

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the business meeting held on Thursday
1st February 2007 in the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm.

1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

2. Apologies for absence: Lynne Chambers; Hugh Ritchie

In attendance: Fran McIntosh; Jim McIntosh; N Cupples; Cliff Lyons; Eric Forbes; Jane Perratt; Billy Gray

For Turley Associates Robin Holder; Michael McAley; Elaine Troup.

For Scottish Power Ross Henderson; Eddie Longhardt; John Connor.

For Aitkens David Moir.

2. Police Matters

PC Jane Perratt told that crime had dropped since the previous quarter up to the end of September. Her crime report for the area from 1/10/06 to 01/01/07 was as follows:

Theft of a motor vehicle 1; attempted theft of a motor vehicle 1; theft from a motor vehicle 1.

RTA offences 2

Simple assault 1; serious assault 1.

Willful fire raising 2

Breach of the peace 3

OLP thefts 7

Drunk and disorderly 1

Vandalism 16

Theft by S/L

Communications act 1

Detection Rate was 12 out of 38

The problems of local vandalism were discussed including the recent problems at the Church Hall, which included smashing of windows prior to breaking in and stealing a mobile phone.

Discussions took place regarding parking on pavements on Main St in the vicinity of the old police station where cars completely block the pavement. Jane Perratt said that she would investigate the problem.

4. Inverkip Power Station presentation

Turley Associates acting on behalf of Scottish Power presented their proposals for the Inverkip Power Station site which has been endorsed by Inverclyde Councilors for mixed use in the 2005 Local Plan policy SA 5.

Robin Holder and Michael McAuley gave a power point presentation of what they proposed for the site including 400 to 600 houses. Cliff Lyons pointed out that there were already too many cars on the A78 and that the site would not be served by public transport in the future due to timetable scheduling and perceived route lengths on journeys. Innes Nelson asked if the original planning consent had a condition that the site should be returned to the green belt after decommissioning. The presenters stated that they were not aware of any previous planning conditions regarding decommissioning. Innes Nelson then asked why, if the site had to be developed would they not consider high quality small business units and waterfront offices. This would allow local people to run businesses locally and traffic to flow in the opposite direction at peak travelling times thereby helping to alleviate congestion rather than add to it with cars from hundreds of new houses. The presenters stated that the site had to be for mixed use not all industrial and that a large portion of housing was their preferred option. Brian McArthur asked if they had looked into a school or schools on the site. The reply was that Inverclyde Council had already decided on their schools policy and that did not include a new school for the site. Fran McIntosh pointed out that we are in desperate need of a Health Centre in the area that this should be considered by the developer.

We were told that the preferred option for demolition was to take away the power station buildings and tanks and then collapse the chimney on to the cleared site. The proposed timescale is for planning application for the site to be submitted this summer.

5. Minutes of the business meeting held on Thursday 6th January 2007: Matters arising:

The question of restructuring of posts was discussed. It was decided to carry this forward to the next meeting when more members were in attendance.

Discussions were held on enquiry's which had been made for a Health Centre in Inverkip by a Greenock practice.

Paul Maloney questioned why the Community Council had set up its own website without asking Robert Pollard to do it. Innes Nelson said that Harold McPherson had offered to set up a web page because the minutes were not up to date on Inverkip Community Council's previously set up site at Inverkip.com.

Minutes proposed by Brian McArthur and seconded by Ron Potter

5. Secretary's report and correspondence:

Letter dated 9th January from Scottish Natural Heritage with conformation of notice under section 3(1) of the nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, that the proposed area within the Renfrewshire Hights has been adopted as a Special Protection Area for Hen Harriers.

Agenda Minutes of Inverclyde Council minutes from meeting on Dec 15th on Councils Disability Equality Scheme.

Letter dated 4th January from Community Voices Network asking for volunteer to become member. (No volunteers)

Winter 2006-7 News Letter from Planning Aid Scotland

6. Treasurer's report: Ron Potter reported balance as £1561.29.

7. Planning matters:

O2 Mast Application on pavement at Recreation Park, Inverkip. Questions were asked as to why planning requirements on mast sharing with other sites around the village were not being implemented. Eric Forbes stated that he would make enquiry's with Jane Shields into the position with mast sharing regarding this proposal.

8. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 1st of March 2007

9. Any other business:

Stewart Milne greenbelt application

Jim McIntosh questioned Eric Forbes on whether the council was taking on ownership of the bridge. Eric said that no decision had been made yet. Jim pointed out that First Scotrail had to apply for dispensation but had so far not attempted to do so.

Fran McIntosh brought up the question of road safety at the station and stated that she thought there should be a safety audit carried out. Jim said he was concerned about children exiting from the proposed bridge onto Station Road. Fran agreed and said that the biggest danger was children crossing on the blind corner next to the old Station Masters Cottage at the top of Station Road. Cliff Lyons said that Jim McLeod from Inverclyde Council on Disability had also expressed concern regarding the safety of children exiting the proposed bridge. Eric said that he would be talking to member of School Board Ian Fraser regarding safe routes to school. Ron stated that he had had a meeting with Donald Chisholm of the roads department to discuss the proposed road changes in and around the greenbelt fields.

Dog Fouling on A78 Bridge

Innes Nelson said that Hugh Ritchie had asked if anything could be done regarding dog fouling nuisance on the bridge. Eric Forbes said that he would ask Environmental Health to help with the problem.

Being no further business the meeting ended at 10:00pm