

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Business Meeting held on the 2nd of November 2006 – Inverkip Hotel 7.30pm

Present: Innes Nelson (chairman); Ron Potter (vice chairman and acting treasurer); Paul Maloney; Brian McArthur; Harold McPherson and Hugh Ritchie

Apologies: Lynne Chambers (secretary)

In attendance: Cllr Eric Forbes; Jim McIntosh; W MacFarlane; N. Cupples; Fran McIntosh; Andy Lynch; Cliff Lyons; I. Hunter; PC Jane Perratt; PC Billy Gray

3. Police Matters: PC Perratt advised the meeting that there had been a number of willful fire raisings in Wemyss Bay at the shops. She hoped the issues would be overcome by moving the skips to a more prominent position. She also informed the meeting that Spar have installed a sound deterrent system. Cllr Forbes stated that new lighting will be installed.

PC Perratt advised the meeting to phone Crimestoppers (0800 555 111) to report any crime or disturbance. Complete anonymity and confidentiality of the caller is assured. PC Perratt reported that there is a more proactive approach to underage drinking. Cliff Lyons raised his concern at the vandalism around the footbridge over the A78; despite a resident having phoned the police they had not been in contact. PC Perratt agreed to investigate.

Cllr Forbes will find out who owns the ground at the footbridge. He also expressed concern at the inordinate amount of movement of police personnel

Cllr Forbes expressed concern that no incident number is generated at the point when a complaint is phoned in. The meeting agreed that this issue would be raised at the Consultation meeting to be held on 23rd November – PC Gray will be in attendance.

4. Minutes of the Business Meeting held on the 5th of October 2006: After consideration, approval of the minutes was proposed by Ron Potter and seconded by Paul Maloney.

Cliff Lyons requested that a copy of the minutes be placed in the library

Matters arising:

Approach to Bankfoot roundabout: Cllr Forbes is still awaiting feedback. Paul Maloney said that the road surface was very slippery. Cllr Forbes stated that the Traffic Department was aware of the issues.

5. Secretary's report and correspondence:

Letter from North Ayrshire Council regarding two meteorological masts at Ladymoor which have now been approved

Invitation to a Planning for People workshop to be held by Planning Aid Scotland on 4th November – Innes Nelson will attend

Letter from Inverclyde Council on Affordable Housing

Letter from Three Wards Community Council regarding purchase of software. No action to be taken

Invitation from Inverclyde Council on Disability Ltd to a meeting on 4th December

6. Stewart Milne Application:

A further application had been lodged for a new footbridge on 18th October. Innes Nelson produced copies of the plans which show the bridge to have 40 steps. It was agreed that an objection would be lodged on the grounds that the bridge does not conform to the Disability Discrimination Act

7. Review of Wemyss Bay Community Centre: It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting

8. Treasurer's Report: Acting Treasurer Ron Potter reported that Inverclyde Council has accepted the Community Council's proposed budget; as a result the balance is now £1184.57

9. Planning Matters:

1 Cedar Walk – extension to dwellinghouse

4 Findhorn Place – erection of conservatory at rear of property

Wemyss Bay Pier – internal alteration to waiting area in ferry terminal

'Gruids' Main Street, Inverkip – installation of window to rear of property

Planning appeal by Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Cloch Road, Gourock to Scottish Ministers following refusal of outline planning permission

It was agreed an objection to the proposed 19 turbine windfarm located on the top of Black Craig Hill on the Cowal peninsula be lodged

10. Community Facilities: Innes Nelson informed the meeting that he had met with Andy Lynch of Inverkip Community Enterprise. Cllr Forbes stated that it was time for both groups to come together as Inverclyde Council would not deal with two separate groups. He was prepared to chair a meeting with all concerned and therefore would arrange a meeting as soon as possible to take place at the Town Hall

11. Date and Time of next meeting: Thursday 7th December 2006 at 7.30pm.

12. Any other business:

Cllr Forbes inquired as to who was paying for the Christmas clown. Ron Potter stated that the fee was already budgeted for and that the clown would be in attendance in Inverkip between 6pm and 6.30pm and at Wemyss Bay between 7pm and 7.30pm on Friday 1st of December

Hugh Ritchie raised the issue of dog fouling. Cllr Forbes agreed to discuss the matter further with the Environmental Health Officers

Ron Potter asked Cllr Forbes as to the position of cleaning street signs. Cllr Forbes informed the meeting that this task has now been placed on the job schedule.

Update on the Stewart Milne Application: an addition to October 2006's Business Meeting Minutes

Jim McIntosh, vice chairman of the Kyles Residents Association provided an update on the Stewart Milne application following his comments at the September Community Council meeting. During a recent telephone conversation between Jim McIntosh and Inverclyde Council's Head of Planning Services, Fraser Williamson had indicated that he was 'mindful to refuse the current application since the bridge came very close to the flats at the Kyles'. Mr Williamson went on to say that Stewart Milne Holdings Ltd has now been told to come up with alternative plans which will necessitate a third set of neighbourhood notifications. To date, the various objections have effectively 'killed off' two bridge proposals so we are now on bridge 'mark 3'.

During the telephone conversation with Mr Williamson, he indicated that the revised bridge proposals would see the structure being sited further east and towards IBM. However, it is not known whether the bridge will still land on the platform or whether it will be sited much further away – the new proposals are unlikely to be available until about the end of October. If the bridge were still to land on the platform this would then impact heavily on those residents of Kip Avenue.

There is the possibility that, following legal opinions, Stewart Milne Holdings Ltd may present an application for a non-DDA compliant bridge. Jim McIntosh felt that this would drive a 'coach and horses' through official government policy.

It was also confirmed that the Kyles Residents Association was still awaiting a response from Inverclyde Council following the Council's decision not to provide a copy of the legal opinion obtained by the Council from Messrs Brodies. If the Council refused to provide a copy under Freedom of Information legislation it is very likely that an appeal would be lodged with the Scottish Information Commissioner.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.