly. The email sent in support of the application was proposed by Jerry, seconded by Gil and ratified unanimously.

12. AOCB

- a) We noted that Sainsbury's is closing and that this will leave a big gap in the High Street.
- b) Discussed speeding on Coulter Road and the idea that members of the public could operate speed guns. Apparently this is happening in other areas. We were not keen.
- c) Update on Langvout Square meeting of residents and SLC housing officers: Thelma reported that the gutters have been cleaned and one more parking space has been created by moving a salt bin. The footpaths are to be renewed, dropped kerbs repaired and wooden edging to be checked and removed. The possibility of adding five more spaces in the Langvout Square car park has been added to the 2020-2021 programme for consideration. Thelma will check whether it is in order for her to share the notes of the meeting.
- d) Clarification of date of AGM - 21st October
- e) Barry Knock is organising a meeting with SPT about the Lanark bus/train link. Janet will attend.
- f) We had received a query about a member of the public who is able to get to Day Care provision using an SLC funded taxi, but cannot get back because the transport provider is involved with school bus runs. Jerry will contact the Rotary to see if they can help.
- g) It was agreed to reimburse Jerry £18.99 for the purchase of ink.
- h) Jerry asked when the refurbishment of the notice board would be complete. Thelma advised it would be within the next few weeks.
- i) Jerry will circulate the redrafted grant application forms and guidance notes
- j) Janet will organise meetings with other community councils to explore how they manage micro-grants.

Date of Next Meeting 16th September

Apologies Lesley and Jerry

ACTIONS TABLE 19/8/19

Clarify whether torch bearers and spectators are covered by bonfire insurance	Jerry Sumpster
Recheck measurements for bonfire	Jerry Sumpster
Register with Information Commissioners Office and pay fee	Jerry Sumpster
Produce summary of agreed process for filling vacancies	Jerry Sumpster
Publicise advice to report parked cars causing an obstruction at dropped kerbs to the police via newsletter, on our website and via social media	Gil Dunn
Collate responses to Hartree planning application and respond to Borders Council	Janet Moxley
Contact Gordon Muir at Community Development Trust re community transport	Lesley Craise
Check whether notes of Langvout Square meeting can be circulated	Thelma Ingram
Circulate amended application forms and guidance notes for micro-grants	Jerry Sumpster
Meet with other CC s re microgrants	Janet Moxley