

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on Thursday 1st March 2012 in Inverkip Primary School at 7pm

Present: Hugh Ritchie; Ron Potter; David Adams; Jean Anderson; Tracy Bunton; Gordon Roders; Eileen Virtue.

1. Apologies: Lynne Chambers; Telfer Ramage; Cllr Innes Nelson; Cllr Gerry Dorrian

2. In attendance: Cllr Luciano Rebecchi; Inspector Brian Shaw; Sgt. S. Anderson; Mark Allen and Peter McLaren from TGC Renewables; Nigel Willis and 2 associates from Save Your Regional Park; and approximately 10 members of the public

3. Police matters

Sgt. Anderson introduced Insp. Shaw as the lead officer in Inverclyde for Community Policing. Insp. Shaw explained that community policing is generally demand led although not always the case. There are plans in place to restructure deployment. A recent spate of car break-ins was discussed and the meeting was informed there would be news to follow in the coming days.

Sgt Anderson gave local crime statistics for February 2012:

Reported Incidents: 69

Calls to assist: 12

Disturbances: 2

Road Accidents: 2 (1 at Bankfoot and 1 at Loch Thom)

Crime Reports – 8 (includes the detection of an incident at Seaview Café; an incident relating to 5 car break-ins and another relating to 2 car break- ins; theft of decking at Wemyss Bay caravan park; phone threats; egg throwing at a speaker at Inverkip Parish Church).

Cllr Rebecchi provided more detail to Sgt. Anderson's report about parking around Inverkip Primary and the train station. He informed the meeting of proposals to control dangerous parking from Main Street to the train station and Finnockbog Road. Proposals include additional kerb side fencing, restricted parking and parking exclusion areas. Proposals will be subject to full consultation. Sgt. Anderson informed that the area had been patrolled and parking tickets have been issued although stressed there are circumstances where tickets cannot be issued. The police are committed to engagement and will monitor the situation.

Cllr Rebecchi reported that the chairperson of Strathclyde Passenger Transport is aware of the request for additional bus stops in the area and is considering the matter in conjunction with Transport Scotland. Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie expressed his concern about a resolution being subject to further delay. Insp. Shaw offered to look at the decision to disallow buses stopping through Inverkip and agreed to report back to the Community Council.

Hugh thanked the officers for their attendance.

4.0 Proposed Wind Turbines

Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie welcomed guests from TGC Renewables and Save Your Regional Park.

4.1 TGC Renewables

Mark Allen and Peter McLaren explained that their company intends making a planning application to locate two 36 metre high wind turbines on Leitchland Farm, Greenock on the location of a recently removed radio mast. They confirmed that the access route to the farm is adequate in its current state although a temporary hardcore road will be laid to access the site to supplement the track already there. A concrete platform measuring 7m sq will be needed to support the turbines. The turbines' expected lifecycle is 20 years and a feature of the particular model is its low noise emission. The proposed location is 800m from the closest house therefore no residential noise pollution is expected. They demonstrated the points in the surrounding area where they intend taking photographs towards the location to demonstrate the visual impact. They agreed to include other areas suggested by Community Councillors and to return with information about cabling required to connect with the national grid. It was confirmed the landowner will profit from the rent collected from his land and the project is not farmland diversification. Almost 100% of energy produced will supply the national grid.

4.2 Save Your Regional Park

Nigel Willis explained the importance of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park in terms of leisure, health and well-being and the local economy. It was acknowledged that the proposed turbine site is not located within the park, however deep concerns were expressed about the visual impact from the Regional Park. There is also the possibility of combustion and the consequences on the countryside and the threat of falling ice were discussed. When Community Councillor Eileen Virtue challenged the proposal being described as a wind farm, Save Your Regional Park suggested approval of wind farms within or at the periphery of the Regional Park would lead to further approvals. In response TGC explained that their business model is for single or dual units.

4.3 Conclusion

Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie thanked both TGC Renewables and Save Your Regional Park for their insightful presentations and concluded that although IWBCC previously applied a policy to object to all applications, new membership may alter the position. It was agreed the matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: IWBCC – Wind Turbine Policy to be discussed at the meeting of IWBCC on Thursday 5 April 2012.

5. Minutes of the Business Meeting held on Thursday 2 February 2012.

Minutes approved by Community Councillor Gordon Roders and seconded by Community Councillor Eileen Virtue.

Matters arising:

- PC JP Monaghan emailed Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie with the email addresses of all Community Police Officers. This has been printed and is displayed in the village notice board.
- Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie emailed Transport Scotland reporting the flooding repairs needed to the A78 through Wemyss Bay and Inverkip.
- Comm. Councillor Telfer Ramage circulated copies of emails before the date of the meeting outlining the current status of the investigation into areas of flooding and actions taken to prevent further flooding. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail at the next meeting.
- Community Councillor David Adams reported he was in attendance when an area of flooding on Ardgowan Road was being cleared.

ACTION: Current status of investigation into areas subject to, and actions taken to prevent, flooding to be discussed at the meeting of IWBCC on Thursday 5 April 2012.

6. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

Ardgowan Estate - Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie reported that the estate recognises improvement to the path along Daff Glen is needed. The estate would welcome the support of IWBCC and is in fact keen to open more walkways behind Bankfoot and Bridgend. Hugh intends expressing an interest to join a short term working group and requested another volunteer to assist Lady Shaw Stewart and the Estate Manager, Iain Wilkinson.

ACTION: Another member for the Ardgowan Estate short term working group to be nominated/ selected from IWBCC.

Cllr. C Rebecchi – Proposed Diamond Jubilee Tree Planting, Inverkip Primary School and possibly Wemyss Bay Primary School. Permission is requested from Inverclyde Council to facilitate and fund tree planting within the vicinity of the primary schools. Hugh was pleased to inform that Ardgowan Estate is very much in favour of the proposal.

Email from member of the public alleging IWBCB political allegiance/ bias – Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie refuted this allegation and was supported by the other Community Councillors. Cllr Rebecchi corroborated this view. Association of Scottish Community Councils Conference – Dunblane 18 April 2012

Cllr. Innes Nelson – returned the copy of IWBCB's signed constitution.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde – Objectives, culture and values.
Inverclyde Council – Review body after Planning Committee 7 March 2012.

Stewart McMillan MSP – flyer

Dunoon/ Gourock Ferry Action Group – Request for response to their concerns – Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie to respond.
Save IRH Birthing Unit – Cllr. Rebecchi provided the background and outlined the proposed cross party group. It was agreed that Cllr Rebecchi will meet with Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie to discuss IWBCB's support. Cllr Rebecchi said members of the public could offer support by lobbying their MSPs. He agreed to forward a template letter to Hugh.

Inverclyde Council – Copy of Community Council Insurance Policy

Inverclyde Council – Explanation of Community Council finance procedures. Concerns were raised about the need to supply receipts for all expenses incurred instead of honoraria payments being made. Community Councillor Ron Potter to request a meeting with John Arthur, Head of Safer and Inclusive Communities To be discussed in full at the next meeting of IWBCB.

ACTION: Expense claims to be discussed at the meeting of IWBCB on Thursday 5 April 2012.

Cllr Rebecchi – Proposed consultation on parking restrictions from Main Street, Inverkip to Finnockbog Road and the train station. IWBCB appreciated the proposals and the proposed consultation. It was agreed that additional suggestions should be emailed before the consultation is launched to Cllr Rebecchi cc Community Councillors Lynne Chambers and Tracy Bunton.

Email from Tracy McKernan – Gala Day. Concerns have been expressed about the viability of the Inverkip Gala Day due to lack of volunteers. Community Councillor Jean Anderson to email Tracy suggesting she contact Wemyss Bay Community Association to join forces.

The Scottish Government – letter from the Minister for Housing and Transport – findings from the engineering study of A78 Inverkip North junction following safety concerns raised by IWBCB and a subsequent site visit and meeting held on the 4th July 2011.

Conclusion is that 7 alternatives to the current turn left into the village, regardless of cost, have significant disadvantages and no significant advantage, compromising safety to varying extents.

ACTION: Copy of letter to be made available on IWBCB website.

7. Treasurer's Report

Community Councillor Ron Potter reported the balance of £847.32 equates to the bank statement received dated 4 February 2012. A full financial statement will be presented to the next meeting. Cliff Lyons was proposed as external auditor by Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie and approved by the others present.

8. Planning Matters

No matters of concern.

9. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 5th April 2012 at The Chartroom, Kip Marina, Inverkip at 7pm

10. Any Other Business

- **Recycling Bins – Power Station.** Cllr Rebecchi agreed to back the preferred alternative temporary location at the toilets/ car park, Inverkip
- **Grass cutting** – Playpark Swallow Brae – Cllr Rebecchi to report back when he finds out the responsible party.
- **Brown Bin Collection** – Resumes toward the end of March 2012.