

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 1st November 2007 in the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm

Present: Innes Nelson; Ron Potter; Brian McArthur; Liz Roders and Lynne Chambers

Apologies: Hugh Ritchie; Harold McPherson and Cllrs Dorrian and Rebecchi

In Attendance: Cllr Ken Ferguson; Sgt Campbell Crawford; PC Jane Perratt; Neil Barlow; Allan Marsh; Frank Campbell; John Mackie and Isabel Hunter

3. Police Matters:

Total crimes and offences – 15 (9 in Wemyss Bay and 6 in Inverkip)

Assault with intent to rob – 1 (Inverkip Post Office)

Wilful fireraising – 1

Drug offence - 1

Thefts – 5 (includes thefts of petrol from cars after holes had been bored in the tanks!)

RTAs – 2

Vandalism – 5

Total calls to police – 20

Inverkip – 9

Wemyss Bay – 11

Sgt Crawford alerted those attending that a Strathclyde Police public consultation event will take place in Inverkip on Thursday 29th of November at Inverkip Primary School when senior officers will respond to the concerns of local residents in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay

PC Perratt told the meeting of plans to monitor the speed of vehicles on the stretch of Finnockbog Road from the Brueacre interchange to Spey Road following complaints from residents. PC Perratt had spoken to Traffic Management and the intention is to lay a wire across the road to record the average speed of vehicles. The wire will be in place from 48 hours to a week. In addition the hand held speed gun has been booked, also for use on this stretch of road. This will be installed the week after next and speeding motorists will be charged

Lynne Chambers reported having been contacted a few weeks ago by a former member of the CC Mrs Ann Sargent re fly tipping of hot tarmac round the corner from Millhouse Road. Mrs Sargent had recorded the number of the vehicle on her mobile phone and alerted the police in Greenock and Inverclyde Council's cleansing department. After an article appeared in the Greenock Telegraph she was contacted by Environmental Services at Inverclyde Council who said the vehicle had been traced to a rental company and had been rented by a Clydebank firm. Mrs Sargent further reported her husband had observed attempts to remove the tar (pretty

unsuccessfully as the mound of tarmac was hard set) and he had also recorded the vehicle registration number. She did speak to Environmental Services but wondered how best to proceed. PC Perratt said it was a job for the Problem Solving Unit and if the secretary would put her in touch with Mrs Sargent she would pass the incident to them.

John Mackie introduced himself to the meeting and said he'd moved comparatively recently to Inverkip to live in the Old Manse. He reported large gangs of youths, sometimes over 20 of them, appeared to have targeted his home – throwing stones at the house and at his daughters; invading his garden and using play equipment there; balls of mud were thrown at the windows; between 0300-0400 cars with loud music blared outside his house and he had witnessed underage drinking and reported incursions into the cemetery. He said he had phoned Gourock police station several times. Sgt Crawford said he has seen for himself what goes on, and PC Perratt said she was in Inverkip most Friday and Saturday nights so the youths see their behaviour will not be tolerated. Sgt Crawford said at the weekend youths piled off the train, with their carry-outs in blue bags. Unless they have good reason to be in the village they're ushered back to the station and directed onto trains. In rounding up the youths only a handful would be from Inverkip he said, though PC Perratt said all those apprehended in the cemetery were local village youths. Mr Mackie observed he had refrained from challenging the youths as per best advice and as confirmed by the officers. However he was urged by Sgt Crawford to continue to call Gourock Police Station whenever there was a problem.

Liz Roders reported there had been complaints from Wemyss Bay residents about parking on the slip road outside North Lodge. Sgt Crawford said he would note the problem.

4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on 4th of October 2007

Cllr Dorrian had responded to various issues raised at the last Business Meeting and emailed responses from Inverclyde Council

Speeding – Inverkip - Finnockbog Road/Spey Road: speeding is a police matter, he reported, but Council officers will check the road signs. For the police response, please see above

Speeding – Wemyss Bay – Lomond Road/Ardgowan Road: monitoring measures will be put in place. If appropriate it will be referred to committee to see if funds can be made available to construct road calming measures

Wemyss Bay – car park at the Spar store: it is understood there is a request in the pipeline from owners to have Inverclyde Council submit a tender for repairs. Until this is received and accepted then this can't move forward. Liz Roders was able to add that title deeds show the car park ground is owned jointly by the four flats and four shops adjacent to the car park. Cllr Ferguson was asked if the Council could give this problem a push to get repairs going

Wemyss Bay – dangerous tree: the tree that bridges over the road into Carron Road will be checked by Ground Services who will take action as appropriate

Inverkip – Everton Road: it had been reported by residents, and new complaints continue to be heard, that the road surface is poor. It is understood by the CC that a condition for permission to close the pedestrianised section of Finnockbog Road by the Stewart Milne Group was that the surface of the alternative route – Everton Road

– would be brought up to a tolerable standard. Inverclyde Council’s response was that it’s a private road and not their responsibility. However the CC feels as Inverclyde Council issued the condition they should pursue and enforce the upgrading. Cllr Ferguson will investigate

Bankfoot roundabout: it is confirmed the roundabout has not yet been adopted by Inverclyde Council and remains in Amey’s care. Updates are awaited on details of maintenance and landscaping and Amey acknowledges the safety problems at the roundabout and investigations are being undertaken

Leapmoor wind farm application: the application has been submitted but nothing yet has come to the Planning Committee

Inverkip – Cullen Crescent – Allan Marsh, chair of the Ardgowan View Residents’ Association had reported at last month’s meeting that drains had been damaged by contractors working on the Ardgowan Rise development. The response – again – from Inverclyde Council is that this is a civil matter. However Scottish Water has been made aware of the situation and will check it out. Environmental Health thinks all the drains that were in the fields are likely to be silted up and may require to be replaced. Council officers will make SMG aware of the situation

Inverkip – area around Sainsbury’s: there had been a question about the future of the tennis courts. Inverclyde Council say refurbishment of the tennis courts is not a condition of planning permission, and it was confirmed a planning application for further developments at this site has been received.

Scottish Water: Cllr Dorrian had been in touch with Dawn McDermott of Scottish Water re a representative to attend a CC meeting to respond to concerns about flooding in Main Street, Inverkip and other issues in the village. It is now hoped a Scottish Water spokesperson will attend the December meeting.

Christmas Lights, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay: Willie Wilson, Inverclyde Council’s Community Services Manager, has confirmed the arrangements in the villages will be as before.

Millhouse Road, Inverkip: at last month’s meeting there had been complaints about speeding on the section of Millhouse Road between Bogside Farm and Swallow Brae. Community Councillor Brian McArthur had undertaken to put his thoughts on paper to Cllr Dorrian. Brian McArthur said the road was widened recently with passing places due to additional house construction at Bogside Farm. As a result there is less verge in places and pedestrians may be at greater risk from traffic. The 60 mph limit applies here but because housing development is nearing completion he believes an urban speed limit should be considered. He asked Cllr Dorrian to make representations to Inverclyde Council and awaits a response.

Brian McArthur proposed the Minutes be approved, seconded by Liz Roders

5. Secretary’s Report and Correspondence:

Inverclyde Council – Invernet bus to be in Wemyss Bay on Wednesday 7th November 7-9.30pm

Email from Ladymoor Wind Farm Action Group requesting support for their petition to the Scottish Parliament against windfarms in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park – noted.

Email request from Iain Logan to object to a wind farm near Dalmally which even Scottish Natural Heritage has objected to as a threat to golden eagles – noted

Email from the CC secretary to Inverclyde Council's Head of Planning and Transportation, Fraser Williamson asking about the implications of the sale by the SMG of two fields at Hill Farm, Inverkip to Redrow

Email from Fraser Williamson saying he has no indication at this time of when Redrow may start construction. Planning gain payments will require to be made on the completion of 100 and then 200 houses regardless of who builds them. He says the legal agreement Inverclyde Council has is with the SMG so he would expect payment from them even if the 200th house is built by Redrow. Similarly with the bridge – the requirement is it is to be built before any more than 135 houses are completed regardless of who constructs them. He added the approved phasing plan also indicates the fields will be developed sequentially with the obvious potential for some overlap between the phases.

The secretary reported that following a visit to the SMG sales kiosk she had learned it is planned to build 46 houses on field 5, due to be completed Christmas 2008 into 2009; the Redrow sale of fields 6 and 7 contained planning permission for 89 houses and fields 8 and 9 are due to contain 89 houses with occupation planned for 2009-10. An email was sent to Eila Roberts, former editor of the Wemyss Bay newsletter thanking her for her contribution to the community

An email to Allan Walker of Inverclyde Council with the CC's suggestion as to the site for the relocation of the recycling centre at Kip Park, Inverkip

An email from Allan Walker saying he'd discussed the relocation with planners and developers and said there may be a way forward with Roads Department approval and he would be in touch

Letter from Strathclyde Police with information about their public consultation exercise as reported by Sgt Crawford – Inverclyde Primary School from 7pm-9pm on Thursday 29th November

An email forwarded from the CC website which was a copy of message sent by Gordon McGhee of Cullen Crescent, Inverkip to Inverclyde Council's Head of Planning and Transportation Fraser Williamson re the right of way at Hill Cottage. Innes Nelson said there is a vehicular right of way and that Inverclyde Council was investigating the matter. Cllr Ferguson said he would speak to Inverclyde Council re progress on this matter

A Scottish Parliament report newsletter from Duncan McNeil MSP

From Inverclyde Council a report to the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee about Scottish Planning Policy 6 (SPP6) and renewable energy – issues and implications. Innes Nelson said the CC had fed opinions into the debate while the policy was being considered

From the Inverclyde Forum of Community Councils details of the Community Planning Alliance Board and Thematic Partnerships. The Forum is keen to facilitate effective representation from Community Councils in Inverclyde and has invited CCs to put forward nominations. Ron Potter and Lynne Chambers will discuss

An email to the Secretary of Inverkip Community Enterprise with information about the Christmas festivities in Inverkip. Also confirmation the CC will continue to meet at the Inverkip Hotel where the premises are free, rather than take up the offer of meeting at Inverkip Pavilion at a reduced hourly rate

An email was forwarded from the CC website from a Daniel McKenna of Findhorn Place, Inverkip (a copy of an email to the Ward 6 councillors) complaining about the excessive noise of site preparation machinery and lime spreading in field 6.

The secretary responded to Mr McKenna's email giving as much information as she had. Allan Marsh supported Mr McKenna's complaints saying he had heard of the extreme difficulty in sleeping during the day being experienced by residents who are, for example, coastguards and police officers who work shifts.

An email to the CC website from a Tam Nugent, who appears to share both the surname and telephone number of the Inverkip Community Enterprise Secretary. He said he noticed only August 2007 Minutes were posted on the website and wondered if previous Minutes could be posted. The CC will consider this request. He also wondered why the website carried a link which facilitates objections to a proposed windfarm on the other side of the river. The chairman pointed out that activists in Argyll had supported opposition to the proposed Leapmoor application and this was reciprocal support. A reply will be sent to Mr Nugent.

From Inverclyde Council a list of voluntary organisations that had requested grants from the Council. The only organisation locally to apply was The Country Club. It was not successful

From Inverclyde Council details of schools where extensions have been completed or are under construction and the associated costs

CVS Inverclyde's newsletter

From Inverclyde Forum of Community Councils a notice of their October meeting

The notice appears to have been delayed by the postal strike

Community Care newsletter

An email to the secretary from Cliff Lyons stating he was not representing Inverkip Community Enterprise on this occasion and was drafting a personal formal complaint to Inverclyde Council about what he described as the CC denying the use of their notice board to a formally constituted body. He wanted the subject of the CC notice board to be placed on November's agenda. This email arrived while the secretary was on holiday

Another email to the secretary from Cliff Lyons repeating his request for the notice board subject to be placed on the November agenda. He wanted to know the new policy for the notice board.

A letter from Andy Lynch, chairperson of Inverkip Community Enterprise asking if the secretary had mislaid his letter of 30th September. See October 2007 Minutes.

A letter to Andy Lynch (as above) from the secretary saying she had not mislaid his letter and he would receive his reply before the November meeting of the CC as stated during the October Business Meeting

Email to Cliff Lyons from the Secretary saying the subject of the notice board was already on the November agenda

Letter to Andy Lynch from the secretary saying at no time had there been a 'refusal' to post community information. In the case he mentioned the email with the poster attachment had been sent only two days before the event and had been viewed for the first time by the secretary on the date the information referred to. For his information a copy of the guidance notes for use of the CC notice board were enclosed.

The guidance notes were made available to any interested parties attending the CC business meeting

A copy of an email from Cliff Lyons sent to Willie Wilson of Inverclyde Council saying he would never attend another meeting of the present CC. He said he completely despised the few members of the CC for their despicable attempts to

damage Inverkip Community Enterprise and for not giving it any support whatsoever. The contents of the email were noted.

6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ron Potter reported a balance in the CC account of £1207.81. He urged any Councillors with outstanding expenses to return them to him. He also reported he had engaged entertainer Freddy Wizz at a cost of £200 to take part in the Christmas celebrations in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay

7. Planning Matters

Applications lodged with Inverclyde Council:

Inverkip – Underwood, Main Street – formation of monoblock driveway

Inverkip – Loaf Cottage, Main Street – installation of replacement windows and door

Wemyss Bay – Wemyss Bay Railway Station – installation of CCTV system (in retrospect)

Wemyss Bay – Kishorn Road – extension to dwellinghouse

Wemyss Bay – Morar Road – erection of a conservatory

Inverkip – Millhouse Cottage, Millhouse Road – following the decision by Inverclyde Council to refuse planning permission for the erection of a dwellinghouse within garden ground, an appeal against the refusal of planning permission has been made to the Scottish Ministers

Inverkip – Hill Farm – substitution of house types on plots 149; 155;170; 212-214; 219 and 221 by Stewart Milne Homes

Inverkip – Airlie, Main Street – erection of two storey extension

Inverkip – Kip Park, Main Street – erection of three shops, offices and dental surgery by Homedream Ltd

Inverkip – Hill Farm – phases 6 and 7 – construction of 89 dwellinghouses and ancillary works (amendment to Planning Permission IC/06/008) by Redrow Homes (Scotland) Ltd

8. Community Council Notice Board: dealt with above

9. Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 6th December 2007

10. Any other business:

Brueacre interchange lighting: Allan Marsh, chair of the Ardgowan View Residents' Association said he'd received representations from residents requesting street lighting on the A78 100 yards before the Hill Farm slip road on both sides of the road, the slip roads on either side of the A78 and underneath the bridge at the Brueacre Junction in Inverkip. As the winter months are now here and with the potential of a further 224 houses it is felt the approaches to the slip roads are dark and confusing. The secretary said she would bring the matter to the attention of Ward 6 councillors.

Hill Farm, Inverkip – new road: Allan Marsh also observed that the new road into the SMG's Ardgowan Rise development had soakaways rather than drains. He will bring it to Inverclyde Council's notice

Spey Road roadsign, Inverkip: across from the entrance to Cullen Crescent at Hill Farm, the 'Spey Road' sign has been demolished, it is alleged by a contractor's lorry. The secretary will approach the Ward 6 councillors to request replacement of the sign. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35pm.