

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 2nd December 2010 at Wemyss Bay Primary School at 7.30pm

Present: Hugh Ritchie; David Adams; Brian Blacklaw; Harold McPherson; Telfer Ramage; Liz Roders and Lynne Chambers

2. Apologies: Brian McArthur and Ron Potter

In attendance: Cllr Gerry Dorrian; Cllr Innes Nelson; Cllr Ciano Rebecchi; Sgt Stewart Dunsmore; N. Cupples and 2 local residents

3. Police Matters:

The Secretary had written to the Inverclyde South West Community Policing team to say the Community Council (CC) regretted officers without local knowledge were attending the Business Meetings. In addition, requests for crime statistics from earlier in the year had gone unanswered. Sgt Stewart Dunsmore responded to say following a big shake-up things were a bit up in the air and apologised that crime statistics had not been forwarded to the CC. He attended the meeting and reported as follows –
Crime figures for November 2010:

Total number of crimes	8
(Detections 40%)	
Serious assault	1
(Main Street, Inverkip)	
Vandalism	2
Thefts	3
(2 businesses and 1 rear garden)	
Complaints – Inverkip	9
(3 in Main Street)	
Complaints – Wemyss Bay	7
(2 in Castle Wemyss Drive)	
Disturbance calls	4
(3 in Inverkip)	

Harold McPherson said he'd had bins stolen but advised not to bother phoning the police for a crime number as Inverclyde Council (IC) replace the bins anyway.

On the subject of drinking in public Sgt Dunsmore said in Inverclyde it is not enough to see people with drinks containers, the containers must be open before police can act
Sgt Dunsmore was thanked for his attendance and said he would email the outstanding statistics to the secretary.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 4th November 2010. Matters arising:
Association of Scottish Community Councils – executive ballot – after discussion with members it was decided by a majority to vote ‘no’ to all of the candidates as it was felt single nominations for posts were not democratic. On consulting the A/Chairman and Treasurer the secretary invited the Chairman of Greenock West/Cardwell Bay Community Council, Tom McKenzie - this area’s ASCC representative - to attend a Business Meeting. Tom McKenzie has agreed to come to the January meeting to give members more information about the situation and the ASCC’s recent Annual National Conference.

The secretary contacted the ASCC asking for a copy of its constitution

Christmas Entertainer – the secretary has secured the services of Davro the Clown to appear at the Christmas lights switch-on events in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay on Friday the 3rd of December 2010 and liaised with Inverkip Community Enterprise at the Pavilion

40 mph Speed Limit - The secretary wrote to Iain Wilkinson of Bell Ingram at Ardgowan Estate re a reference he made to a proposed 40mph speed limit being imposed from Bankfoot Roundabout to Wemyss Bay. When the secretary pointed out Transport Scotland had said there would be no 40mph speed limit at their June meeting in Inverkip, Iain Wilkinson said any plans had clearly been abandoned

Remembrance Day - David Adams attended the Inverkip Remembrance Day service and Lynne Chambers the service in Wemyss Bay on behalf of the CC

Jacob’s Ladder – further to information supplied by Cllr Nelson the secretary was able to answer an inquiry from a local resident

Inverkip/A78 junction – letter to Colin Broadwood at Transport Scotland, saying the CC is disappointed there is to be no reconfiguration at the Bankfoot Roundabout and asking him to expand on the measures to manage driver perception and behaviour at the roundabout. The letter also supported Stuart McMillan MSP’s view that temporary signage at the A78/Main Street, Inverkip junction is inadequate and that permanent signage should be erected. The letter also pointed out that members of the CC who attended the meeting with Transport Scotland in June reported no mention of a revised layout at the junction. The letter has been acknowledged and a response awaited. Two members of the public attending asked why Main Street, Inverkip was not one-way. It was explained this was an ongoing question but it was pointed out to them why it wasn’t a practical solution.

Information Session re Community Council reform – an event was organised to inform local residents about the proposed CC changes and Inverkip Primary School booked for the evening of the 18th November. Three Community Councillors were in attendance but not one person turned up. Hugh Ritchie expressed his regret there wasn’t enough local interest in the proposed CC reforms

Hunterston objection - objection sent to the Scottish Government by the CC re the Multi-fuel Power Station, Hunterston. Harold McPherson, who hadn’t been able to attend the October meeting, asked why the CC was objecting. The secretary, who had composed the objection, said the CC did not believe Ayrshire Power Limited had proved its plans are carbon capture ready; that the technology was not yet technically or commercially viable; had not established the need for a new fossil fuel power station in Scotland; the knock-on effect of extra traffic on the A78; on the grounds of a lack of public or community meetings in an adjacent area; the visual impact on an

area of water-based tourism and the impact on air quality standards in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. Hugh Ritchie said he was surprised IC had not lodged an objection to the proposal

Leapmoor, diversion of public footpath – an objection was sent by the secretary to IC re the diversion of a footpath on the Leapmoor. IC responded by saying unless the objection was withdrawn by Friday 3rd December 2010 the matter would have to be referred to the Scottish Ministers for their decision. Cllr Nelson confirmed he was not withdrawing his objection to the proposed diversion. There were five votes for withdrawal and an abstention, so the CC decided to withdraw its application and the secretary was asked to notify IC the following day

Community Council top-up grant – the secretary wrote to IC Chief Executive John Mundell re the per capita top-up grant paid to CCs saying the statistics relating to Inverkip and Wemyss Bay were based on 2002 figures. These figures, the CC felt, bore little resemblance to the current situation as so many new houses had been built since 2002. The letter also asked what formula was used to calculate the grant. The letter was passed to Head of Safer and Inclusive Communities, John Arthur, for reply. He confirmed the grant is indeed calculated on the 2002 electorate population – the population for Inverkip and Wemyss Bay was 3,662. The total current population – electorate plus those under 18 – is 5,314. It should be noted these two figures are not directly comparable for various reasons he said - the 2002 figure is from the electoral roll (community council areas were mapped onto the 20 council electoral wards at this time) whereas the current estimate is based on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data zone information, as neither the current nor the proposed community council boundaries map onto the 6 current council electoral wards. John Arthur says there is undoubtedly a case for reviewing the population enhancements – however this can't be done on a case-by-case basis which is why it is included in the overall review of Community Councils in Inverclyde. He attached the current scheme of administration for information, including the rationale for the original funding formula. However, Ron Potter in his Treasurer's Report to the AGM preceding this Business Meeting said John Arthur in a letter dated the 2nd of November 2010 stated the Population Based Funding that is the per capita grant amount is the final payment for all CCs. This statement is in direct opposition, Ron Potter reported, to the Scheme for Community Councils adopted by IC and under which this CC presently operates. Ron Potter, with the support of the CC, will continue to discuss this matter with John Arthur

The Minutes were proposed as accurate by Telfer Ramage and seconded by David Adams

5. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

Letter from Inverclyde Council – a special meeting of IC will be held on Tuesday 14th December 2010 to consider the Review of the Scheme of Administration for Community Councils

From IC – proposal for a Disabled Person's Parking Place (On-Street) at 9 Glebe Road, Inverkip

Newsletter from the Inverclyde Carers Centre

As a new laptop has been purchased for the secretary, having consulted the A/Chairman and Treasurer, she circularised Community Councillors to see if they

wished to put in a bid to buy the machine. No bids having been received the secretary offered £25 to the Treasurer, which was accepted, with the approval of members.

Email to John Arthur re offering Community Councillors an opportunity to bid for IWBC's existing laptop and the purchase of a new laptop

Email from John Arthur saying he had no problem with the purchase

Letter from Inverclyde Council about an event to be held on the 27th of November – a Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Stronger Place

From the Information Commissioner's Office confirmation of the CC's renewed Data Protection Act registration

The Community Councillor – journal of the ASCC

Newsletter from Stuart McMillan MSP

Letter from the Scottish Government saying the application for a windfarm by Community Wind Power Ltd at Baidland Hill, Dalry – to which the CC objected – has been withdrawn

From IC – details of Round 2 grant applications by local organisations, including Inverkip Bowling Club; Wemyss Bay Community Association; Inverkip Gala Day; Wemyss Bay Community Association and Inverkip Community Enterprise

From IC – Round 2 grant applications – the Grants Sub-Committee considered the level of funding for: Inverkip Community Enterprise; Inverkip Thistle A.F.C. and Wemyss Bay Primary School Adult Association

Digital TV switchover community outreach pack. The digital change-over was discussed but as the introduction of the system is not imminent in the local area it was decided to consider the matter nearer the time and consider inviting a spokesperson to address a public meeting

Forwarded by IC from the Scottish Government – the Scottish Government is undertaking a survey of stakeholders of the Association of Scottish Community Councils – a questionnaire is included. The secretary will respond to the questionnaire

Telfer Ramage contacted David Ashman in Planning at IC about the broken-down fencing around the catchment tank area on the Stewart Milne site at the Finnockbog Road and Everton Road junction, Inverkip, where the slab on top of a manhole cover is not anchored and is beginning to slide. He also reported the paved area on Finnockbog Road backing on to Cullen Crescent, constructed with the removal of the original drainage ditch but without any form of new drainage. David Ashman said he would immediately email Stewart Milne (SM) and raise these points with the builders. He contacted Telfer Ramage to say SM would be taking action on the 2 issues raised but nothing has been done despite David Ashman being contacted again. Telfer Ramage said he would take up the matter again with David Ashman.

ASCC Online Bulletin printout

The secretary received an email forwarded by Cllr Rebecchi re a proposed footway extension at Langhouse Road/Avenue in Inverkip. The secretary circularised details and following some responses the A/Chairman contacted Cllr Rebecchi with the CC's suggestions. Cllr Rebecchi emailed to say it is intended to have a 'red line' crossing Email from Mike Lynch of Inverkip further to his correspondence with Ardgowan Estate factors Bell Ingram about some broken down fencing and the prospect of deer entering the A78 and causing accidents. The factors have indicated they have no intention of erecting a 6 feet fence along the A78. Mike Lynch wonders if the CC would be interested in lending its weight to his concerns. After discussion, it was

agreed that as no recent accidents had been reported involving deer the CC would not pursue the matter at this time

Email forwarded by Cllr Rebecchi re complaints about lighting and a pot hole in Spey Road, Inverkip

Email from Charles Bell, director of Sasanbell the company commissioned to conduct the feasibility project for a community facility in Inverkip, with dates for a Design Workshop. The letter containing the dates was passed to Hugh Ritchie who said he would contact Brian McArthur to confirm he would attend on the CC's behalf

6. Treasurer's Report

The CC's cash balance at the 2nd of December 2010 is £1,030.13

7. Planning

The Planning Board meeting on the 1st of December considered the application for a change of use of the Old Police House, Main Street, Inverkip to a restaurant – the recommendation by Council officers is that the application be granted. However, members of the Planning Board said they planned a site visit on the 15th of December prior to the next Planning Board meeting on January 5th 2011.

Wemyss Bay – 46 Lomond Road – erection of single storey extension – an application for review of the refusal of planning permission was refused and planning permission refused

Wemyss Bay – 48 Leapmoor Drive – erection of decking (in retrospect)

Inverkip – 14 Lapwing Grove – erection of balcony to the rear of property – granted
Greenock, Inverkip Road - for Ward 6 information – Former Greenock High and Glenburn Schools – demolition of three houses and construction of new prison with associated infrastructure, servicing and access arrangements

Inverkip, Hill Farm – areas 8 & 9 – substitution of house types on 25 plots and creation of 4 additional plots by Stewart Milne – amendment to planning permission
It was agreed the secretary would contact David Ashman in the Planning department at IC to check with him the total number of houses now planned for the Ardgowan Rise/Sylvan Brae development. Community Councillors agreed planning permission was given by IC for a total number of 224 houses, a number that had been negotiated down and as far as the CC is concerned was an absolute total. If the number exceeds 224 the secretary has been asked to write to IC protesting extra houses will overburden the infrastructure. Brian Blacklaw commented he thought it was up to IC to supervise the permission it had granted to confirm planning conditions are met.

Inverkip – Hill Farm – substitution of house type at plot 211 by SM - granted

Inverkip, Binnie Place - repainting of dwellinghouse – in retrospect – granted

8. Drainage/Sewage Problem Finnockbog Road, Inverkip

Telfer Ramage reported that following 3 weeks of heavy rain sewage started to spout from a manhole cover and has done so on a regular basis since then. He has been active in support of Ian Henderson of Beatock Place and in addition contacted the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. Scottish Water has attended the site of the overflow on 3 occasions and determined a blockage existed in the pipes. Cllr Nelson spent time with Scottish Water on this issue and it is understood the blockage has now been cleared. Telfer Ramage also said that following his contact with SEPA

Emma Kennedy of the Agency is coming to inspect water running across Finnockbog Road into Daff Burn

9. Date and time of next meeting – as schools don't return until the 10th of January 2011 the secretary was asked to book the Rogues Room at the Inverkip Hotel for a Business Meeting on Thursday the 6th of January 2011

10. Any other business:

British Telecom's website has a facility for people to vote for the upgrading of their local exchange to enhance the provision of fast broadband – Race to Infinity – and it was agreed the CC would put up a notice and give details on its website

Ron Potter let it be known he will be objecting to the proposed CC boundary changes for the local area. He points out the present proposals are somewhat confused – the boundary cuts through farmsteads near Gourock Golf Course, do not follow the boundaries of Larkfield and Braeside as well as cutting off our present areas along the river. In addition, the Marina at Inverkip is also excluded from the area. There was discussion about the relevance or not of the Marina being included within the CC's proposed boundaries and the question was raised – if boat owners live on board their vessels do they have a vote? Cllr Nelson said he would try to find an answer.

Ron Potter also alerted the CC that Inverclyde Community Council Forum is looking for two nominees from the CC – Ron Potter and Hugh Ritchie were agreed as the representatives on ICCF

There being no further business the Chairman extended the compliments of the season to those attending and the meeting closed at 9.25pm