

Minutes of Biggar Community Council meeting 16th September 2019

1. **Apologies:** Jerry Sumpster (Chair), Lesley Craise

Present: Community Council: Janet Moxley, Laura Shirley, Gil Dunn, Jan Currie, Thelma Ingram, Jimmy Ritchie

Ex officio: Ian McAllan, Alex Allison
plus Four Members of the Public

2. **Acting Chair's Opening remarks:** Gil welcomed everyone and explained she would be acting Chair in Jerry's absence

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting held on 19/8/19**

Proposed Jan Seconded Laura

3.1 **Matters Arising:**

Janet updated us that The Civic Society application for SLC funding to purchase Covenanter's Cottage had been unsuccessful, contrary to what was reported in the Gazette. She said they were hoping for funding from Scottish Land Fund or Windfarm Fund and hoped they would not be too late to buy the building which Museum's Trust was putting on the market in October.

Actions Table:

Jerry will report on bonfire insurance and other actions re bonfire at the next meeting. He was still in communication with SLC

Jerry will confirm he has paid fee to Information Commissioner's Office next meeting

Jerry will discuss summary of agreed process for filling vacancies at October meeting

Janet still to arrange meetings with other CCs to look at their micro grant process

Amended application forms and guidance notes had been circulated by jerry but not seen by Jimmy. Paper copy given. Will need to be approved at next meeting

All other actions listed have been completed

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

Jan to email and thank Constable Mark Richardson for sending a summary of activities carried out

5. **Chair's Report:**

5.1 Currently two vacancies on committee. Jerry still liaising with SLC re criteria to ensure our process complies with Standing Orders etc. Report on agreed process at next meeting

5.2 There is a new joint committee between Cornets and Biggar CC to discuss issues around bonfire insurance, liabilities etc. Jerry, Jan and Gil will participate on this committee

5.3 Jerry had asked that the response he received from SPT and SLC regarding the repositioning of the bus shelter and the problems with traffic build-up was read out. **See appendix 2**

Janet stated that it was wrong that there had been no consultation with the public before the change. She thought we should ensure that BCC is consulted before any similar changes in future change so that we can consult the public and comment based on local knowledge. This was agreed.

6. Secretary's Report

Had been contacted by an irate member of the Public (not from Biggar) on the matter of no access to public toilets because not accepting coins. Complaint was passed to Mike Chad who explained that unfortunately from time to time this happened and that the fault was fixed as soon as it was reported

Had a phone call from the Vice chair of Clydesdale Health and Social Care Committee asking if we had received a letter of thanks from their Chair Bill Angus regarding our recent Health and Social Care Public consultation and requesting that they would like to work in conjunction with BCC on any further work in this area. Lesley to Liaise with them

7. Digital Correspondence

Copies of all digital correspondence received were made available. There was nothing arising from this. **Full list available in Appendix 3**

8. Specific Matters raised by the Public

A member of the public Yvonne Power came along to make a case for a crossing opposite the Wynd as it was dangerous for children and indeed anyone to cross the A702 there and lollipop man was present only at specific times. Councillor McAllan said the remit lay with Transport Scotland but certainly SLC could add to the debate and suggested a strongly worded letter from the council. We agreed to write a supporting letter to Transport Scotland about the problems of crossing the A702 and possible solutions.

Yvonne also mentioned the danger in crossing Market Road near the school because there were cars coming and going from Co-op, sometimes at speed. We decided to ask SLC to look at signed crossing or other provision for crossing Market Road near the Co-op.

Another member of the public (name not recorded) also mentioned parking at the Wynd again, as cars continue to park on double yellow lines and cause pedestrians to walk on the road. We can only continue to ask SLC to send wardens round as it is not a police issue unless it is proven to be a danger.

Janet Moxley asked that the good job the Lollipop man was doing was minuted. Janet thought Biggar CC should write to SLC endorsing how effective he was. This was agreed and Janet will draft a letter

9. Treasurer's Report:

Business Account Balance: £372.31

Incentive Account balance £1,250.55 (Glenkerie £669.12, Incentive fund £581.43)

Clyde Windfarm Balance £2,963.50 (recently topped up)

BCC Asset statement: Gil questioned whether we should get rid of the Filing Cabinet which was stored in the Municipal Hall and serving no purpose. It was agreed to get a picture of it and advertise on freecycle to see if someone could utilise it.

10. SLC Councillors Report

Councillor McAllan reported he had followed up a complaint about the Edinburgh bus not stopping at the stop outside Hamilton butchers. The response he got is that not all buses are scheduled to stop there (only those which run fully from Dumfries to Edinburgh).

11. Agenda Items

11.1 Statement to be minuted:

Biggar CC noted that the minutes show that we strongly support the continuation of all aspects of the Biggar Bonfire Celebrations. This is an important tradition in the town and BCC support the Cornets in ensuring that it continues. We have been asked to be involved in ensuring we have the correct and optimal Insurance and all Liabilities have been assessed and agreed

11.2 South Lanarkshire access forum meeting. Full report in Appendix 4

11.3 Request to Make dog poo bag dispensers available on the High St.

This was discussed but no support for it - impractical as someone would need to take responsibility to re-fill them and bags readily available in pet-shop, other shops and from library

11.4 Microgrant Applications.

Although two applications had been received neither had used the correct form. Application from Biggar After school Care organisation re-submitted on correct form but vital information on financials was still missing. Awaiting the receipt of this information.

11.5 Approval for hall hire up to £30 for meeting with Val De Souza, head of health & social care partnership.

It was agreed that as Val's team had quite a large budget at their disposal, and it was Val who requested the meeting, Lesley should in the first instance enquire if they can meet the costs of room hire. If they decline then BCC will authorise payment for it.

11.6 Update on next Newsletter

Almost ready to go to printers. Final draft to be circulated for approval

11.7 Celebrating our Community event: progress report re working with Rotary on a Citizen of the Year award

Jan to contact Stewart Houston, who is the correct contact for this, and set up a meeting to discuss how we can help.

11.8 Planning

Gladman have objected to the SLC Draft Local Plan on the grounds that the plan does not provide enough land for housing need and that the Boghall Rd site, Biggar is not Zoned for housing. A reporter has been appointed by Scottish Ministers but a date for the Inquiry has yet to be set. BCC will inquire if they they can make a submission to the Inquiry. The previous BCC did not comment on the Draft Local Plan originally.

Story Homes are presently building Phase 2A of the development.

For Phase 2 – on the land from Carwood Rd to down to Phase 2A- there is an application by Story Homes to have SLC determine a Pre-application Screening. This will decide if any planning application will be required to go through a pre-application consultation process. This is because some changes proposed might trigger such a process.

11.9 Meetings with other organisations

Jimmy has spoken to Amey about the lack of maintenance to the grass and trees on side of the A702 from the steps at Campsies Garage above the path to Boghall Park. These are the responsibility of Amey/Transport Scotland.

12 AOCB

- Thelma reported a visibility problem on the path between the garage /Boghall Park. Surface was uneven and it was dark. Laura agreed that a member of the community with

sight problems had also reported this. Bob Brownlie (member of the Public) advised that this had already been reported 3 months ago to Ian Guild (SLC lighting department) and they were going to check lighting levels in the first instance. Robert Dunsmore at SLC has stated that it is unclear whether there is any obligation for councils to illuminate footpaths.

- The Action Planning sub-group of Biggar CC has yet to meet, so no progress report
- There is Scottish Government funding available for community groups to have conversations about Climate Change to feed into future legislation. Janet will fill in an application form for the grant.
- Laura reported that there were loose stones in the wall of the cemetery going up Carwood Rd and continuing up to the corner before Northcroft Rd. Councillor McAllan will report
- The library meeting room (where this meeting is held) was far too cold. Jan to contact library to report

Next meeting will be an AGM followed by an ordinary meeting. Need to post calling notice on website, social media, noticeboards etc 21 days before meeting (21st October)

Date of next meeting: Annual General Meeting followed by an Ordinary Meeting 21st of October.

Actions Table	
Report on bonfire insurance and other actions re bonfire	Jerry
Discuss summary of agreed process for filling vacancies	Jerry
Approval of Amended application forms and guidance notes for micro grants	Jerry
arrange meetings with other CCs to look at their micro grant process	Janet
Confirm fee paid to Information Commissioner's Office	Jerry
Liaise with Clydesdale Health and Social Care Committee re working together	Lesley
Write a supporting letter to Transport Scotland about the problems of crossing the A702. & Write to SLC re problems with crossing Market road	Thelma
Take a picture of BCC filing cabinet and advertise on Freecycle	Thelma
Apply to Scottish Government funding for a community conversation about Climate Change	Janet
Contact Stewart Houston of Rotary and set up meeting re Citizen of the Year Award	Jan
Contact Care and Repair and advise re applying for larger Windfarm grant	Jan

Appendix 1

For your information this is a list of crimes recorded for the Biggar and surrounding areas for the period 15/08/19 - 11/09/19 : Provided by PC Mark Richardson

15 Aug - THEFT BY SHOPLIFTING - Alcohol to value of 500.00 (2 male suspects, enquiries continue).

16 Aug - VANDALISM - High Street, Biggar - Paintwork to Grey Ford Ka damaged by key or similar object (undetected).

17 Aug - THEFT BY SHOPLIFTING - Failure to pay for dispensed coffee and cereal bar (1 male suspect, enquiries continue).

17 Aug – BREACH OF ASBO / BREACH OF CONDITION OF BAIL - (1 female arrested and detained to appear at Lanark Sheriff Court).

18 Aug – DANGEROUS DRIVING – High Street, Biggar – During period of road closure, vehicle driven through temporary barrier into area of active roadworks, causing danger to pedestrian road worker – (male suspect, enquiries continue)

29 Aug – FRAUD (online)

31 Aug – DOGS (PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK) ACT 1953 (SHEEP WORRYING) – Coulter – 1 sheep required to be destroyed due to injuries sustained. Dog involved legally shot dead at material time (enquiries continue)

08-09 Sep – THEFT BY HOUSEBREAKING (Garden Shed) – Theft of quantity of tools (enquiries continue).

Appendix 2

FROM SLC

“The current location of the bus shelter near to the Crown Inn on High Street, Biggar is in a prime location within the centre of Biggar and is easily accessible for shops and facilities. Any relocation of the stop and shelter would need to be contained within the existing pedestrianised island between the parking area and the High Street. Loss of parking due to amount of road space

required to construct a bus lay-by would result in a detriment to the shops and amenities in the town centre. Other stops in the village, to east and west, do not have lay-bys and the buses stop on the carriageway. This is also the case at other settlements along the route, such as Dolphinton, Carlops and West Linton. A702 through Biggar carries less than 9000 vehicles per day, a low number for an A-class road. Given that at peak times there are only two buses an hour using this stop it is considered that any inconvenience or disruption will be minimal.

With regard to monitoring the operation of the stop since the lay-by was removed early in 2016 we can advise that shortly after its removal a site visit was undertaken to observe the situation. During the period of the visit four buses were observed using the stop, two of which are timetabled to lay- over for a four minute period. During these time periods, of those vehicles which were held up by the parked buses, one was delayed by 30 seconds, one by 20 seconds and all of the others for less than 10 seconds. This is not considered excessive or unreasonable. Indeed, vehicles waiting to turn right off the High Street into John Street and the parallel service road resulted in similar delays. While we would acknowledge occasionally longer delays are experienced we are satisfied that these will be the exception and will not result in significant disruption. The situation is no different to the majority of bus stops across the road network where buses stop on the carriageway. We are satisfied with the operation of the alterations on the High Street, which has resulted in a much improved environment for bus passengers, and in particular for those who are mobility impaired, elderly or with young children, and due to this believe there is no justifiable reason to alter the bus stand or its location.

FROM SPT

“At its previous position the bus shelter had sub-standard clearances to front and rear. It was extremely difficult for passengers with impaired mobility to access and exit. There was also concern that it could be struck by a vehicle. The footway around the stop and shelter was sub- standard and there was no appropriate passenger boarding/alighting area. The bus lay-by was also sub-standard and quite often buses did not use it as this could endanger waiting passengers. The buses stopped on the carriageway and passengers boarded and alighted from the lay-by, again causing difficulty for mobility impaired

and elderly passengers, or those with pushchairs, etc. On occasion other vehicles also parked in it.

Following concerns raised regarding the previous layout the matter was discussed with one of the local councillors and SPT in order to provide a better, safer, more user-friendly arrangement. Having met with SPT officers and the councillor on site to review the situation and see how it operated we drew up the proposal to remove the lay-by and to relocate the stop and shelter so as to maximise the clearances around both. The only way to achieve this was to move it west as, because of the way it tapers, the footway becomes narrower to the east. It could only be moved so far west, however, because of the next parking lay-by. Given that buses frequently did not use the lay-by but stopped on carriageway the new arrangement is a very similar situation to the one which existed previously. As the A702 is a Trunk Road the proposal was also discussed with the operators, Amey.”

Appendix 3 Digital Correspondence (available on BCC website)

Appendix 4 South Lanarkshire outdoor Forum Report (available on BCC website)

