

**Biggar Community Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 7:00pm on 17/6/19**  
**in Biggar Library Meeting Room**

**Present:**

**Community Council**

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

**Ex Officio**

Cllrs Ian McAllan and Alex Allison

**4 members of the public**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Jan Currie.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20/5/19**

**2.1 Matters arising from action points from minutes of meeting held on 20/5/19**

a) Let Gala Day committee know Gala Queen can switch on Xmas Tree lights. Jimmy has done this.

b) Morag Renwick does not have the photocopier listed as a fixed asset. The fixed assets list will be amended to record the photocopier as destroyed.

c) Clarify with Gordon Bow which papers should be available for members of public attending BCC meetings. The advice was that where there are substantial documents, e.g. the GDPR doc that extended to 10 or more pages, a one page summary should perhaps be made available to the public, rather than the full document, which, once agreed, would be published by BCC and publicly available.

d) Check out proposal for online payments with Gordon Bow. Gordon Bow was not happy with the proposal to double authorise online payments using the equivalent of petty cash slips. The bank charges for electronic signatures are prohibitive. Gil is talking to other community councils about their financial practice.

e) The public meeting regarding the proposed development at Boghall took place.

f) Complete application form for school prize. The application has been completed and the cheque issued.

g) Add checklist to all application forms. This was discussed during the meeting.

h) Analyse successful funding applications over the last year, looking at reserves levels. It was not possible to do this as not all the relevant annual accounts were available.

i) Remove the term "ring fenced" from application forms and guidance notes. Jerry has done this.

## **2.1 Matters arising from action points from minutes of meeting held on 20/5/19 (cont.)**

j) Contact planning advice service. Thelma has arranged a training session with PAS on 19<sup>th</sup> June

k) Contact Planning Democracy. Janet has done this. They are currently very busy with the Planning Bill going through the Scottish Parliament but would come and talk to us in principle.

l) Feed back to Andrew Goldie re Local Access Forum. Janet has done this.

m) Janet has not received any further information from the information commissioners office regarding whether we need to pay a registration fee. In the light of this it was decided to pay the registration fee of £50.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20/5/19 were proposed by Jerry, seconded by Thelma and approved.

### **3. Chair's opening remarks**

Jerry welcomed everyone to the meeting,

### **4. Police Report**

Apologies were received from the police.

### **5. Chair's monthly report**

Jerry highlighted the Gladman meeting and the newsletter as the main areas of work since the last meeting.

### **6. Secretary's Report**

There was no secretary's report as apologies had been received from Jan Currie.

### **7. Specific matters brought to meeting by public**

There were none.

### **8. Treasurer's Report**

Balance figures given are correct at 17/6/19

Business account balance                      **£210.41**

Incentive account balance                      **£1678.55**

(Glenkerie balance £769.12, Incentive fund balance £909.43)

Clyde windfarm account balance              **£2813.50**

Assets report              Photocopier to be written off as destroyed.

Accounts for the financial year 2018/2019 have been submitted and we expect the business account to be topped up in due course.

We will need to pay for the library room for the PAS training. This expenditure was proposed by Jerry and seconded by Thelma. Gil will seek clarification about room charges as our understanding was that Community Councils are entitled to free lets.

## **8. Treasurer's Report (cont.)**

The cost of printing the newsletter was £74.99. Reimbursement of this expenditure to Gil was proposed by Janet and seconded by Thelma.

## **9. 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.

## **10. SLC Councillors reports**

Cllr. Allison advised that he had investigated reports of the path up to Bizzyberry being blocked due to work being carried out by Story Homes. He investigated and found nothing. He also reported that another meeting is to be arranged with the residents of Langvout Square and complimented BCC on its handling of the Gladman public meeting.

## **11. Agenda Items**

### **11.1 A702 closure:Feedback/lessons learned**

Amey wrote to thank the people of Biggar and BCC wrote to Amey to express appreciation for the efficient way the work was carried out. Inevitably, some minor snags had arisen. There was no reference in Amey's correspondence to the parking cones which appeared on North Back Road. Local signage was not great but Amey are not keen on local signage because of the risk of through traffic following it. Stagecoach gave very late notification of their plans. The school gates were not open when they were supposed to be. The signage indicating times when parking was suspended was not clear. We decided not to take any action regarding these minor snags, given that the whole operation went very smoothly. Cllr Allison stated that in other places there had been a history of Amey staff being abused and indicated that had not occurred in Biggar. We agreed to thank the people of Biggar for their cooperation via social media.

### **11.2 Bonfire Insurance**

Historically, BCC has paid for the bonfire insurance, and been reimbursed by the cornets. If we are arranging insurance on behalf of the cornets, BCC needs to submit a form to South Lanarkshire Council. This is usually done in September/October. However, SLC has requested that BCC indicates now if we might be requesting event insurance cover of over £5million in advance of any application. It was agreed to inform them that we might. Jimmy informed the meeting that the Cornet's Club are going to set up a Bonfire Committee which will be separate from the Cornet's Club.

### **11.3 Clyde Extension Fund**

Jerry and Lesley were due to attend a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June concerning the roll out of the new Clyde Extension Fund. This meeting will choose between three different options for the new fund and Lesley and Jerry were looking for the CC's view. The three options laid out in a discussion paper from Gareth Shields, who is administering the fund on behalf of SSE (South of Scotland Electricity), were as follows:

- 1)The fund is split into six equal amounts allocated to each CC area, which will have its own decision making panel. Each panel meets once or twice a year to following calls for applications.
- 2)Fund operates jointly but separately. Money is not split between the CC areas, but goes into one pot. Four funding rounds per year, with a decision-making panel made up of representatives from all six CC areas.
- 3)The fund is split into equal amounts across CC areas. One panel made up of representatives of the six CCs meet to approve awards, giving the opportunity to cross fund between communities. It was unanimously agreed to support option 2, because it gives the opportunity for funding bids covering more than one CC are, and Biggar is a “hub town” for surrounding communities.

### **11.4 Update on Transport, Health and Social Care Consultation**

Lesley reported on the practical arrangements and the methodology and informed the meeting that a second consultation process would take place at the Retirement Housing (Langvout Court) on 4<sup>th</sup> July between 12 and 2 to which the residents of Langvout Square will be invited. This will just cover health and social care.

### **11.5 Microgrant Applications**

Biggar Museum Trust let us know that the microgrant awarded to them to install alarms had not been used to buy alarms for the planned Duncan Shanks exhibition as this had not been able to go ahead. They have, however, purchased the alarms and have used them for other exhibitions. They will also be used for future exhibitions which will bring visitors to the town. For this reason, BCC approved a change of use for the grant. Gil will inform Biggar Museum Trust of our decision.

### **11.6 New Drafts of Microgrant Application Forms**

Jerry has added the tick boxes we discussed to all the forms. Regarding unrestricted reserves, OSCR's guidance is now very complex and therefore inappropriate for grants that are meant to be simple and quick to apply for. We will change the forms and just ask groups:

- 1) How much money they have
- 2) To tell us, if they have more than 25% of their running costs, what these funds are for.

### **11.6 New Drafts of Microgrant Application Forms (cont.)**

These amendments need to be reflected in the guidance notes. Jerry will amend the forms and guidance notes again and number the sections in both, so they correspond in order to make it easier for applicants to fill the forms in.

### **11.7 Planning**

Jerry presented a summary of the results from the consultation with the community regarding Gladman's planning application for a development of 100 houses at Boghall. 100 responses were received, combining online and paper responses, and it was felt this was a good result given the shortness of the timescale.

We noted that the respondent profile did not match Biggar demographics, in particular younger people were under-represented. There was a debate as to whether BCC should simply represent the views of the community, or whether it should itself take a stance and, reflecting the majority of public opinion (73%), formally object to the application. Janet proposed that we formally oppose the planning application. This was seconded by Laura and agreed.

Jerry was actioned to amend the Conclusions section of the draft report to include the statement "BCC urges South Lanarkshire Council Planning Department to take into account all of the concerns raised by Biggar residents who have responded to this survey. On behalf of the Biggar Community, BCC objects to this planning proposal" prior to submitting to SLC as the BCC response to the proposal.

Various CC members had encountered cynicism in the town about the possibility of the community influencing the decision on the planning application.

Full survey results and BCC's response can be accessed via this link

<https://biggarcc.weebly.com/news> or at the Library.

### **11.8 Meetings with with other organisations**

Janet attended the Local Access Forum on 12/6/19. A briefing paper is appended to the minute.

### **11.9 Decision re loan of old laptop**

We decided that we should give the old laptop to Peter Rae to be used for the bonfire webcast and remove it from the assets list. This was proposed by Jimmy and seconded by Thelma.

## **12. AOCB**

1) Concern had been expressed by a member of the public about an overhanging hedge in Broughton Road. The owners of the house are leaving the area. Cllr Allison stressed that hedges could not be cut back without the permission of the owner.

## **12. AOCB (cont.)**

2) Concern was again expressed about queuing traffic behind buses parked half way up on the north side of the High Street. Jimmy showed the meeting a photograph to illustrate this point. Cllr Allison has already raised this with Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT). The problem could be resolved by the removal of two parking spaces. Jerry will write to SPT, Amey and Transport Scotland suggesting this. Frank Rennie manages bus services at SPT.

3) Anna McDiarmid has raised £640 towards her tree planting efforts. For every tree she plants she will collect 2 bags of litter. We unanimously decided to award her £100 from the Incentive Fund towards her efforts.

4) We recently discovered that the Rotary already have “Citizen of the Year” and “Young Citizen of the Year” awards. We agreed to try to work together with them.

5) The Scottish Government has made grants of £50k available for the transformation of town centres. It was felt the timescale was too short for us to make a meaningful application, given that we would need to consult the community. The Civic Society may be considering an application.

6) Jerry noted the need to look at how we fill vacancies at the next meeting.

7) SLC are planning to resurface the parking bays in the High Street in due course.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

## **ACTIONS TABLE 17/6/19**

Respond to Scottish Health Council	<b>Jan Currie</b>
Take copy of these documents to library <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital correspondence received since last meeting</li><li>• Gladman survey results and response</li></ul>	<b>Thelma Good</b>
Thank community for their cooperation with Amey	<b>Gil Dunn</b>
Contact Biggar Museum Trust to convey our decision about variation of use for grant	<b>Gil Dunn</b>
Amend micro-grant application forms and guidelines as agreed	<b>Jerry Sumpster</b>
Write to Amey, SPT and Transport Scotland re bus stop	<b>Janet Moxley</b>
Contact Anna McDiarmid	<b>Janet Moxley</b>
Amend Gladman response	<b>Jerry Sumpster</b>

## Appendix 1

### Feedback from S Lanarkshire Local Access Forum Meeting 12/6/19

#### Background

The Local Access Forum is a body set up under the Land Reform Scotland Act (2003) to allow interested parties to raise issues related to the "Right to Roam" provisions of the Act. It comprises representatives of SLC, Community Councils, and a range interested organisations e.g Ramblers Scotland, the Scottish Canoe Association, and the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS).

Some of the issues raised at the meeting related to other parts of South Lanarkshire and are not covered in this report.

Janet Moxley represented BCC at this meeting.

#### Issues in Biggar

\* Burnside path. Repair is imminent [has been completed since the Local Access Forum meeting]

\* Simon Pilpel gave an update on the Biggar and District Community Heritage (BDCH) path improvement project. A bid has been made to Paths for All for funding to improve the path up Bizzyberry, including resolving issues with the stile. The outcome of this is expected soon. BDCH has had conversations with several landowners who have generally been supportive of the path improvement project.

\* Ownership of the Biggar to Symington section of the old railway line reverted to farmers when it ceased to be used as a railway. The Biggar to Symington section is thought to be owned by a residual body of the railway, but is managed by a consortium of farmers.

\* "Beware of the Bull" signs around Hillridge will be dealt with as part of the BDCH project, as SLC do not have the resource to prioritise this.

\* SLC's access team are unlikely to give views on the proposal for an off-road path from Gladman site to the rugby club, as the planning application is only outline, and any offer of a path could change if a detailed application is made.

#### Issues Close to Biggar

\* The state of the surface on National Cycle Route 74 which runs along the A702 near Crawford was raised as it was said to be nearly unusable, with many cyclists preferring to ride on the road. The cycle lane has a lot of debris on it which could be removed by a road sweeper or community payback teams, but repairs to the surface were also thought to be necessary. SLC to investigate.



\* SLC has a long-term aspiration to extend the Clyde Walk Way to Crawford, but a route needs to be agreed. CCs could help by providing landowner contacts and helping to explain the idea. There are currently two route options from a previous consultation. SLC to choose a preferred option.

### General Items

\* SLC will be undertaking a review of the core paths plan shortly, but are waiting on new guidance from Scottish Government. It is unclear when this will be forthcoming. The review will focus on whether the designation of existing paths as core paths, aspirational core paths or non-core paths is correct rather than adding additional paths to the network. Designation as a core path or aspirational core path is useful when funding is sought for path maintenance.

\* Mike Brady from SLC's ranger service gave a presentation on mountain biking which is projected to give £158m pa for Scotland by 2025. In S Lan, the main focus for this activity is between Strathclyde Park and Lanark, especially Mauldslie Woods which are owned by SLC. There have been some tensions between different groups using the woods (e.g mountain bikers and dog walkers), but SLC have been proactive in trying to resolve these.

\* SLC will circulate a draft version of formal terms of reference for the Local Access Forum for comment.

**Requested Action BCC to note the content of this report.**