

Minutes of Biggar Ordinary Community Council meeting 21st October 2019, Library meeting Room

1. Present: Community Council: Jerry Sumpster, Janet Moxley, Laura Shirley, Gil Dunn, Lesley Craise, Jan Currie, Thelma Ingram, Jimmy Ritchie

Ex officio: Ian McAllan, Alex Allison

plus 4 Members of the Public

Apologies: Councillor Eric Holford (Ex officio)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 16/9/19

Proposed: Jimmy Ritchie Seconded: Laura Shirley

2.1 Matters Arising: Actions Table:

- Discuss summary of agreed process for filling vacancies: Jerry deferred this until November
- Arrange meetings with other CCs to look at their micro-grant process: Janet reported that this is progressing slowly with Thankerton, Upper Tweed on board and awaiting word from other CCs
- Fee to be paid to Information Commissioner's Office: Paid by Jerry
- Liaise with Clydesdale Health and Social Care Committee re working together: Lesley has set up a meeting on 11th November. Other CCs and Biggar Wee Oasis also invited. Primary purpose is to find out what they are up to in terms of planning and if they would inject some cash and cooperate with local plans.
- Supporting letter to transport Scotland about crossing A702 and Market Rd at the school entrance: Ian McAllan has done this and had acknowledgement of letter
- Filing Cabinet: Thelma has taken photo and will put on free-cycle
- Contact Stewart Houston re Rotary Citizen Award: Jan has emailed. Awaiting decision after their meeting on 29th October.

3. Police report: No Police present but short report had been sent. **See Appendix 1**

4. Chair's Report: As this Ordinary Meeting followed the AGM, where the Chair provided a report for the past year, no additional report was presented in this Ordinary Meeting.

5. Secretary's Report

Letter of thanks received from Biggar Mental Health Network for their micro grant award which was used to host a mental health wellbeing day at Gillespie Centre and a screening of a short documentary followed by a Q & A and then poetry readings

Communication from a concerned member of the public regarding a rumour that Biggar Gym was to close. Query passed to Councillor McAllan, who reported back that there were no plan for its closure.

Written to South Lanarkshire hall lets with a note of next year's Meeting dates to secure Meeting Room

6. Digital Correspondence

Copies of all digital correspondence received were made available.
There was nothing arising from this. **Full list available in Appendix 2**

7. Specific Matters raised by the Public

Two members want to discuss current agenda item (see item 10.2)

Complaint about speeding by a particular lorry on High Street: needs to be dealt with before someone is injured. Told to report to police if they had specific information as it is a police matter

8. Treasurer's Report:

Business account £472.31 (includes £100 funding awarded by Scottish Government to to run a Climate conversation event)

Clyde Windfarm Balance: £2963.50

Incentive Account balance (Glenkerie £669.12, Incentive fund £581.43)

Assets list: Following disposals, the items remaining on our assets list are: Filing cabinet & printer /scanner

9. SLC Councillors Report

Councillor Alex Allison:

SLC has a new Chief Exec, Clelland Sneddon, who takes up office on 6th January. He has experience in Clydesdale so good knowledge of the rural area. Look forward to him starting work.

Warning: Double glazing salesmen trying to sell round doors...Ask public to remember that any contract signed ,should state there is a 7-day cooling off period

Councillor Ian McAllan:

Regarding A702 crossing. He has written to Amey and SLC. Had acknowledgement and has asked for meeting.

Patterson at Overburn Appeal Claim dismissed and no payment of their costs. Need to be careful, this battle has been going on for 10 years, people are exhausted but cannot yet relax. Overburns farmland around quarry area is now up for sale.

Citizen's awards / Community awards from SLC are going live soon. Application forms for this award are coming out at turn of the year. Details not clear yet but will be for people who have done good things in their community. These are new and distinct SLC awards, across the whole area, and input/nominations will be sought from CC level, rather than just at SLC level.

10. Agenda Items

10.1 Inconsiderate Parking at Park Place: Outcome – For noting: SLC Parking attendants to visit outside normal hours but it is continuing to be a bad problem.

Councillor McAllan suggested that perhaps BCC could write to Gazette complaining about the parking in this area. This might have a positive effect. He feels we should be more vocal about the problem. Janet noted that police cannot take action unless obstruction of the road occurs. Out of hours is when main issue happens as the Chinese Take-out Restaurant is there and there is no parking and many people come in from outside Biggar. Realistically, within remit of CC to publish the concerns in our minutes, highlight the problem in next newsletter and on website. Also we should ask other CCs to share this information. Councillor McAllan to make enquiries re designating it an emergency route and the possibility of signage, to clearly display it as such

10.2 Weed Clearance from the Burn at the War Memorial/Breathing Space Garden and Cadger's Brig – OUTCOME for noting

Bob Brownlie is one of 2 volunteers who will be weeding the burn. He asked if there is support for it being done twice a year. BCC will consult Public on this but as Tweed Forum /council/SEPA are also looking at this, we will await their report. BCC will Contact Malcolm Muir of SLC in the meantime to find out current status of plans re Biggar Burn. The (two) members of the public that had attended to talk about the condition of the Burn wanted to know why all of the burn cannot be cleared, and not just the bit at war memorial. Janet replied that there were different views in town about this. A previous Consultation organised by Friends of Burnbraes indicated that those who responded felt that the area round War Memorial should be kept clean, but were happier with natural state of rest. BCC confirmed that they do not object to the area around the War Memorial being cleared, but could not take a stance on the overall situation without taking account of the community view.

A member of the public also raised that he had heard about an issue with sewage seeping into the Burn from the new Pentland Reach estate. Clarification from a member of the public present advised that there had been an issue with sewage entering the SUDS pond at the estate, which had the potential to flow into the Clyde during periods of flooding due to heavy rainfall, however, the developers are addressing/have addressed this in consultation with Scottish Water. Janet noted that the Pentland reach SUDS pond is not connected to the burn, so any release of sewage would not ever reach the burn.

10.3 Micro-grant forms and guidance – OUTCOME – Acceptance.

The forms we developed are now our defacto standard. They have been on our website for months and should be adopted formally.

Proposed Jerry Seconded Gil

10.4 Clyde 2 Windfarm/Clyde Extension, Event Launch 29th October 11.30am, Musicians room at New Lanark. Outcome: – Decide who will attend:
Jerry, Lesley and Jimmy volunteered to attend

10.5 Clyde Extension (Clyde 2) – Outcome: Acceptance of the Memorandum of understanding by BCC

There are six CC's and around £1 million in pot. Method of allocation agreed at meeting attended by Lesley and Jerry who confirm it is correct. SSE put together a memorandum of understanding between them and the CC's. Each CC needs to sign the memorandum. SSE had stated that this is confidential document so not available to public. Thelma stated that she felt it is appalling that document is not made public and did not wish Jerry to sign.

Jerry proposed. Gil seconded. Motion carried by majority. Thelma abstained. Jerry will sign our behalf.

10.6 Micro-grant applications: four to consider

10.6.1 Biggar After School club application to take the children to a Purve Puppets Pantomime at Christmas. Members debated and agreed at the meeting that this will benefit the local children who attend. An important point is that they could not afford if we do not give them grant.

Voted on and **approved**.

10.6.2 A local Biggar group had applied for a grant to cover hall rental fees which have increased dramatically this year due to some members being under 60 years old. Members debated and agreed at the meeting that micro-grants are recommended more for one-off projects rather than year on year funding such as this. Additionally this group have substantial unrestricted reserves. BCC feels that they could afford to pay the rent from their reserves for many years to come. Janet added that there are other sources of funding they could look at for year on year funding.

Voted on and **declined**. Thelma abstained.

SLC Councillors enquired if it was an SLC venue that they used.... If the group would like to contact them the local councillors would be willing to see if there was any way this increase in fees might be resolved. Jan to write to the group with this suggestion.

10.6.3. A local business asked for a micro grant to purchase planters to pretty up outside office building. This was debated at the meeting and it was agreed that we could see little benefit to the Biggar Community in this case. Additionally the Organisation, which is part of a larger organisation, had considerable surplus so could afford to purchase themselves. An adjacent building was mentioned in the application stating that the planters would also help attract people to their building. Not thought to be relevant.

Voted on and **declined**. Thelma abstained.

10.6.4. An application was made for training in the use of an antique printer. Whilst this training could be seen as beneficial to visitors to Biggar, there had been a successful grant awarded to an associated group recently. Furthermore they had large cash reserves.

Voted on and **declined**. Thelma abstained.

10.7 Hogmanay – Outcome: Approval of proposals put forward following meeting with bonfire committee

We reiterate that BCC is 100% supportive of The Hogmanay Bonfire - a unique and popular event (3000 attendees). All relevant precautions have been taken by committee. Insurance /public liability extension was discussed at earlier meeting. Proposal has been put to SLC insurers. This year had more time to discuss BCC's role in bonfire. New measurements taken regarding distance of crowd from bonfire have been reported to Council for extension of insurance. Also more info given re torch lit parade. Thelma enquired about liability of BCC members as joint organisers of event - Jerry confirmed for any claim to be accepted negligence would need to be proved and we are covered for this. Insurers have said they expect risk assessments to be in place. All risk assessments

have been reviewed and are ready to be endorsed by someone qualified in Health & Safety before being passed to SLC. Long document, covering every conceivable risk. At this stage Jerry is requesting confirmation from BCC that we would like to extend our public liability again this year. Additional Premium is £250.

proposals put forward for vote:

- BCC and the Cornets form a 'Hogmanay' group, comprising representatives from both.
- BCC provides the insurance cover necessary for this event (£250 again this year), reimbursed from Cornets' Bonfire funds.
- Al Stewart be agreed as an Associate Member of BCC, specifically for the Hogmanay event.

Voted on . Proposals carried. Thelma abstained

10.8 Meetings with other Organisations

10.8.1. Health and Social care meeting. Outcome: Discuss if there is an appetite for developing a hospital transport scheme

When public were consulted an answer came back clearly that there is a big problem getting to hospital appointments. We should have a duty now to do something about this. So, the question is, is there an appetite for developing a hospital transport scheme

Janet suggested that in her meeting with other CC's we could include a discussion around hospital transport. Tarbrax has a community taxi. Broughton has a volunteer scheme. Gordon Muir advised that volunteer schemes are best way forward. There is one in Forth for Cancer patients (organised by Lanarkshire Care trust). Lesley will discuss at her Health and Social Care meeting on 11th November and report back.

10.8.2 Public Transport meeting. Outcome for NOTING

Well attended meeting. Commonality to most of the frustrations felt - sort out numbering of buses to stop duplication, major upgrades to rail network will be costly - and there are conflicting priorities for money. List of points raised at this inter community council meeting has just been released. This list has been sent to SPT, who attended the meeting and written responses are awaited. See **Appendix 3**

10.9 Local Action Plan Working Group (LAPWG): Ideas for noting

Have had an Initial meeting to talk about what the group want to do. Still to talk to SLC team. Going to try to do all the work in-house. Might need to reach out to other groups. Jerry suggested that this Working Group should have a terms of reference document. Janet agreed to draft one for presentation to and agreement from the rest of BCC. Janet suggested that Local action Planning should be a regular item on the agenda. A list of topics to include has been drawn up but is not yet complete:

Next LAPWG meeting is OCTOBER 30TH

In connection with the Local Action Planning subject, Jerry pointed out to the Local Councillors present at the meeting that the 'South Lanarkshire Community Action Planning and Participation Team' had recently written to BCC requesting that we approach the community with a short consultation, prepared by them, and provide the collected responses, this they sought to be completed within 36 days which included a two week

Half Term Break. BCC has written back to the correspondent referring them to the Scottish Government's suggested 12-week period for such consultations and advised that it is unlikely that they will receive a response to the survey from BCC.

10.10 Climate Conversations

Scottish Government initiative to try to collect views on climate change: is it actually happening, what action would you like to take. Note that we applied and got funding of £100 to cover expenses and run an event. Has been put out on social media. Posters not out yet. Should last about an hour, needs to be run before end October. Date confirmed as Monday 28th in Gillespie Cafe
7.30pm. Looking for volunteers: Thelma, Gil, Laura, Lesley, Janet.

11 AOCB

Regarding lighting on footpath toward Campsies. SLC have said there can be no new lighting but would check lighting meets criteria. Reported back that some of the path met the criteria but some of it failed. Street lighting dept (Ian Guild) requested lighting budget report - cost would be about £8000 - and he did not have that in his budget. Jimmy spoke to someone at Amey and they said they could put enhanced street lighting on the main road.

Overgrown trees on Market Rd, have now been removed

Complaint re Parking outside Big B's. Dealt with in this instance

12. Date of next meeting: 18th November 2019

Action	Responsibility
Discuss summary of agreed process for filling vacancies:	Jerry
Arrange meetings with other CCs to look at their microgrant process:	Janet
Report on meeting with Clydesdale Health and Social Care Committee	Lesley
Old BCC Filing Cabinet to be placed on free cycle	Thelma
Report back on Rotary decision re Citizen Award collaboration	Jan
to make enquiries re designating Park Place an emergency route and the possibility of signage, to clearly display it as such	Councillor McAllan
contact Malcolm Muir of Tweed Forum to find out current status of plans re Biggar Burn	Janet
To attend Clyde 2 Windfarm/Clyde Extension, Event Launch 29th October	Jerry, Lesley, Jimmy

Appendix 1 Police Report

note of crimes/incidents recorded for Biggar area between 12/9/19-10/10/19:

13 Sept :Report of youths being chased High street (No crime)

15 Sept: Serious Assault (Domestic) within residential property. Detected.

20 Sept: Possible road rage incident 2 females and 1 male arguing No trace at Police arrival

4 Oct: Report of drunk youths waiting to board the Lanark bus

7 Oct: Suspect Vehicle seen Gilbert Rae Court

9. Oct: Local business attempt online fraud

10.Oct: Report of windows smashed by youths. Undetected Vandalism.

For information there have been no positive lines of enquiry following enquires for both the Co op Theft Shoplifting and the Theft HB from last month.

Appendix 2: Digital Correspondence 190819 to 160919

Date		Task
20 August 2019	Website	Emails JS and GD regarding updating of grants information on website. All updated
21 August 2019	Website	Emils regarding NEWS posts on website and sharing to social media
20-21 August 2019	Miscellaneous	GD circulated infor regarding new legislation to prevent poavement parking.
4-6 September 2019	Website	GD advised link to H&Social Care survey being removed from website
30 August 2019	Roads	Report of road closure A73 Robertson circulated. Added to social media.
30 August 2019	Roads	Report of road closure A721 Carnwath to Kaimend circulated. Added to social media.
21 August 2019	Residents	Email from resident commenting on the News item about pavement parking. Agreeing this is a problem and outlining other similar problems.
02-05 September 2019	Residents	Correspondence from resident regarding need for a crossing at the Wynd. Resident was advised that this issue is often raised at meeting and invited to attend next meeting. JM further advised update regarding the absence of the lollipop man.
4 September 2019	Residents	Website submission from resident about transport links. Resident advised the comments would be added to the results of the Transport consultatuon.
27 August 2019	Planning	JM circulated letter from BCC in support of Harte House planning application. Agreed to send letter.
30 August 2019	Planning	Notification of Planning Application foir Phase 2 at Story Homes development. Clarified that this refers to the Social Housing which had already been on the original plans which now has more detail.
9 September 2019	Planning	Secretary circulated information about planning applications. Nothing of note.
20 August 2019	Police	Email from police regarding attendance at BCC meetings. Advising unable to attend allmeetings but will respond to specific issues by email.

20 August 2019	Miscellaneous	GD circulated copy of Lesmahagow Community led action plan for information.
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20 August 2019	Miscellaneous	Correspondence regarding filling vacancies. This issue to be discussed in full at the October meeting on return of Chair, JS.
21 August 2019	Miscellaneous	TI sent email confirming progress with the refurbished noticeboards in the town.
22 August 2019	Miscellaneous	Secretary circulated email with information about a survey by MHRA about medicines and healthcare. Added as news item on website and shared to social media.
25-27 August 2019	Miscellaneous	JS emailed CC members about making requests to 3rd parties without consent of BCC. Issues to be raised only by the Chair or Secretary.
21-27 August 2019	Internal	JS circulated a draft of a document regarding filling BCC vacancies. Comments and amendments made and JS to submit to SLC for approval. To be discussed and finalised at October meeting.
2 September 2019	Miscellaneous	JS emailed SLC asking for clarification on some points relating to filling vacancies.
3 September 2019	Miscellaneous	Secretary circulated information about Community Development: Tackling Inequalities conference. No-one able to attend.
04 - 05 September 2019	Miscellaneous	Secretary circulated email from SLC with link to Committee Papers available online.
04-05 September 2019	Miscellaneous	JS emailed asking for a BCC member to take ownership of key to the noticeboard in his absence. GD agreed and key was handed over.
011/09/2019	Miscellaneous	JM emailed about incorrect report in Lanark Gazette relating to grant award to BDCS. JM confirmed BDCS were NOT successful JM posted correction on social media
12 September 2019	Miscellaneous	Secretary circulated letter from Crown Estates regarding consultation on draft Crown Estate Scotland 2020-23 Corporate Plan looking for feedback.

12 September 2019	Miscellaneous	Secretary circulated information from SLC about VE day celebrations 8-10 May 2020.
12 September 2019	Police	Secretary circulated report from Police for the September meeting. Suggested this is read out at the meeting.
12 September 2019	Miscellaneous	Secretary circulated information about Participatory Budgeting Conference in Edinburgh in October. Not know if any BCC members are attending.

21-29 August 2019	Meetings	LC circulated draft and following amended and final minutes. Comments received and final copy published on website, social media and hard copies.
10-11 September 2019	Meetings	Secretary emailed request in items for agenda for next meeting. Responses received and final agenda circulated and published.
09-10 September	Miscellaneous	Secretary circulated information about meeting being organised by Aileen Campbell to discuss bus/rail transport. JS, JC, GD and TI indicated availability.
05-07 September	Meetings	JS advised that he feels a statement should be made at the September meeting in support of the Hogmanay bonfire and confirming BCC's 100% commitment to maintaining this as an annual event.
11-12 September	Miscellaneous	JM circulated information about funding for CCs to hold consultations on Climate issues (Big Climate Conversation). To be raised under AoCB at next meeting
21-23 August	Miscellaneous	Emails regarding posting of results of Health and Social Care and Transport consultations on website. Both posted.
24-26 August	Planning	Emails from resident with photos showing flood water on the site of the proposed Gladman development. Kept on file.

26 August 2019	Miscellaneous	Email from LC regarding correspondence with Val de Souza, head of the health and social care partnership. Request to set up meeting. Those who responded agreed.
26 August 2019	Miscellaneous	JS circulated correspondence from Bill Angus Chair, Clydesdale Health & Social Care Forum relating to BCC's survey and consultation. Lesley requested to respond.
29 August 2019	Miscellaneous	LC circulated invite to neighbouring CCs to join a meeting to discuss outcomes of H&SC consultation, in particular transport issues.
20 August 2019	Grants	JS circulated draft forms of acknowledgement to be completed by recipients of grants. To be discussed at a future meeting.
21 August 2019	Grants	JM circulated email from Sse with report of windfarm grants .
20-22 August 2019	Grants	GD emailed about including details of successful grant recipients on website. General agreement to do this.

27 August 2019	Grants	JS emailed regarding accepting revised forms, guidance notes and acknowledgement letters. To be agreed at September meeting.
31 Aug - 0-3 September 2019	Grants	Application received from Biggar After School Club. Wrong form used and insufficient financial info received. Responded to the group who advised of contact details for umbrella organisation, ELOSCN.
11 September 2019	Grants	GD emailed ELOSCN about Biggar Afterschool Club application requesting more financial information. No response received to date.
5 September 2019	Grants	Application received from Care and Repair for grant funding from Clyde Windfarm. Wrong form used and advice sought from SLC. Decision to be made at September meeting.
5 September 2019	Grants	Advice sought from John Archibald SLC for advice regarding application for grants to multiple CCs. Response with advice received.

2 September 2019	Insurance	JS email to SLC regarding queries for Insurance cover for Bonfire. Replies in consultation with Cornets
2 September 2019	Miscellaneous	Email from LC regarding meeting with Gordon Muir, Rural Development Trust. Suggesting use of private cars for hospital transportation. LC to raise the matter at October BCC m,eeting.

Appendix 3: List of points raised at public Transport Meeting

Points raised at the meeting held in Thankerton Hall on Monday October 7 with Aileen Campbell MSP, Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy and Delivery at the SPT and Gary Robertson, and Network Analysis and Design Manager at the SPT, and representatives from Quothquan and Thankerton, Biggar, Symington, Pettinain, Carstairs, Royal Burgh of Lanark and Douglas Community Councils.

1. Renumbering one of the 91 bus services to Biggar.
2. Exploring a tweak to timings or penalty system so passengers leaving the train at Lanark can board the Biggar buses before they pull away, while avoiding missing onward connection from Biggar.
3. Creating a transport hub at Carstairs Junction with more parking, and buses meeting Glasgow and Edinburgh trains.
4. Creating a transport hub at Abington, allowing access to the Dumfries Edinburgh bus
5. Making improvements to the bus interchange at Lanark for safety and comfort.
6. Co-ordinating transport between other public services such as hospitals, or large employers.
7. Running a service from Douglas to Lesmahagow to allow workers to catch onward buses to Hamilton or Glasgow.
8. Encouraging better use of community transport through information to the public
9. Bringing the real-time information system to Clydesdale for passengers here.
10. Providing better services to Biggar
11. Expanding Lanark - Forth service to reach Breich for rail connections - this was an advance agenda line and not discussed, but they are aware of it.
12. SLC matter rather than SPT, but providing bus shelters, especially in Thankerton where there are three stops without shelters in a Scottish climate.
13. Connecting villages Carstairs Junction and Carstairs village to Biggar and Lanark in a circular loop. Again, that was an agenda item rather than a discussion, but it would fit in with Carstairs station area as a transport hub.