

# INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2006 Inverkip Hotel 7.30pm

**Present:** Ron Potter (vice chairman); Paul Maloney; Harold McPherson; Lynne Chambers (secretary)

**Apologies:** Cliff Lyons; Hugh Ritchie; Cllr Eric Forbes; PC Willie Howat (Chairman Innes Nelson had left a message to say he had suddenly become unwell but would attend the meeting when feeling better. Ron Potter took the chair and Innes Nelson was able to join the meeting later in the evening)

**In attendance:** Isabel Hunter; Ronald Brown; Morag Brown; Sue Wilson (Greenock Telegraph)

**3. Police Matters:** As PC Howat is on holiday, Sgt Norrie Barnes had phoned Lynne Chambers to ask if there were specific questions for the police at this meeting. He was told it was not anticipated there would be, but he said he would respond to any concerns or queries emailed to him. Sgt Barnes said there are now ten officers available for duties in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay and that there has been increased policing. In his absence, Lynne Chambers passed on information from Cllr Eric Forbes. Following July's business meeting Cllr Forbes had a 'full and frank' discussion with a new Inspector, Charlie Paul, responsible for the day-to-day policing of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. Cllr Forbes is following this up with a meeting with the Divisional Commander towards the end of August and will give an update after the meeting. Cllr Forbes had also spoken to Inspector Cunningham, Officer in Charge of the Community Safety Department for British Transport Police, and had put forward concerns in relation to lack of policing at Inverkip Station and on the trains in general. He had also spoken to Inspector Paul about this. Inspector Cunningham was unaware of the vandalism incident as reported by Kyles residents to the meeting, and Cllr Forbes has arranged for Inspector Cunningham to contact them.

**4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 - Matters arising:**  
**Pavement in Inverkip:** Cllr Forbes reported that he'd arranged a meeting with the Roads Engineer, himself and a representative of Inverclyde Council on Disability and they'd had a site meeting in Main Street. The Council on Disability reported the surface of the pavement was not the ideal solution but acknowledged the difficulties presented to the Council. Cllr Forbes visited Mrs Wallace and had a discussion about the outcome and although she was not happy with the explanation Cllr Forbes believes she accepted

the Council had arrived at the best solution given the constraints around that area. He has to repeat, he says, that the piece of 'footpath' is on private property and the work carried out by Inverclyde Council was in response in some way to the houses being flooded, and in order to complete the work the footpath had to take the shape it did. There is nothing more that can be done now, he says. For information, he adds, that while on Main Street with the OCOD representative, two people – both with different disabilities, one of whom was a local lady and the other a man from Greenock who was visiting his daughter who was with him – happened to walk over the area. He took the opportunity to ask their opinion. Both said they experienced no difficulty, and the Greenock man referred him to the state of the footpaths in Greenock where he lived, as being defective for the disabled.

**Information for developers from Scottish Water re water and sewerage:** a question posed by Ron Potter has been responded to in Cllr Forbes' report and passed to Ron Potter

**Wemyss Bay residents' parking:** see Agenda 6

**Letter from Scottish Natural Heritage:** Cllr Forbes did follow this up, and informed Lynne Chambers by telephone. However, written information is to follow

**Payment to Inverclyde Council on Disability:** Brian Purdie of Inverclyde Council has noted the treasurer agreed the money should have been referred and in future the notes of guidance will be adhered to

**Payment of community councillors' out of pocket expenses:** please see Agenda 8

**Donation to Wemyss Bay Village News:** this donation was referred to Brian Purdie of Inverclyde who responded as follows – in recent years the Wemyss Bay Community Association has applied to and received funds from Inverclyde Council through the Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget. He was informed that a representative of the Association recently contacted the Council to ask for application forms for this year to be forwarded to her. The forms were duly sent but have not yet been returned. It would be more appropriate for an organisation which can obtain funding in its own right to seek to do so rather than to apply for funding from Community Councils which, in most cases, have only their annual grant from the Council to meet their outgoings. Paul Maloney suggested that a payment could be made by the Community Council for their columns to appear in the village newsletters. This idea was rejected but it was agreed that on occasion the Community Council could purchase advertising space. The secretary to pass this information to Ken Roberts of the Village News

**Safety audit on the east exit from Inverkip:** Cllr Forbes reported at the last meeting that a safety audit had been conducted on the east exit. A recent multi-vehicle accident at the east exit will be drawn to Cllr Forbes' attention

**Approach to Bankfoot roundabout:** Cllr Forbes said at the last meeting he had inquired about the 'slow' signs at the approach to the roundabout. A recent accident there should also be brought to his attention

The Minutes were approved

## **5. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:**

A letter of resignation from the Community Council has been received from treasurer Cliff Lyons. Ron Potter, in the chair, paid tribute to Cliff Lyons' contribution to the

Council which he said had been enormous. He also said the sentiments expressed in the letter were appreciated. With reluctance the resignation was accepted. The Secretary was asked to write to Cliff Lyons to give him this information and to thank him for his efforts in support of the Community Council. Financial matters will be handed over as soon as possible and vice chairman Ron Potter has said he will take over the duties of treasurer until a new treasurer is elected

Letter from Greenock Health Centre Primary Care and Community Services acknowledging the Community Council's letter re withdrawal of GP services from Inverkip

An email intimating ICE's Gala Day to be held in Inverkip on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of August  
From the SNP a letter and booklet outlining their early policies in advance of the 2007 elections

Email from Eila Roberts of the Wemyss Bay Village Newsletter – it was agreed by the Community Council that a positive effort should be made to provide more information to the Newsletter

From Inverclyde Council – an information booklet re planning and traffic management

Letter to Innes Nelson from Community Windpower Ltd – the chairman will respond

Letter from David Cairns MP re the windfarm proposal attaching his letter to Fraser Williamson of Inverclyde Council

Letter from Duncan McNeil MSP re windfarm proposal

Letter from Ross Finnie MSP re windfarm proposal

Email correspondence from Murray Tosh MSP re windfarm proposal

Letter from Stewart Maxwell MSP re windfarm proposal

Letter from Inverclyde Community Council Forum with information on their meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> of August

Invitation to Community Council members to attend Inverclyde Community Council Forum's presentation lunch

Letter from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde saying the Minister for Health and Community Care will be hosting meetings to review the performances of health boards across Scotland. Greater Glasgow and Clyde will be considered on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August but as it will cover the period before amalgamation of boundaries with the former local health board area it was decided against attending

An invitation from Inverclyde Community Care Forum to attend their AGM on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August

From the Fire Brigades Union a letter re the introduction of Integrated Risk Management Plans, and seeking responses. Paul Maloney will consider their letter.

Community Care newsletter

**6. Parking in Wemyss Bay:** As neither Cllr Forbes nor Graham Scott of Wemyss Bay was in attendance, discussion on parking in Wemyss Bay was deferred

**7. Feedback from public meetings:** Public meetings were organised by the Community Council on August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay respectively, following the application by Community Windpower Ltd to erect ten wind turbines on

the Leapmoor. Some of this discussion took place during Agenda 5, when considering the letter from Community Windpower Ltd. In the letter Community Windpower Ltd said they were disappointed they had not been informed about the public meetings and had not received an invitation to represent themselves or present a statement to the meetings. However, as Lynne Chambers pointed out, at last November's public meeting in Inverkip when there was a unanimous vote of opposition to the application, Community Windpower Ltd had declined the invitation to take part and had said that public meetings were not their preferred method of communication with the public. Paul Maloney thought the Community Council should perhaps have chaired meetings that promoted both the pros and cons of the application. But it was felt following November's public meeting, after which the Community Council decided on a policy of opposition to the application, that the more recent meetings should offer information from that standpoint to the villagers. In addition, Community Windpower Ltd will be holding at least another two public open days/evenings where all of the development information will be available and any questions can be asked.

**8. Community Council expenses policy:** following urging by Brian Purdie of Inverclyde Council, Ron Potter in conjunction with Brian Purdie drew up an expenses policy for Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community councillors. The policy document was read through, and with an amendment – which Ron Potter will send to Brian Purdie – was approved.

**9. Grants – Scottish Natural Heritage:** Ron Potter brought to the attention of the meeting grants available from SNH for the improvement of natural surroundings. The grants were noted and will be considered

**10. Website:** it had been felt for some time that Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council should create its own website. Harold McPherson had been asked to investigate the possibilities. He reported that software for creating the website would cost around £70.00 inc VAT, and web hosting at a cost of £5.86 per month inc VAT would be £70.32 per annum. Set up costs plus hosting for a year would therefore cost £140.32 with annual costs thereafter of around £70. Harold McPherson said he was prepared to create and operate the website and the proposal was unanimously approved

**11. Treasurer's report:** In Cliff Lyons' absence Lynne Chambers reported that the balance of funds is currently £944.03

**12. Planning Matters:**

Wemyss Bay – St Joseph's & St Patrick's Church, Forbes Place – installation of temporary disabled entrance ramp plus Listed Building consent

**13. Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006

#### **14. Any Other Business:**

Cllr Forbes reported that following Mrs I Hunter's request for a dog waste bin at Langhouse Avenue, Inverkip, he has passed on the request

Harold McPherson asked the secretary to contact the administration team at inverkip.com asking them to update and amend their entry for the Community Council

Ron Potter reported that the residents of the new Persimmon development at Swallow Brae were experiencing continuing water bursts and were not receiving too helpful answers from Scottish Water. Ron Potter said he would telephone Cllr Forbes to alert him to the situation

Mrs Hunter has called for 'sleeping policemen' on the Loch Thom road as she expressed concerns about speeding motorists. She said 'sleeping policemen' were being put on Swallow Brae and that they should also be installed on the Loch Thom road as there had been several 'near misses' because of speeding traffic.

Inverkip Community Centre: Paul Maloney said he didn't agree with the Community Council taking on the project, as he felt it was too big a project for the number of members, especially as there are always other calls on its time. Innes Nelson replied the community council had been working on the project since last year and is continuing to investigate further other models of community councils undertaking this role, as it would seem unwise to rely exclusively on the Kilmacolm model, and was indeed already receiving information. Paul Maloney said it looked as if the community council was doing exactly nothing. It was pointed out that at last November's public meeting, held by the community council, Inverkip villagers indicated a community centre was top of their list of facilities in the village. The community council had been advised to present to Inverclyde Council an indication of a preferred project in anticipation of any planning gain being forthcoming from developer Stewart Milne should their application be approved, which they did – giving details after consultation of a community centre and its facilities wanted by residents. Paul Maloney thought the Community Council should support the ICE group which is also working on plans for a community centre and that the community council had agreed with Hugh Ritchie's suggestion the council should start off the process before handing over to a limited company. Innes Nelson reiterated what the council had agreed was to continue with the project by gathering information, and until that information had been gathered and considered it could not come to a decision. Lynne Chambers pointed out ICE appeared to be trying to take over a project the community council was already progressing – something the group seemed either unaware of or to ignore. Innes Nelson said while appreciating frustration may be felt at what might appear as lack of progress, such a project had to be researched properly or mistakes could be made and any facility could be lost in the future. This was a long term thing – years, as the Kilmacolm group had found out – and the community council was not prepared to jump the gun at this very early stage of proceedings, nor be harried into doing so by any other group. Ron Potter suggested that at next month's business meeting there could be a report as to whether it appeared feasible for the community council to continue with such a project. It was agreed to try to come to some conclusion for next month's meeting, but if not possible in that time frame the decision would not be rushed.

It was agreed a letter should be sent to Mr Rico Giovanacci asking him what plans he had for the remainder of the land he leases from Ardgowan Estate.

The meeting ended at 10.05pm.