

# **Minutes of AGM of Biggar Community Council, 21st October 2019 in Biggar Library meeting room**

## **1. Present /Apologies:**

*Community Council:* Jerry Sumpster, Gil Dunn, Jan Currie, Janet Moxley, Lesley Craise,

Laura Shirley, Thelma Ingram, James Ritchie

*Ex officio:* Councillor Ian McAllan , Councillor Alex Allison

4 Members of the Public

Apologies: Councillor Eric Holford

## **2. Minutes of Last AGM**

Matters arising: to note that we had apologies from Councillors Alex Allison and Eric Holford which were missing from minutes

Minutes proposed by Thelma Ingram, seconded by Gil Dunn.

The minutes were approved.

## **3. Chair's Report**

Opening Remarks

Jerry thanked Lesley Craise for taking the minutes for the year and confirmed that Lesley was happy to continue as minutes secretary.

New Biggar Community Council (BCC): Had started with a full complement of 10 but had had 2 resignations (Peter Rae and Gordon Cunningham) and Jerry wanted to acknowledge them and thank them for their service over the previous years.

Change of Office Bearer: Gil stepped down as Chair and took up position of Treasurer. Thelma stepped down as Vice Chair in March for Health reasons but remained an active member. Chair thanked them both, and also our ex-officio members for their input, efforts and support over the last year.

**Report on the last Year**

Jerry stated that Communications was the driving theme of community councils, in order to best serve the community. We are improving as BCC members at thinking about and focusing on “outcomes” before raising matters at meetings and this should lead to shorter meetings in future! Gil is also our defacto “Communications Officer” and had done a sterling job focusing on improving communications between BCC and the community. She has been responsible for driving communications through a variety of channels:

- BCC Website
- Design of Newsletters
- A database of folk who now receive electronic mailing
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and the like) - where she has been assisted by Janet.

Many thanks to Gil for her efforts, I know that for the coming year Gil has fresh and exciting plans, including leading the planning of a Community Fayre - watch this space.

The public are always welcomed to our monthly meetings. Since the last AGM we have seen public attendance range from zero to eight, with an average of around 4 members of the public in attendance.

Outside of the normal business meetings BCC has hosted/facilitated a number of events, a couple which stick out are:

- BCC Public meeting re the proposed development of land adjacent to Boghall. This saw 82 attending members of the Public, and there followed a survey from which BCC received 104 responses.
- Transport, Health and Social Care consultation. With 50 - 60 attendees at the Gillespie Centre event. I know that Lesley also took this consultation “on the road” to capture thoughts and concerns from those folk in Biggar that are less able to travel.

BCC members are often contacted by members of the community by email, telephone or just stopped in the street, and we welcome this, so before wrapping up, I would like to record thanks to the folk of Biggar; those that have attended business meetings and raised issues, those that attended public meetings and consultations and responded to surveys, those that add to the mix with comments on social media, email and face to face. We

welcome this and hope that folk will continue to communicate issues and concerns through one channel or another in the year to come.

It's been an interesting year, with many of us finding our feet in our new role as members of BCC. There has been some lively debate, which I hope will continue over the coming year. There has been some lengthy debate, which I hope we may have seen the back of - which is my cue to sit down

#### **4. Treasurers Report and Submission of Balance Sheet and Annual Accounts**

Presentation of 2018 - 19 Accounts, as drafted and approved by SLC, with supporting spreadsheets showing a more detailed analysis. At 31st March 2019 year end the various balances where as follows:

**Business Account** - £219.12

**Incentive Account** - £1,978.55 of which £1,019.12 is Glenkerie Windfarm Grant money and £959.43 is Incentive Fund money.

**Clyde Windfarm Account** - £3,963.50

Over the 2018/19 year the following numbers of Grants have been approved and paid:

**Glenkerie Fund**, 4 grants totalling £850

**Clyde Windfarm** (Windfarm A/c), 12 grants totalling £4,247.50

**Incentive Fund**, 1 grant of £50

Details of the grants made are in appendix1

Jerry made a great job of setting up the accounts in a format which is easy to read, easily audited and acceptable to SLC, so it was easy for Gil to take on.

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 this is reduced by the unspent Grant from the previous year.

Gil feels like BCC needs to "big ourselves up" because she is personally proud of the progress we have made, we are more accessible to the community through social media, website, newsletters, public meetings and consultations and surveys. Informing and engaging. BUT the more transparent we are the more open to criticism we are....this was seen as a

positive thing as it means we are getting our message out there and engaging with the public. Gil hopes that the community appreciates what we do.

Gil also explained the set-up of the wind farm grants to two new members of Public.

## **5. Election of Office Bearers**

Jerry explained that the Chair's position was only up for re-election every 4 years, so there would only be re-election of treasurer and secretary.

**Treasurer:** Gil happy to remain in position.

**Secretary:** Jan happy to remain in position No other nominations  
Proposed Jerry      Seconded Lesley

## **6. Constitution**

No recent changes but the new BCC had changed the wording of The Constitution at the beginning of the year to emphasise that the Public had a voice at our meetings

## **7. Adherence to the scheme and associated documentation**

We need to declare each year that we will continue to adhere to the Scottish Government's scheme for Community councils, SLC scheme for Community Councils, Core Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Bigger Community Council's Constitution, and SLC Guidelines handbook.

Declared by all that this is the case

## **8. Date of Next AGM : 19th October 2020**