

**INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Minutes of Business Meeting
Held on Thursday 8th September 2005
In the Inverkip Hotel

Present: Innes Nelson (chair); Ron Potter (vice chair); Cliff Lyons (treasurer); Paul Maloney; Hugh Ritchie and Lynne Chambers (a/secretary)

Apologies: Harold McPherson; Councillor Eric Forbes

In attendance: P.C. Kenny Wilson; Stewart Mackintosh; Tristan Stewart-Robertson (Greenock Telegraph); Norman Cupples; Jim McIntosh; Fran McIntosh; Julia McLellan; Isabel Hunter; Alan Cumming; Graham Scott; 2 Kyles residents (can't read names)

3 Police Matters: Further to Lynne Chambers' letter of 10th August 2005 to Strathclyde Police requesting information as to why there had been no police attendance at the business meeting of the Community Council for two months, she received a visit from PC Lesley Gibson and a phone call from PC Kenny Wilson explaining that a combination of policing at the G8 summit followed by leave meant no officer had been available to attend. Their speedy responses were appreciated by the Council. PC Wilson gave the following report to the meeting, covering the period 8th of August to the 8th of September 2005:

Calls Received

Disorder – Disturbances 6. Assaults 4

Dishonesty – Thefts 5. Thefts from vehicles 0. Thefts of vehicles 0. Housebreaking 3. Suspect Persons 1

Traffic – Vehicle escort 2. Traffic miscellaneous 2. Vehicles abandoned 6. Road accidents 6. Drunk drivers 1

Miscellaneous – Damage to property 6. Alarms 6. Fire 2. General complaints 34.

Assist members of public and other agencies 17. Miscellaneous calls 4

Total number of calls 105

Reported Crime

Total number of reported crimes 26

Detections 12

Expressed as % 48%

Correlation between calls received and actual crime reported is a complex and fluid area. A significant amount of detected crime is as a result of action by officers and these instances will not necessarily have an associated call/incident attached. Figures shown provide a background that should still provide meaningful information.

General Information

Comparison of figures, with those of the same period in 2004, sees an increase in the volume of calls by 10. In reported crime there is an increase of 5 over the same period.

Of major concern were the three housebreakings in Wemyss Bay, all reported within a short space of time. Police response included the deployment of several plain clothes officers in the area over a number of nights and increased uniform presence during the daylight hours. This was allied to efforts to ensure awareness by local residents. To date, there has been no repeat of the activity but vigilance is being maintained.

An increase in difficulties in the area around the Spar Shop in Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay, has been noted and positive action taken. Street mediators, from the local authority's Antisocial Behaviour Team have been called in and are currently working with local youths, children and any affected party who wishes to engage in the processes being pursued. A period of rigid enforcement of the law is also being targeted toward the group responsible. The focus remains on preventative patrolling and continues to keep the number of street disorder calls to a minimum.

Cliff Lyons reported that on a recent Friday there was a crowd of 20 odd youths in Main Street, Inverkip. The following Friday the police had intervened - the youths appeared to be around 14 year olds, and the majority from outside the area.

Young people drinking at the newsagents in Wemyss Bay was reported and PC Wilson said the police were on top of it. Innes Nelson said he'd been walking at Ardgowan and he'd seen a couple of kids set a Scotch pine on fire. He spoke to them and put out the fire, but the fire was re-lit. Hugh Ritchie reported that residents of Kip Village walking dogs at Ardgowan had seen youths throwing a hatchet at a tree and asked if the area was patrolled by police. PC Wilson confirmed that it was. Hugh Ritchie also reported damage to the old road bridge over the Kip River, with the balustrade pushed over. PC Wilson said he would investigate. Hugh Ritchie asked how a neighbourhood watch could be set up at Kip Village and PC Wilson replied that there are police facilities to support the establishment of such a scheme.

In addition, it was reported that young people from around 10 years old to teenagers were seen staggering around Inverkip station. The police were called by a member of the public. When the police van arrived, the young people sat down and the van turned and left.

4 Minutes of business meeting held on the 4th of August 2005 – Matters arising:

Newsletter: Cliff Lyons reported that he had been in touch with the editor of the Wemyss Bay Newsletter who had said they would be pleased to accept a donation as their revenue was variable, further to suggestions – to be approved by Inverclyde Council – that a donation of £250 each may be made to the Wemyss Bay and Inverkip newsletters by the Community Council.

5 Secretary's Report and Correspondence: Lynne Chambers, who is currently acting as Secretary, reported that she sent letters to Brian Purdie at Inverclyde Council asking for a copy of the Councillors' Code of Conduct; also she informed Mr Purdie of Lorraine Marshall's resignation; a letter to Strathclyde Police requesting information as to why officers hadn't attended the last two Business Meetings and to Sam Currie at the Scottish Parliament indicating members of the Community Council wish to attend a civic participation event on modernising the planning system in Scotland in October. Innes Nelson said that a letter had been passed to him by former Secretary Lorraine Marshall from the company Community Windpower who had made a presentation to the Community Council at their August meeting. In the letter Project Manager Edward Green said before the submission of any planning application for a windfarm at Leapmoor he planned to arrange an open evening

weekend where members of the public can gain more information and raise any questions with their project managers.

6 Treasurer's report: Cliff Lyons reported a balance of £850 approximately, though a cheque has still to be presented. Subject to Inverclyde Council's approval it is hoped to donate £250 each to the Inverkip and Wemyss Bay newsletters. The books would then be closed.

7 Newsletter: Innes Nelson noted the closing date for articles for the Inverkip Village Newsletter was 20th September and that contributions were being sought.

8 Planning matters:

Inverkip – land within Inverkip Bowling Club, Main Street – display of sign board by Langhouse Developments Ltd

Inverkip – Bankfoot Farm – alterations and change of use of farm buildings to form bakery and tearoom facilities

Wemyss Bay – land to the west of Leven Road – erection of four one and a half storey detached dwelling houses

Stewart Mackintosh of Leven Road, Wemyss Bay attended the meeting to make observations on the above planning application for the erection of houses on a plot of land adjacent to his property. The land is currently owned by Leapmoor Developments. He had wondered if the Community Council had/would object to the application. Innes Nelson explained that in such planning matters it was usually the custom of the Community Council to support objectors rather than initiate an objection. Mr Mackintosh said there had been three objections, but that everyone else was not much bothered. He said for himself he would prefer the houses to an area of ill kept ground.

A78 signs: Advertising signs along the A78 – referred to at a previous Business Meeting – which Cllr Forbes had said he would speak to Amey about, seem still to be there. Jim McIntosh feels if the signs are erected without permission the advertisers should be asked to remove them at once. And even if retrospective permission is applied for, the advertisements have already done their work. The issue will be passed to Cllr Forbes again.

Innes Nelson was able to report that two controversial applications – the **Paint Ball Centre** at the Square Wood and the plan to build 28 houses at **Bridgend Cottages** have been refused permission by Inverclyde Council. At Bridgend the application was refused on the grounds of road safety (Cliff Lyons made strong representations to Inverclyde Council on this issue) and the effects on the existing houses. The Community Council had objected to both projects. Isabel Hunter thanked the Community Council for its support in opposition to the Paint Ball Centre.

Ron Potter reported that he had consulted Cllr Forbes on the weight given to various types of objection, such as separate letters of objection, photocopied identical letters and petitions. The answer from Inverclyde Council is that each would have equal weight, but on a petition only the first named person would receive a reply, while individual letters received an individual reply. Ron Potter has written to Fraser Williamson for further confirmation.

Hill Farm planning application: Jim McIntosh of the Kyles Residents' Association wondered how best to tackle the application, particularly the proposals for a

footbridge, saying all Kyles residents are worried about the bridge. He was told the Community Council was submitting a major objection to the application.

9 Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 6th of October 2005, 7.30pm at the Inverkip Hotel

10 Any other business:

Inverkip Power Station: Cliff Lyons and Jim McIntosh attended the Inverclyde Council Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting discussing Scottish Power's plans for the Power Station site. They reported that demolition and decontamination would take around 46 months. Plans included 400 houses, leisure facilities, a marina. Probably the earliest houses would be built is around 2012. With Inverclyde Council's support for the plan, if no serious objections arise then there will be no need for a further Public Local Inquiry and the way would be clear for the adoption of the Local Plan.

Inverkip Sports Facilities/Public Meeting: Cliff Lyons commented on the lack of sports facilities in Inverkip, and thought it would be a good idea to approach Joe Phillips, Director of Inverclyde Leisure, to make a presentation to the Community Council on the future of sports facilities in the village. Lynne Chambers suggested it might be a subject to be considered at a public meeting, with other interested parties to be invited. It was decided by the Community Council that a public meeting should be organised on sports facilities, coupled with the Leapmoor windfarm application – see 5.

Wemyss Bay parking: Graham Scott of Wemyss Bay said he'd received a letter from the Scottish Executive saying there would be no residents' parking permits as the issuing of such would negate the design. He said that within a couple of days of receipt of the letter four parking spaces, with no restrictions, all of a sudden have become half-hour parking spaces. The Community Council is keen to have confirmed that all relevant permissions and legal processes for designating the parking spaces have been observed, and the matter has been passed to Cllr Forbes for investigation.

Wemyss Bay leaks: Wemyss Bay residents reported there are currently two 'fountains' in Wemyss Bay – water is pouring out of the demolished lodge site on Wemyss Bay Road and from the Lighthouse flats on the main road. The matter was passed to Cllr Forbes

Inverkip blocked drains: Isabel Hunter reported that drains on Kip Brae are filled with earth and weeds and despite phoning Inverclyde Council three times nothing had been done. The matter was referred to Cllr Forbes.

Footbridge over A78 to Kip Village: Hugh Ritchie said that dog fouling on the footbridge was worse than ever. Should a sign be erected? Cllr Forbes will be informed.

Bankfoot roundabout: Despite Cllr Forbes recent intervention and the clearing up of the roundabout, it was again a disgrace, and a dreadful entry to the village of Inverkip. Hugh Ritchie said that in England there are roundabouts where maintenance is sponsored by local businesses and kept in good order. Was that something that could be considered for the Bankfoot roundabout. Information will be sought from Cllr Forbes whether such an operation would be feasible or whether Inverclyde Council is considering adopting the roundabout.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.10pm.