

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY **COUNCIL**

Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 2nd September 2010 in Inverkip Primary School

Present: A/Chairman Hugh Ritchie; Treasurer Ron Potter; Brian McArthur; Liz Rodgers; David Adams; Telfer Ramage and secretary Lynne Chambers

Apologies: Harold McPherson and Brian Blacklaw

In attendance: Cllr Gerry Dorrian; Cllr Innes Nelson; Cllr Ciano Rebecchi; John Arthur, Inverclyde Council's Head of Safer and Inclusive Communities; Phyllis Shearer; Philomena Hempsey; R. Stewart; E. Halbert; Caroline Stewart; Damian Glancy; Paul Canata; Helen Canata; Toni Stafford; Marcelle Mason; Cath McLeary; Margaret Anderson and R. Houston

3. Police Matters:

For the second month running there was no police presence at the Business Meeting. The secretary said as usual the officers had been notified a week in advance of the meeting. It was agreed she should write and ask for crime statistics for July and August. Also the secretary reported a complaint from a resident about parking at Inverkip primary school – buses completely block the roads and thoughtless parents add to the delays experienced. The councillors said they'd also received complaints and had asked the police to investigate. However the secretary would inform the police to reinforce the complaints

4. Inverclyde Council's (IC) Head of Safer and Inclusive Communities, John Arthur, attended the meeting to discuss Community Council (CC) boundaries and CC grants: Details of recent CC correspondence with John Arthur on these issues:

Reply from John Arthur to the CC's letter of July regarding anomalies in the CC boundary maps saying these would be reviewed after the 13th August deadline

Invitation to John Arthur to attend the September CC Business Meeting

His reply accepting the invitation

Letter sent to John Arthur on the 26th of August re payment of CC grants

Email received from John Arthur saying the core grant of £700 will be paid to CCs this week.

John Arthur said there had been a big merger of directorates at Inverclyde Council and there had been a hiccup in the communication with CCs. His area covered community wardens, anti-social behaviour teams and community support across a wide range of services. As far as CCs are concerned, he is in a supporting role. As to the review of boundaries, it was getting to the stage of a full public consultation. On the 7th of October there will be a special meeting of IC on CCs and what he'd like to hear is what CCs should be doing and what powers they should have. In the future

different public services will be provided by a wider of range of agencies in partnership agreements. The problem will be confusion for people using the services. By April next year the CCs should be in place. Brian McArthur asked how IC expected feedback from the local community. John Arthur replied the new boundaries will be sent out for consultation and there will be more consultation for the full draft scheme. Information will be available on IC's website, in libraries, publicity in the papers and information to CCs and any other representative groups. Hugh Ritchie asked what role the Inverclyde CC Forum had in the consultations. John Arthur said the Forum had nominated members to IC's working group. Ron Potter said December was not a good time-frame for the consultation to start, but John Arthur said as the end-game is next April, when the constitution, scheme of delegation etc had to be in place, it had to be December. At the moment there should be twelve CCs in Inverclyde, though only 10 are operating. The proposal is that there should be 11. Ron Potter asked when CCs might see better, accurate maps of the CC boundaries, and said he thought the sooner the working group got together again to go through the maps and determine the boundaries the better. John Arthur said the advice is that CC boundaries should follow ward boundaries. Following the consultation the role of the CCs will be redefined and their relationship with IC

5. Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 5th August 2010. Matters arising:

Hill Farm footpath: following IC's Head of Planning and Regeneration Stuart Jamieson's attendance at August's Business Meeting and his proposal for an alternative to the claimed Right of Way, the secretary emailed the residents with whom she has kept in contact during the months of consideration this issue has received with a comprehensive report of what Stuart Jamieson had to say and the debate at the Business Meeting. Email sent to Gail Baxter, the Hill Farm residents' contact, asking if there was anything to report following the meeting. Two emails have been received from residents opposing any change to the status quo but nothing so far from those who wish to see the footpath reopened

Email sent to Catriona Davies of Scotways updating her on what Stuart Jamieson suggested at August's Business Meeting

Sewage smell at Beatoch Place: the secretary contacted Scottish Water and reported the smell of sewage on Finnockbog Road/Beatoch Place. Telfer Ramage – who had reported the problem – spoke to the resident affected. The Scottish Water team who investigated the complaint could find no problem as the strong smell seems to be an occasional event, as does the odour at the bottom of Langhouse Road. The councillors suggested the resident should contact IC's Environmental Health department if there are ongoing problems

Ardgowan Rise, Inverkip: the secretary wrote to Stewart Milne Homes informing them of the section of pavement without its top coat of tarmac at Cullen Crescent and the bollard hidden by undergrowth on Finnockbog Road, asking for its reinstatement. So far, there has been neither acknowledgement nor reply

Fence at playground, Inverkip: the secretary wrote to Mr Rico Giovanacci about the precarious condition of the fence around the playpark – neither acknowledgement nor reply at this time. However Cllr Nelson said IC had made £5000 available for repairs to the fence

The Minutes were proposed as accurate by David Adams and seconded by Brian McArthur

6. Secretary's report and correspondence:

Letter received from IC seeking comments from the CC re a public procession on Saturday 11th September – comments or concerns had to be passed on by 31st of August so details forwarded to CCs by the secretary – no comments or concerns received

Letter and campaign newsletter from No Need for Nuclear – the group hopes the CC will agree and join its campaign

Email from Treasurer and secretary to CC members asking whether approval would be given to a one-off payment of £150.00 to the Inverkip Gala Day committee. The secretary received support from a majority of members for the donation which was paid

Ongoing correspondence with IC's lets office trying to book school lets – there's a new team in place and still finding its feet

Email from Gala Lights who would like to discuss a new Christmas Lights scheme – passed to David Adams

Email/letter from Elizabeth Bradley, chairperson of Larkfield Community Safety Group Meeting inviting CC members to attend a Ward 6 Community Safety Partnership Meeting on Tuesday 31st August. Letter dated 25th August – the secretary was away so made apologies. The meeting papers included a letter from IC's Louise McVey saying she has been requested to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the 6 Local Community Safety Partnerships in Inverclyde.

Email from Alison Masterson via the CC website saying she would like the CC to look into telephone reception in Inverkip. The secretary replied saying mobile and broadband provision is also patchy – it was agreed the secretary should contact BT to discover why telecommunications are so poor in the area

Email correspondence with Transport Scotland asking for copies of the A78 Inverkip junction report

Reports on the A78 at Inverkip received from Amey. Ron Potter said the configuration of Bankfoot roundabout is not as shown on Amey's plans

Letter from IC - a review of polling districts and polling places –any response to be dealt with at another meeting

From IC – an agenda for the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee on 31st August including Waste Management Contract and Glasgow & Clyde Valley Strategic Review Group – Organic Waste Procurement Partnership; Clyde Valley Waste Initiative – Introduction of Business Case – passed to Hugh Ritchie

Letter from Scottish Water with details of its Annual Report and Performance Review sent by Mark Maclaren, the Regional Community Manager for IC and a member of Scottish Water's Community Affairs Team

Email from Brian McArthur attaching a copy of the Minutes of the last Community Facilities Group meeting. Copies distributed to Community Councillors

Multi-fuel Power Station – Hunterston, North Ayrshire – John Arthur said North Ayrshire Council will have to consult extensively with IC throughout the full process

7. Treasurer's Report:

Ron Potter reported the CC's account balance is £587.27. He said he'd received a letter from John Arthur saying the current scheme for CCs requires that where the end of year balance is in excess of 50% of the annual grant, the CC must provide a statement of spending proposals for the year. Because of the delay in processing CC accounts this year the core grant has been paid. However, John Arthur requires a statement of expenditure from April 1st this year together with projected expenditure to the end of this financial year. Ron Potter said the remaining balance reflected the caution with which the CC had spent its funds as it was not certain when the grant would be received. John Arthur said the hiatus was due to major management restructuring. Hugh Ritchie said that was every year then. John Arthur added he was aware of Ron Potter's concerns regarding the second part of the grant based on a per capita rating. Ron Potter has repeated to IC over the years that to base the grant on the 2002 population is far off the mark as many, many houses had been built since then in Inverkip. Ron Potter inquired if the additional enhancement fund paid from the Council's pot was likely to be repeated this year. John Arthur said the budget had been reduced so he would have to look at the situation.

He also confirmed IC has arranged insurance cover to be continued for all CCs. The fee has been deducted. Cliff Lyons wanted to know why a CC required insurance cover, including Public Liability Insurance. John Arthur replied that CCs may take part in various events and needed the cover.

8. Planning Matters – this item heard after Agenda item number 4

Agenda item from Inverclyde Council's Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee meeting held on the 31st of August - Review of the Scheme of Delegation – the working of the first year of revised planning arrangements. It is proposed IC agrees to adopt the amended Scheme of Delegation. Following representations by the CC to IC's Head of Planning and Regeneration Stuart Jamieson one proposed amendment is (the changes in bold) – (b) The approval of an application which is the subject of letters of representation from **6** or more individuals and/or 2 community groups, **including formally constituted groups comprising at least 10 members and Community Councils**

Forwarded by IC on behalf of Tom McKenzie, the Association of Scottish Community Council's Regional Representative for Inverclyde, a request from the Scottish Government for feedback on the first year of planning development management. Replies by 16th September. The councillors agreed the new procedures meant they saw fewer applications at the Planning Board.

Hugh Ritchie advised the meeting that an application by Scottish Power to establish a large sub-station in Wemyss Bay (to which the CC had objected) has been withdrawn. It was accepted Scottish Power could return at a future date with another application and indeed it has a legal obligation to do so should the electrical supply require it, the meeting was told. A resident asked if the proposed sub-station would have been bigger than the one at Point Place in Inverkip. Hugh Ritchie wasn't sure but it certainly would not have been aesthetically pleasing to have the substation in the proposed location. David Adams said there was a sub-station in Skelmorlie hidden behind a fence

Letter from IC advising of meetings of the Local Review Body in September and October. The secretary checked the agenda for September's meeting and so far there is nothing of local interest.

From Planning Aid for Scotland – invitation to attend its AGM on Thursday 16th September

Email from Kilmun CC thanking IWBCB for its support against the application for the Strone Saul windfarm in Dunoon. Kilmun CC has won this round and hopes the windfarm application doesn't go to a Public Local Inquiry

Inverkip – Hill Farm – substitution of house types on 21 plots by Redrow Homes – granted subject to conditions. Concern was expressed that this is the third application by the developer for a change of house type. Cllr Nelson said the change may be smaller house types to reflect the current market, but Ron Potter said there were bigger as well as smaller houses. It was agreed close attention should be paid to these applications

Wemyss Bay – 46 Lomond Road – erection of single storey extension – refused

Wemyss Bay – 27 Leapmoor Drive – rear extension to dwellinghouse and alterations to garage

Inverkip – Rannoch, Main Street – erection of timber closed board fence to rear of property

Inverkip – Dalriada, Langhouse Road – change of use and extension of former anti-aircraft operations room to form a single dwelling – granted subject to conditions

Wemyss Bay – Station Office, Wemyss Bay Station – alterations to former first class waiting rooms and stationmaster's office including opening up former fireplaces and conversion works to wc – granted subject to conditions

Several Inverkip residents attended the meeting to record their concern about the plans to change the old Police House in Main Street, Inverkip, to a restaurant. The secretary had not received notification of the application. The residents are immediate neighbours of the property. At first they understood from the owner the building was to be restored as a single dwelling. From neighbour notification letters dated the 17th of August and received on the 20th they discovered the plan is to turn the building into a restaurant – a Chinese restaurant. In addition to the location being within the conservation area of the village and a residential area, there are concerns about noise, parking, smell and the added problem of take-away collections. Parking is a major concern – Inverkip's Main Street is a notoriously narrow and difficult road to park on and it is a bus route. The planned parking for the restaurant would be via a narrow steep single track and it is felt drivers would shun the carpark and park on Main Street. The residents claim they have met no-one in favour of the application. There are elderly residents in nearby flats who fear for their safety. Residents are aware of the 10 letter rule for the application to go to the Planning Board and were advised to avoid a petition but to send individual letters. John Arthur observed that objections sent by residents who'd received neighbour notification letters would receive close attention. Cliff Lyons asked if those objectors' letters would be treated as more serious objections than those from other people. John Arthur said all objections are treated equally. Brian McArthur asked how many of those attending had received neighbour notification letters. Eight people indicated they had. Cllr Dorrian said he didn't think the application would be considered in October – he thought November more likely. Hugh Ritchie asked if Community Councillors thought the CC should lodge an objection – it was agreed unanimously to do so. It was noted however even

if this application is quashed it doesn't stop another application for a change of use to a business being lodged. It was observed the state of site at the Police House was a shambles, and a full skip had lain outside the house for months bringing down the whole area.

9. Report by Telfer Ramage on the Scottish Ferries Review consultation meeting he attended

A letter and email were received from Scottish Transport inviting CC members to attend a Public Consultation meeting about the Scottish Ferries Review in Gourrock on the 23rd of August. Telfer Ramage's report was deferred to another meeting.

10. Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 7th of October 2010 in Inverkip Primary School

11. Any other business:

The secretary said CC members would be delighted to hear their noticeboard in Inverkip has finally be re-roofed and looks quite smart, though it's a shame sawn ends of timber hadn't been treated. The secretary said closing the door remains a problem and it should be planed to fit.

David Adams wanted to know who was responsible for the lane between Burns Drive and Castle Wemyss Road in Wemyss Bay as it is dark and slippery. He also wondered who is responsible for cutting the grass from Kishorn Road up to the church and beyond. Cllr Dorrian advised him to contact Bert Muir at IC and he would follow up on it.

A member of the public attending the meeting said that traffic coming down Manse Road in Inverkip and cars exiting from the A78 made the broad crossing dangerous for pedestrians – motorists showed them no consideration and it was particularly bad between 4 and 5pm. Cllr Rebecchi advised her to phone the police. Cllr Dorrian said he would write to the police to monitor the junction. Cliff Lyons said he had viewed this junction with the former councillor and he wondered why there wasn't a traffic island at the junction. Road markings are poor at the junction as are the give-way lines coming from Sainsbury's. The councillors will speak to the Roads Department about the junction and the road markings.

Hugh Ritchie asked if the roads at Harbourside, Inverkip had been adopted as cars drive at excessive speeds there. Cllr Rebecchi will discover if the roads have been adopted by IC. The secretary said speeding was again commonplace on Spey Road. The secretary will contact the police about the speeding at both sites.

Hugh Ritchie asked why the recycling bins at Sainsbury's were not more regularly emptied – they presented a very unpleasant sight. Ron Potter said the bins at the Brueacre Junction were similarly overflowing. The councillors said the work had been taken over by a private company and Cllr Dorrian said he would speak to IC's Alan Barnes about the matter.

Ron Potter again asked the councillors why overgrown bushes obscuring road signs on Spey Road had not been attended to. Cllr Rebecchi said he had passed on the complaint but if such matters were not resolved call him rather than leave it to the next Business Meeting. John Arthur was thanked for his attendance at the meeting. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35pm