

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 1st September 2011 at Inverkip Primary School at 7.30pm

Present: Ron Potter; David Adams; Brian McArthur; Harold McPherson; Telfer Ramage; Liz Roders and Lynne Chambers

Apologies: Hugh Ritchie; Brian Blacklaw

In attendance: Cllr Gerry Dorrian; Cllr Innes Nelson; Cllr Ciano Rebecchi; Sgt Steven Anderson; PC Michael Donnelly; PC Robert Evans; Avril Jones; Alison Nugent; Alex Anderson; Jean Anderson; Cliff Lyons; Morag Lynch and Andrew Lynch

As chairman Hugh Ritchie was on holiday Ron Potter chaired the meeting

3. Police Matters:

Email received from the police confirming crime and incident figures from the 10th July-10th August. It also noted the concerns of Inverkip residents regarding vehicles parking and causing an obstruction on Station Avenue; speeding on Main Street and speeding on Finnockbog Road and Cullen Crescent. The traffic sergeants in Greenock were to be informed. Responding to the request by the Community Council (CC) about accident and incident statistics at the A78/Inverkip Main Street junction clarification of the details required was sought. The secretary had written to say it was statistics for accidents and incidents over a period of a few months and suggested the time period March-June 2011. The following crime statistics were reported for the month of August 2011.

There were 37 crime reports:

| | |
|---|--|
| Theft by Housebreaking | 2 |
| Theft by Housebreaking – construction site | 1 |
| Civic Government Scotland Act 1982 Section (57) | 2 males detected |
| Theft of motor vehicle | 2 |
| Opening locked premises | 1 |
| Wilful fire raising | 1 |
| Storm | 6 disturbance calls 12 assistance calls |

A department had been set up to address the increasing rates of housebreaking.

The following statistics were reported, as requested by the CC, for accidents/incidents at the A78/Main Street, Inverkip junction:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| January 2011 | | Nil |
| February 2011 | 21/02/11 | 2 cars – no injuries |
| | 27/02/11 | 1 car – no injuries |
| May 2011 (Bankfoot roundabout) | 07/05/11 | 1 car – no injuries |
| June 2011 (Bankfoot roundabout) | 17/06/11 | 1 car – no injuries |
| August 2011 (Bankfoot roundabout) | 10/08/11 | 1 car – no injuries |

CC members agreed these statistics – originally requested for the meeting of the CC with the Transport Minister and Transport Scotland in July – were not very helpful to its cause. Liz Roders said her daughter had been involved in an accident at the junction at the end of the May but it wasn't noted. The police said if they aren't called there's no record of the accident. And even if reported if there's no damage to persons or property officers will not attend. A member of the public said it's a flawed system if accidents are reported and officers don't attend and that the statistics are a mockery of what actually happens at that junction. The secretary asked if officers had been able to attend in Finnockbog Road where there had been complaints about speeding. The officers said they had, and in the first

week 8 drivers had been booked and 1 driver in the second week. It is hoped motorists have got the message. The traffic officers considered it a success and said they also endeavour to educate the public.

A resident of Station Avenue said parking there was bad – cars were parking on a corner across from the resident's drive making it difficult for lorries and bin lorries. Cars start to park from 0715 until 1815 in the evening. The police said officers would try to catch the people parking and meet folk off the train in an effort to educate them about responsible parking. If a vehicle is causing an obstruction, the police can take action and have the vehicle uplifted.

Ron Potter then told members of the public attending that the Business Meeting on the 6th of October would be the last one before the elections in October. He explained where nomination papers could be obtained and the timetable for the submission of documents.

He said on occasion it was hard to keep a cool head but the unpaid voluntary members of the CC do their best for the communities they serve and hope to have the goodwill of those communities. He said he found it heartbreaking when some community councillors have been castigated for the way they've handled matters. He has been involved in community councils since the early 1980s, he said, but this last year has been very difficult for him. Whoever puts in a nomination paper to Inverclyde Council (IC) to stand as a community councillor should think long and hard about it and read all the available information to see what is expected of a community councillor. Ron Potter was asked what would happen to the Inverclyde Community Councils' Forum. He said it would cease to function until new councils are elected and then start again.

He also said under the new Scheme of Administration all CCs in Scotland would have the same Constitution.

4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 11th August 2011 – Matters arising: Through buses not stopping on the A78 at Inverkip:

Cllr Rebecchi passed to the secretary at the close of August's meeting a letter he'd received from the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT). The letter from the chair of the SPT concluded by saying it was believed the provision of lay-bys and extensive footways would be required to provide acceptable stopping points which would incur substantial expenditure. The feasibility of options would need to be explored and therefore the matter would be raised with IC and Transport Scotland to explore if there is any possibility of a joint project to improve the current situation. Cllr Rebecchi said he would keep in touch with the resident.

Speeding on Finnockbog Road, Inverkip and improvement/relocation of speed restriction signs and on-road signage

The secretary wrote to Cllrs Nelson and Rebecchi (copied to Cllr Dorrian) laying out the concerns and suggestions from residents. Cllr Dorrian emailed to say he'd contacted both the police and IC's Roads department. Cllr Rebecchi phoned the secretary to say an officer from the Roads department had been allocated to investigate the situation

The Pavilion:

In an email sent by Cllr Rebecchi to the CC asking that the venue for August's meeting be changed from the Inverkip Hotel, the Pavilion and church were suggested as alternative meeting places. Chairman Hugh Ritchie said he believed neither building had disabled access. It was observed there was a back entrance to the Pavilion. The secretary reported Hugh Ritchie had inspected the layout at the back of the building. Ron Potter interrupted to ask if the Pavilion was DDA compliant. He was told that it was not. The church was described as more accessible with only two stairs to manage. Once again the CC was accused of not trying to find an alternative site other than the Inverkip Hotel. The secretary said again that as the date of the meeting had been changed it was decided not to change the venue as well. Ron Potter said the CC couldn't legislate for or agree to have every meeting held in a DDA compliant venue. Throughout the year meetings are held in the two local primary schools but they are not available out of term time.

Lower Clyde Greenspace:

David Adams said he'd been speaking to a representative of Lower Clyde Greenspace (LCG) and it was thought it would be interesting for the CC to hear a presentation about LCG. The secretary extended an invitation to the representative to attend the September meeting, but received a letter saying that requests for presentations should be made to the Head of Service. The secretary was

copied into an email sent to Cllr Rebecchi who had passed on the CC's inquiries regarding the ongoing maintenance and management of trees adjacent to properties and roads as well as future management of ground currently in the ownership of the Burns Road Residents' Association, Wemyss Bay. Cllr Rebecchi would be aware that the role of Lower Clyde Greenspace in the Wemyss Bay Woods is to support and co-ordinate the activities of the LNR Management group (which Cllr Rebecchi chairs). LCG has no role, responsibility or resource relating to tree management or property issues. It was felt it might be more productive for the CC to contact Property Services' Head of Service within IC who would be able to give a more thorough response to the specific issues raised. The LCG representative also said there is still a space for the CC on the WBW LNR Management Group. The secretary felt it might be more appropriate to defer a presentation or consideration of a place on the Management Group until after the CC elections. Cllr Rebecchi repeated his advice when overhanging branches from a neighbour's garden intrude. First ask the neighbour if he/she will lop the branch. If not the householder is entitled to lop the encroaching branch but is obliged to return the branch to the neighbour. IC has no jurisdiction over residents' gardens.

A member of the public had been in touch with the Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC) and claimed it is concerned that people named in Minutes don't see the Minutes in advance.

Ron Potter said community councillors answered questions from the floor as best they could. If questions posed can't be answered notes will be taken and an answer sought before the next meeting. Sensitive issues would be dealt with as soon as possible.

An Inverkip resident had brought to the attention of the August meeting that David Adams, as a co-opted member, couldn't approve the Minutes. This was described by the chairman as a technicality. However the point was accepted and records have been amended to remedy the situation. Ron Potter read a list of meetings itemising quorate and non-quorate meetings and proposers and seconders of Minutes. An amendment to the August Minutes was requested –that a surname be amended – and accepted. Another member of the public asked that a sentence about the legality of bicycles being ridden on the pavement be inserted in the Minutes. Ron Potter said he would check the issue of legality and the matter would be noted at the next meeting

An Inverkip resident had emailed the secretary asking for a copy of the draft Minutes for August's meeting in advance of the Business Meeting, but the secretary replied draft Minutes were sent only to CC members and the 3 ward councillors. The resident then produced a copy of the draft Minutes and was asked twice who had provided the Minutes but refused to say who had done so.

With the amendment noted Brian McArthur proposed the Minutes as accurate, seconded by Liz Roders

5. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

From Cllr Nelson – details of CSV Action Earth 2011 Award Scheme – forwarded to the Community Councillors resident in Wemyss Bay

From Cllr Rebecchi – a copy of Tactical Assessments from Strathclyde Fire & Rescue for July 2011

From Cllr Nelson – information that IC has planted out the beds on Main Street, Inverkip

From the Association of Scottish Community Councils – the August 2011 newsletter

From an IC officer – information about recruitment by the West of Scotland Regional Equality Council of field officers resident in Inverclyde and Renfrewshire and from an minority ethnic community

From the same officer at IC – information that three of the largest Housing Associations in Inverclyde are proposing changes to the ways people can access their housing and become tenants. There are details of a survey for tenants, applicants and residents in Inverclyde about the changes

An invitation to Brian McArthur, the CC's representative on the proposed Inverkip Community Facility working group, the chairman and secretary to attend a meeting to review and endorse the report including the business plan regarding the Facility. The chairman and secretary sent apologies and treasurer Ron Potter attended in their stead

From IC – following the above meeting, copies of the report to the Regeneration Committee; the Outline Business Case and a note of the meeting were sent to the CC

From IC – report – Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century – consultation on revised proposals

From IC – Agenda 2011 for a meeting on 30th August 2011 – Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee

From IC – timetable for the CC elections

Correspondence with an IC officer regarding the CC elections

From IC – an election pack

From IC – a report to the Regeneration Committee regarding implementation of the CC Review

From IC – Agenda 2011 – Audit Committee

From IC – Agenda 2011 – Health & Social Care Committee

From IC – Agenda 2011 - Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership

From IC – a report for the Regeneration Committee regarding Inverkip Library – the

recommendation is that the Committee approves, in principle, the relocation of the Library from the primary school

From the Larkfield Community Safety Group – a invitation to attend their next meeting

From the Firth of Clyde Forum – notice of a meeting to be held on the 20th of September in Largs –

Invasive Species Meeting – Towards a Biosecurity Plan for the Firth of Clyde

From an Inverkip resident – a letter of complaint about the CC

The letter was acknowledged by the secretary and then a further email was sent saying the CC did not agree with the contents of the letter

Five emails from an Inverkip resident to the secretary seeking a copy of a CC election Nomination Form – replied to by the secretary and a form posted when received from IC

An email from an Inverkip resident requesting a draft copy of the August Minutes

Email from the secretary to the resident saying draft Minutes are seen only by the three ward councillors and community councillors before the Business Meeting

From IC – a report to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee to advise the Committee on the use of emergency powers delegated to the Chief Executive to accept the lowest tender for Inverkip Primary School Partial Refurbishment Works

From Transport Scotland (TS) – post-meeting notes from the A78/Inverkip junction meeting held on the 4th of July.

Main findings: The Transport Minister asked TS officials to review the length and width of the southbound left-turn lane and its constraints within the adjacent environment

Transport Scotland requested Amey to investigate the issue of snow and its effect on line markings in the area (the secretary emailed Inverclyde Council to report the poor condition of the give-way road markings on the road exiting on to Inverkip Main Street from the Sainsbury area)

The CC noted there were no repeater speed limits on the A78 at Inverkip. Checks have been carried out which confirm there are missing repeaters throughout the street lit areas on the A78 at Inverkip and the south side of Bankfoot roundabout. TS has instructed Amey to erect repeater signs

The CC inquired about the reason for the removal of the safety barrier at the Point, Inverkip. TS investigated the reason and found it was due to the erection of a new junction warning sign at the location. A barrier assessment was undertaken which showed there was no need for the barrier at the location

The CC raised the concerns from a local resident regarding buses not stopping on the A78 at the cottages in Inverkip. The IC representative at the meeting said he would raise the issue at the next liaison meeting with the SPT, Transport Scotland and Inverclyde Council.

The CC inquired about the status of the Bankfoot Roundabout design review. Amey is considering options such as enhanced surfacing material or reprofiling the vertical geometry. A solution is expected to be implemented this year.

An email from a resident living in Inverkip inquiring about the status of Jacob's Ladder.

The resident also reported an overgrown hedge by Finnockbog Road on the left of the first house in Willow Place. See Cllr Rebecchi's advice above. Telfer Ramage said the latest word he'd had from Stewart Milne Homes was that its works at Jacob's Ladder should be finished by the end of the second week of September.

From IC – papers for a meeting of the Regeneration Committee to be held on the 1st of September – Development of Community Facility at Inverkip. There are various recommendations – but of particular interest is that the project, as outlined in the report, be approved and that the Committee authorises the Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to engage with the local community and to establish a new community company and processes to elect six community representatives following consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener of the Regeneration Committee. Cllr Rebecchi confirmed the recommendations had been approved

The secretary told the meeting that not all correspondence was read out at Business Meetings, but could be found in the Minutes. Only particularly relevant issues are read out.

6. Treasurer's Report

Ron Potter reported the account balance was £917.43. He asked any members who have expenses to submit them as soon as possible before the wind-up of the CC.

7. Planning Matters:

Inverkip – Main Street – at Telecommunications Pole, grass verge – installation of a Vulcan cabinet to service adjacent telecommunications pole – granted subject to conditions

Inverkip – plots 172-177 and 197-202 inclusive, Hill Farm – application by Stewart Milne Homes for the substitution of house types – granted subject to conditions

Inverkip – Langhouse Road – at Inverkip Church – installation of rear door and access ramp

Inverkip – Ivy Cottage, Main Street – change of use of first floor flat to a dental surgery – granted

Inverkip – Bridgend – renewal of planning permission for the erection of 28 dwellings – to be considered at the Planning Board meeting on the 7th of September – the recommendation is that permission be granted subject to conditions

A local resident read from a prepared statement

8. Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 6th October in Wemyss Bay Primary School

9. Any other business:

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Ron Potter raised the issue of the proposed closure of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency premises in Greenock. The secretary wondered if the CC should make a further objection/sign the petition, especially as Kip Marina is at the heart of the area. It was noted there were copies of the petition available at the Inverkip Hotel. The secretary said her husband has suggested all commodores of the sailing and yachting clubs from Ardrrossan to Rhu could be contacted and encouraged to alert their members to the petition thus giving access to a large number of people. Cllr Dorrian said IC was offering support to the campaign working to retain the MCA in Greenock and would pass on the suggestion.

Missing drain cover

First noted in the June Minutes and reported by Brian McArthur. A neighbour had informed him of a missing drain cover. The neighbour believed the drain to be on Ardgowan Estate land. The secretary phoned an Estate representative who said it didn't belong to them but to Scottish Water. He'd phoned the company but would do so again. On checking Brian McArthur reported the drain was still open. The secretary phoned Scottish Water who sent an operative to inspect the site. He phoned the secretary to say he at first believed it was a field drain and not Scottish Water's responsibility but called again to report it was a water chamber rather than a drain and therefore was Scottish Water's responsibility. The missing cover will be replaced as soon as possible.

Football at the play park by the Pavilion in Inverkip

A member of the public reported that older boys were playing football at the play park beside the Pavilion, and bouncing balls off cars. They were so abusive when remonstrated with that police had to be called. Could a sign be erected saying 'No Ball Games' it was asked. Ron Potter said the play park was maintained by IC but not owned by it. Cllr Rebecchi said he would follow up the matter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.