

Biggar Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7:00pm on 18/3/19
in Biggar Library Meeting Room

Present:

Community Council

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

Ex Officio

Cllrs Ian McAllan and Alex Allison

6 members of the public

Apologies Gordon Cunningham

The meeting began with Gil resigning as Chairperson. Thelma stepped in to start the meeting with the election of a new chairperson.

Jerry Sumpster was proposed by Janet Moxley and seconded by Jan Currie. He was then unanimously elected. There were no other nominations.

Thelma then resigned as vice chair because of her declining eyesight. Jerry took the chair.

The election of Jerry as Chairperson created a vacancy in the role of treasurer, so nominations for treasurer were called for.

Gil Dunn was proposed by Jerry Sumpster and seconded by Laura Shirley.

We decided not to elect a vice chairperson at present.

Minutes of the meeting held on 18/2/19

Corrections On page 7, "the Clydesdale Close" should read "Tinnie Calder's Close"

Matters arising Our meeting with Gordon Bow from SLC clarified that we are not making decisions by email and will not do so. The important issue is that the public need to be able to see us debating and making decisions. Exceptionally, we might need to make decisions at short notice e.g. who should go to a meeting before the next CC meeting. Thelma suggested we try to avoid lengthy emails.

Adoption of the minutes was not formally proposed and this will need to be rectified at the next meeting.

Review of action points from meetings held on 21/1/19 and 18/2/19

All action points had been taken forward. Lists of the action points are appended to previous minutes and are available on request.

Updates

Updates were given:

- The flooding at Millstone Park. Awaiting funding for repairs.
- Resurfacing work is ongoing on Carwood Road

Updates (cont.)

- The bus stops at and opposite Story Homes were originally intended to be covered. Thelma is pursuing this issue with SPT.
- The street lights between the flower shop and the Corn Exchange are the responsibility of SLC.
- With regard to poor accessibility on Broughton Road for power wheelchair and buggy users, following action by Cllrs., the police will monitor car speeds on Broughton Road and SLC Roads Department will assess the situation.

Further Action on Action Points

Jimmy will let the Gala Day Committee know that the Gala Queen will be able to switch on the Christmas Tree lights.

Chair's opening remarks and monthly report

Gil explained the reason she had resigned as chairperson was she felt that carrying out this role was getting in the way of what she wants to achieve within the community council, improving communication with the community.

Gil reported that 8 news items have been posted on our website and Facebook since the last meeting. We have had a number of positive comments and a number of not so positive comments, including a couple of unsavoury ones, one of which was taken down. Gil highlighted the need to discuss how to respond to such adverse incidents going forward.

Janet thanked Gil for the time and effort she had put into carrying out the chairperson role and this was unanimously endorsed.

Jerry, as the new chairperson then picked up the report. He stated that, as chairperson, he wanted the CC to focus on outcomes. He said that he intended to focus on: remaining engaged with the public; enabling meetings of the CC to be shorter by becoming more focused; and making sure the CC hears the voice of the community.

Secretary's Report

Jan had received correspondence from:

- Someone asking us to facilitate a Family Funfair event. Jan will send him contact details for the Showfield, the Rugby Club and the Gala Day Committee
- A member of the public had raised the issue of the dangerous nature of the stretch of Carwood Road near Moat Park and Biggar Kirk. As the member of public was present, she was invited to contribute. She spoke about fears for the safety of her children on this stretch of road which they use daily. As previously discussed, there are a number of contributing factors, the speed of vehicles entering the town, the blind bend and parked cars.

Secretary's Report (cont.)

The member of the public had raised the possibility of traffic calming on that stretch of road and Cllr McAllan undertook to discuss this possibility with the police. Cllr McAllan also reported that improvements to Carwood Road were being rolled out as funds allow, including extending the 30mph speed limit out to Loanindale. The meeting felt that it would be advantageous to introduce a 20mph speed limit further into the town at the same time. The member of the public was advised to write to Colin Park, Roads Department, SLC to advise him of her concerns and suggestions, which she agreed to do. Cllr Allison stated that budgets for road improvements are allocated on the basis of the number of accidents which have occurred on a stretch of road and it is difficult to get funds allocated for other road improvements.

Another member of the public suggested forming a Road Safety Group, or similar. Jerry thanked him for his suggestion and said that the CC would consider this.

- A member of the community had contacted us expressing concern that she had not been allowed to rent the Masonic Hall. The Masonic Hall's letting policy is not to allow commercial lets. The CC wrote to the member of the public advising that it is outwith our remit to get involved in the letting policy of local halls.

Specific Matters brought to meeting by public

This placing of this agenda item has been introduced, on an experimental basis, to give the public a chance to raise their issues nearer the beginning of CC meetings. If we feel that this has been successful (after a few meetings), we will need approval from SLC to vary the standing orders.

The issues raised by members of the public were:

- There are plans to incorporate a dropped kerb immediately opposite the existing dropped kerb at the entrance to the Burn Braes. It will be on the blind bend. Given that work is currently being undertaken in this area Cllrs Allison and McAllan agreed to explore the possibility that the dropped kerbs could be better placed. Janet suggested summarising all the issues relating to that stretch of road. She will do this and send the summary to Colin Park.
- Community Councils are entitled to a 50% reduction in planning application fees. Difficult to see how we could take advantage of this at the moment.

Treasurer's Report

Balance figures given are correct at 18/3/19.

The business account has a balance of £565.91. We are still waiting for an invoice for the insurance cover for the bonfire from SLC. Jerry will chase this up.

Treasurer's Report (cont.)

The Incentive Account has a balance of £1978.55. This account contains both the Glenkerie Windfarm money and our Incentive Fund money. The amount in this account which relates to the Glenkerie Fund is £1019.12. The Glenkerie top up of £1000 has been received. The amount relating to the Incentive Fund is £959.43. The Clyde Windfarm account has a balance of £5091. The top up of £5000 has been received. A grant of £500 to WomanKIND Clydesdale has already been agreed, to purchase a laser colour printer and a full set of replacement toner cartridges. Jerry has been revising the fixed assets list and commented as follows:

- He asked if anyone knew of the whereabouts of a photocopier listed as being at 18, High Street. It is thought it might be in the Municipal Hall. Jimmy will check this out.
- Jerry has a laptop purchased in 2012 which does not work. Jerry proposed that this should be destroyed, after wiping the hard drive. This was seconded by Jan and agreed by the meeting.
- Jerry has a Canon printer
- There is an HP laptop purchased in 2016 which Jerry has brought up to date. Jerry enquired whether anyone on the CC could make use of it for CC business. No one could. Janet suggested that we offer it free to any Biggar Community group that could make use of it. This was agreed and Gil will advertise the laptop via the relevant social media sites.

Digital Correspondence

Gil had collated all digital correspondence since the last meeting. A summary of this is attached to this minute.

SLC Councillors' Reports

Cllrs Allison and McAllan advised that all the matters which had been raised by the CC had been actioned. With respect to the allegation of excessive overnight noise in Tinny Calder's Close, the Cllrs advised that Environmental Services need to receive a complaint from an individual in order to act. Enquiries had nonetheless been made and Environmental Services were unable to identify a problem.

The Cllrs advised that, as well as attending to specific queries raised by the community, there is ongoing work around housing issues and neighbourhood disputes.

Our attention was drawn to the new "Biggar Online" website, which is run by "Scotland Online". Gil agreed to make contact with the organisers of the "Biggar Online" website and will feed back.

SLC Councillors' Reports (cont.)

The Cllrs congratulated Biggar Rugby Club on receiving two awards at the recent Clydesdale Sports Awards 2018, one for “best coach” went to Calum Taylor who is coach of Biggar Rugby Club's under 18 girls team and one for “best junior team” went to the under 18 girls team.

Agenda Items

10.1 Micro-grants: Internal process agreement

Jerry had amended the draft internal process document, highlighting that, while there will be discussion beforehand, debate and subsequent decisions about grants will be made at public meetings. Jerry proposed that this revised document should be adopted. This was agreed unanimously.

Thelma asked for her continuing discomfort with the process that had been followed to be minuted. It was not clear to the members of BCC what Thelma meant, despite attempts to clarify. Subsequent to the meeting, Lesley clarified why Thelma was concerned. It was because a paper being discussed had not been made available to the members of the public attending the meeting and ex officio members, for them to read and refer to during the meeting.

10.2 Clyde Extension Windfarm Fund: delegates

We have been asked to send two delegates, one of whom does not have to be a CC member, to a process designed to develop guidance for the new fund. Several people were interested but found it hard to decide because the time commitment was not clear. Gil agreed to reply, asking what the time commitment was and whether it was OK to send two CC members.

10.3 Microgrant Applications

Museum Trust This application was for £477.50, to cover the cost of security equipment for moveable items loaned from the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow. The event will cost around 10k in total and should bring visitors to the town. This application was unanimously agreed.

Indoor Bowling Group This application was to help pay for the group's annual outing. It was for £300 towards the cost of a £450 trip. After discussion, including the acknowledgement that the group hold £4886 in unrestricted reserves, Jerry proposed that they should be awarded £150 and advised about other sources of funding. This was seconded by Jimmy and agreed.

Clydesdale Community Concert Band This group is based in Carluke therefore it was decided that we would not support this application Jan will write to the applicant advising this, with advice about other possible sources of funding (see below). This was proposed by Jerry, seconded by Jan and agreed.

10.3 Microgrant Applications (cont.)

Discussion

After these specific applications had been discussed, there followed a discussion about other sources of grant funding for applications we reject. One source is SLC's Community Grants Fund. Cllr Allison advised that SLC is in the process of merging long standing Trust Funds. It is possible that the historical terms of these trusts means that any money has to be spent in Biggar, particularly likely for activities that benefit older people. Cllr Allison will find out about this. He advised that from April 2019, all community councils will have Windfarm Funds available to them, not just communities within 10km of the Windfarm.

Enquiry

An informal enquiry has been made by Biggar Gardening Club. Jan will invite them to make an application.

10.4 Request to approve funds

Jerry suggested that we advertise in the Gala Day Programme, with traditional greetings e.g. "safe in, safe oot". A member of the public suggested that we include some information about the CC. This suggestion was adopted and Jerry proposed that we spend £50 from the business account on a half page advert with the contents described above. This was seconded by Thelma and agreed unanimously.

10.5 Home Energy Scotland and Opportunities for Joint Working

Home Energy Scotland, who provide a range of services for the community, have contacted the CC asking about possibilities for joint working. Various ideas were discussed about how to do this, given that it is worth making the community aware of what Home Energy Scotland can offer. Gil wondered if this might be an opportunity for Community Councils to collaborate, perhaps in organising an information event. We agreed that Gil should make contact with other community councils to explore this possibility.

10.6 Proposal for a community consultation on health and social care

Lesley had previously circulated a briefing paper, which is available on request. She proposed a community consultation event with health and social care as one of the main themes. This is to fit in with a "scoping exercise" being carried out by South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership between now and the end of June, which will inform their plans over the next three to five years. Janet offered transport as a second possible theme. It was agreed that Janet and Lesley would meet to develop the proposal and then bring their ideas back to the CC.

10.7 EV charging points

A member of the public expressed the view that there are insufficient charging points in Biggar. The resident is happy to progress the issue but has asked us who to contact within SLC. The Cllrs agreed to take this forward.

10.8 Interact

The Interact Club operates within the High School. It is supported by the Rotary and involves business studies pupils. There are two focuses: international and local. The Head Teacher has spoken to the pupils involved with the local group who would be interested in a campaign to get a zebra crossing installed on Station Road. It was agreed that if they come up with a project the CC should try to help them.

10.9 Planning Matters: Proposed Gladman Development

We discussed how best to engage with the public to get their views about the proposed development. The timescale for comment after a planning application is made is very short (3 weeks), and it was suggested that it might be preferable to hold a public meeting before a formal planning application is made, given that Gladman have presented their proposal at a pre-planning exhibition, and any significant changes would require a further exhibition. Janet and Gil will work together to come up with proposals about possible dates and methods for a public consultation event. As Gladman's proposal has now been made public we agreed to meet with Gladman to find out how they are responding comments from the public. Gil agreed to contact Gladman to arrange a meeting.

10.10 GDPR statements

These had been previously circulated and discussed. Their adoption was proposed by Jerry and seconded by Jan. We agreed to adopt the GDPR documents. Janet is still waiting for clarification regarding the registration fee of £40.

10.11 The whereabouts of the Provost's chain of office

This is held by the South Lanarkshire museum's collection Janet will contact Biggar Museum to see whether they would be interested in displaying it.

10.12 Taxi Bus service

We noted the West Linton Community Council's Taxi Bus service, designed to provide a later bus service from Edinburgh for their residents. At present the service stops at Garvald Road End. Janet had wondered if the service could be extended to Biggar. Janet will obtain information on the cost of extending the service to Biggar and likely usage.

10.13 Poor lighting at steps to Boghall Park

This was raised by a member of the public with poor eyesight, has been reported and has a Land Services reference number. Responsibility currently lies with Land Services but they may well pass the issue on to the Roads Department due to budgetary issues i.e. whose budget should any work come off?

10.14 Poor condition of grounds around Langvout Square

Lesley is waiting for information from a member of the public so withdrew this item.

11 General Q&A with public

- Request for us to think about communicating with members of the public who are not "online" and do not use social media. There was a short discussion.

11 General Q&A with public (cont.)

- Question about how best to link in with attempts to get a train station at Symington. Local pressure is needed. Janet advised that a committee is being formed to promote this option and that she will feed information back to the CC and the public

12 AOCB

- Lesley suggested using a proforma to record and monitor reporting of physical infrastructure issues and handed round a possible form. She will email a copy to CC members
- It was pointed out that some people might find it hard to use SLC's online reporting systems
- Janet will attend the South Lanarkshire local access forum on the CC's behalf.
- We agreed that Jerry can buy cartridges for the CC's printer, at a maximum cost of £50.
- Jerry attended the government's consultation on fireworks. There are no implications for the bonfire.
- Thelma expressed disappointment that the induction loop system in the library meeting room does not appear to be working properly.

Date of Next Meeting Monday 15th April 7:00pm in the Library Meeting Room

ACTIONS TABLE 18-03-19

Let Gala Day committee know Gala Queen can switch on Xmas Tree lights	Jimmy Ritchie
Send contacts for Rugby Club, Gala Day Committee and Showfield to organiser of Family Funfair	Jan Currie
<u>Carwood Road</u> Discussion of traffic calming with police Collate contributing risks and email to Colin Parks No dropped kerb on one side of the road and existing dropped kerb on blind bend	Cllr McAllan Janet Moxley Cllrs
Chase up SLC for invoice for bonfire	Jerry Sumpster
See if photocopier is in Municipal Hall	Jimmy Ritchie
Advertise laptop on social media	Gil Dunn
Make contact with "Biggar Online"	Gil Dunn
Contact Clyde Windfarm Extension Fund	Gil Dunn
Write to grant applicants to advise of the outcome of their application and advise about alternative sources of funding	Jan Currie?
Invite Biggar Gardening Club to make a grant application	Jan Currie
Place advert in Gala Day Programme	Gil Dunn
Contact other CCs re Home Energy Scotland	Gil Dunn
Meet to discuss proposal for community consultation	Janet Moxley Lesley Craise
Clarify who to contact about EV charging points	Cllrs
Develop plan for public consultation re Gladman proposal	Janet Moxley Gil Dunn
Email copy of possible proforma for physical infrastructure issues	Lesley Craise
Contact Gladman to arrange meeting	Gil Dunn
Contact Biggar Museum re provost's chain of office	Janet Moxley