

**INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY**  
**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Minutes of Business Meeting  
Held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005  
In the Inverkip Hotel

**Present:** Innes Nelson (chair); Ron Potter (vice-chair); Hugh Ritchie; Harold McPherson; Lynne Chambers (a/secretary)

**Apologies:** Cliff Lyons (treasurer); Paul Maloney

**In attendance:** Cllr Eric Forbes; Graham Scott; N Cupples; Alan Cumming; Alison Nugent; Andy Lynch; Jim McIntosh; Fran McIntosh; Allan Marsh

**3 Police Matters:** no officers attended

**4 Minutes of business meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005 – Matters arising:**

**Bankfoot Roundabout:** Hugh Ritchie asked Cllr Forbes whether there was any news about the roundabout. Cllr Forbes said that he had been in touch with the Scottish Executive and it is formulating a policy on large roundabouts, due to report in March 2006

**Wemyss Bay Christmas tree lights switch on:** Lynne Chambers reported the Wemyss Bay switch on was now arranged for 6.30p.m. and not 6.45pm as shown in the minutes, as per the latest information at that time

**Neighbourhood Recycling Points:** Cllr Forbes reported that the Wemyss Bay site recommended by the Community Council for the location of a recycling point was located on a private road so there is to be a rethink on the site

**Items 12 – C and D:** await action

**Civic Trust:** Alan Cumming reported his findings following contact with the Scottish Civic Trust. The advice is to start informally and then have a public meeting. The Trust would operate in tandem with the Community Council. Cllr Forbes said that as Kilmacolm Civic Trust had been in operation for a while it might be worth contacting that Trust for information. There is also the option of a Civic Society – Alison Nugent to investigate

**Election/co-option of Community Council members:** it was intended that such election/co-option should be conducted at this meeting but was deferred to next month's AGM, to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2006

The Minutes of the Business Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005 were adopted

**5 Secretary's Report and Correspondence:** Lynne Chambers said she had been in conversation with Kirsty Donnolly of the Wemyss Bay Community Hall group, about arrangements for the Christmas tree lights switch-on and payment of the entertainer, David Ennis. There was talk of better communications between groups in Wemyss Bay and the Community Council, as Harold McPherson is the only Wemyss Bay representative on the Council. Kirsty said there was to be a short meeting and

Christmas Dinner of the Wemyss Bay group at Inverkip Hotel on Sunday evening the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, and any member of the Community Council who wished to attend the meeting was welcome.

Details were given of the lights switch-on in Inverkip and Lynne Chambers encouraged all to attend

Letter received from Inverclyde Community Council Forum with details of their next meeting – passed to Ron Potter

Correspondence from Scotways re rights of way – passed to Innes Nelson

Circular from Inverclyde SNP MSP Bruce McFee

Correspondence from Association of Scottish Community Councils, including a petition to the Scottish Parliament re greater democracy in planning, including limited third party right of appeal. Most people attending the meeting signed the petition – passed to Ron Potter

Letter from Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee stating that it is proposed to advertise the Council's 'Notice of Intention to Adopt the Local Plan' on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2005 with the Council looking to adopt the Plan on or after 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006

From Inverclyde Council – report by Head of Community Care and Strategy – response to the consultation on the redrawing of the boundaries of NHS Argyll & Clyde – available for inspection

From Inverclyde Council – a proposal that Cllr Forbes replace Cllr Fyfe as the Council's representative on the West of Scotland Regional Transport Partnership. Cllr Forbes was able to tell us it was approved unanimously.

Letter from Strathclyde Police on its Area Policing Model

**6. Treasurer's Report:** In Cliff Lyon's absence, Innes Nelson reported that £40 has been paid for microphones for the public meeting, and that the new balance of the account is £758.95

### **7. Planning matters:**

A report from Inverclyde Council's Environment & Regeneration Committee showed their decision on Inverclyde Local Plan: First Review – Update on Progress and Adoption of Plan – and their proposal to advertise the Council's Notice of Intention to Adopt the Local Plan on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2005, with the Council looking to adopt the Plan on or after 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006

Cllr Forbes reported that there had been an appeal against the decision not to allow development at Bridgend Cottages

62 Lomond Road, Wemyss Bay – a Certificate of Lawfulness is sought in respect of the provision of a rear patio area

Inverclyde Council's Planning and Traffic Management Committee considered a Planning Application re the erection of 4 one and a half storey detached dwellinghouses on land to the west of Leven Road, Wemyss Bay – the report recommended that the committee note the enforcement action against the tree felling on site and the pursuit of a replanting scheme and that planning permission be refused for a number of reasons. It was decided that consideration of the application be

continued for a site visit to be arranged. Cllr Forbes was able to tell the meeting that the site visit had been undertaken and officers would recommend refusal

The Planning and Traffic Management Committee considered an advertisement application by R Giovanacci for the proposed erection of 4 sign board/poster holders (in retrospect) at Londis, Kip Park, Main Street, Inverkip. On a vote it was decided that advertisement consent be refused

7 Swallow Crescent, Inverkip – extension to dwelling house

**8. Public meeting – review:** To consider the vote at the public meeting on the proposal to site a wind farm on the Leapmoor. Hugh Ritchie extended congratulations to Innes Nelson on his presentation at the public meeting. Lynne Chambers reported that wind farm protesters in Argyll were keen to be in touch with the Community Council because, while opposing proposals in their own area, they too would be affected by any such location of turbines from the other side of the river. Ron Potter offered feedback on the meeting and said people had been surprised by the extent of the earthworks attached to such development, and access disruption. It was agreed that the unanimous vote against the proposed wind farm development at the public meeting gave the Community Council a mandate to oppose the development. Community Windpower would be informed of the Community Council's position.

**9. Feedback from meeting of Community Council members with Inverclyde Head of Planning, Fraser Williamson:** Ron Potter said they had a better idea of what planners look for in an application. He believed Fraser Williamson has the best interests of the community at heart. Write to him re planning gain.

There followed a general discussion about possible facilities for Inverkip if approval is given to the Stewart Milne application. It was considered valid that the Milne Group be asked to give up some of their land for community facilities and a suggestion was the Milne Group should be asked to build such community facilities. Consideration had to be given to the under capacity of drainage – there are ongoing discussions re improvements. In other parts of the country a developer can be asked to make a contribution to the sewage system

Other thoughts included a community hall; tennis courts; swimming pool. Cllr Forbes pointed out that swimming pools require an extraordinary amount of money to build and run. And as always in Inverkip, where is the ground going to be available for building such facilities. Alison Nugent speaking on behalf of the Pre-5 Centre run in conjunction with Inverclyde Council made an impassioned plea for space within a community hall – custom built facilities - where equipment didn't need to be packed away every day. Currently 40 children attend, and only lack of space prevents more taking part in pre-school education. Other thoughts about multi-purpose community hall facilities – kitchens (one dedicated to the pre-5s); meeting rooms; storage and a small stage. Hugh Ritchie suggested a community bus which could be used to transport people to where the facilities lay within Inverclyde if not to be made available locally. Jim McIntosh asked if the Milne Group put money on the table would Inverclyde Council also put money on the table. Cllr Forbes said such issues were part of the planning application, and such an application would detail planning gain. Ron Potter asked if there were any plans to increase the size of the library. Cllr

Forbes said no, but there is a Scotland-wide review. Another suggestion – local history centre in library.

Proposed bridge over the railway – it was reported that Fraser Williamson's interpretation of the new Local Plan is that if the bridge is not to be, the development is not to be.

Fran McIntosh reported that Kyles residents had been much disturbed by large boreholes being drilled on Inverkip station platform, work being undertaken from midnight until 0300. When asked, the workmen – there were 14 of them plus 6 vans – said they were building bases for CCTVs.

And, referring to Inverkip Station, Kyles residents said that if the proposed bridge goes ahead there will be no parking at the station as the residents will take back their spaces.

**10. Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2006, 7.30pm at the Inverkip Hotel

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10.00pm