

**INVERKIP & WEMYSS BAY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Minutes of Business Meeting
Held on Thursday 3rd March 2005
In The Inverkip Hotel, Rogues Room.

Present: Innes Nelson (chair), Ron Potter (vice chair), Cliff Lyons (treasurer), Hugh Ritchie, Harold McPherson & Lorraine Marshall (secretary).

Apologies: Lynne Chambers & Paul Maloney.

In Attendance: Pc Kenny Wilson, Cllr Forbes, Mr & Mrs McIntosh, Allan and Elizabeth Cummings, Rose Gifford, Sarah McGarva, J Crighton, Thomas Reaney, A Watters, N Cupples, A Maley, Juilia McLellan & Isabel Hunter.

Innes Nelson welcomed all present. At 7.30pm the meeting was opened.

3 Police matters: Figures 03.02.2005 – 03.03.2005 Calls 57

DISORDER

2 Disturbance 1 Assaults

DISHONESTY

2 Thefts 1 Theft from Vehicle 1 Suspect Person

TRAFFIC

4 Abandoned Vehicles 4 Road Traffic Accidents 1 Drink Driver 3 Traffic Misc. 2 Vehicle Escort

MISCELLANEOUS

5 Damage To Property 7 Alarms 1 Fires 15 Complaints 4 Assisting members of the public and other agencies 1 Message delivered 1 Indecency 3 Misc. Calls

There were 11 crimes with 5 detections.

There is a reduction of calls and it is noted that there seems to be a reluctance to phone in. If this continues it makes it difficult to arrange extra cover, as there seems to be no requirement for this.

There is a small element both in Inverkip & Wemyss Bay which require attention. PC Wilson & PC Strachan are actively looking into this issue as it may escalate when the better weather comes.

RTA's at Inverkip North Junction. Driver error seems to be the prevailing cause of accidents here. It was felt that the Community Council should write to both the Traffic Management with Greenock Police and Tom Devine at the Scottish Executive in this regard as the improvements at this junction should have made it safer. It is felt that the redesign of this junction has made exiting from the village at this north exit towards Greenock is far more difficult and that accidents are increased due to this.

Since the by pass was built the circumstances of the village (large housing developments & business) have changed, traffic has increased. Although reduced speed limit, traffic lights or a roundabout were suggested we are aware that these options would not be looked on favourably by the Scottish Executive on a major trunk road.

4 Cardell Planning Wemyss Bay We were unaware of any issue here until the article appeared in the Greenock Telegraph earlier this week. It had not appeared on any of the Planning listings or was it available in Inverkip Library.

At the Planning meeting on Wednesday (2/3/05) Cllr Forbes had requested that a site visit be made by the Councillors prior to a decision being made at the next Planning Committee.

A Maley from the Mews advised that one of the main issues is traffic, the sight to the north on exiting opposite Wemyss Bay Hotel is extremely poor, and entering here from the north causes traffic to be stationary on a blind bend.

This planning request is contrary to the original consent, which was for 20 flats and one house. Residents are unhappy with the density increase and also the imposing height of the proposed dwellings.

Cllr Forbes advised that we should have faith in the planning Committee. And that although the A78 is already at capacity evidence from the Scottish Executive supports the argument that the traffic conditions have changed for the worse.

The Community Council members voted unanimously in favour of an objection letter being submitted to the planners in this regard. We are to note in this that we were uninformed in the usual channels to have made our objection within the normal time frame.

5 Minutes: The minutes of the previous Business Meeting held on 3rd February 2005 were approved.

Matters Arising: 13/3 Castle Levan: In the previous minute the detail is incorrect as Inverclyde Council have now agreed to the Reporters recommendations in this regard within the Local Plan.

Recycling: The proposed site at Inverkip Station has been deemed unsuitable for additional recycling facilities, by Inverkip Council on safety grounds. We are to propose alternative sites to cleaning within the two villages.

At present there is no likelihood of the recycling point at the Londis development being re-sited out of view within the development.

Londis Development Roadway: The council may issue an enforcement order to ensure works are carried out to the expected standard. Talks are in hand with the developer currently.

Temporary signs should mean just that but these signs are becoming permanent. Water is running onto the road from the site and no provision of drainage is in place. Cllr Forbes advised that in it's current state the council could issue a road closed order.

L Marshall to write to Roads and Planning to request a full schedule of works that should have been required to have been carried out at this development.

Foot Ball Pitch: Cllr Forbes advised that this pitch would continue to be cut throughout the growing season by Inverclyde Council to allow use of this facility.

Bus Stops: This subject was brought to the Community Councils Forum and they have agreed to raise this with all Councillors.

Cllr Forbes advised that bus companies are at fault for stopping where they like at non designated stops. Cllr Forbes to request if there is any justification for the £140,000 quoted to implement pull-ins.

Prior to the footbridge being built to the Marina over the A78 Inspector Malcolm advised that busses were legitimately stopping on the A78 at both sides.

We requested that a feasibility study be conducted into the construction of pull-ins at both sides. It was felt that it wrong to consider the financial implication prior to this feasibility study being carried out.

13/3 Land Swap/Scout Camp: H Ritchie advised that Cllr Forbes had misguided the interpretation of the situation of the possible Scout Camp closure, should the land swap not take place, when this subject was raised at the full Inverclyde Council Meeting.

Alan Blair had previously mentioned that persons who had signed the petition had now requested that their names be removed. To gather this information in the correct manner we are to write to A Blair.

J McIntosh asked Cllr Forbes why he feels that Scouts who spend short stays at the camp take greater precedence over the residents of Inverkip. Cllr Forbes advised that in his opinion the Scout issue took 4th place.

There are over 200 trees to the south of Inverkip Station, which are likely to be destroyed in this development. Trees along Finnockbog road have already been marked for destruction as the roadway has been marked out by the developer.

Once the Draft of the Local Plan is produced which is likely to be mid-March 2005. We then enter a 6 week consultation period. Scottish Power have already made comment that they are unhappy with this outcome and this may lead to a further Local Plan Enquiry.

The Liberal Democrat meeting held in Inverkip Primary School was an information gathering exercise. There is unlikely to be further consultation in this area.

Hill Cottage Right of Way: I Nelson has been busy but is aware that he requires to provide the information requested to Cllr Forbes in this regard.

6 Secretary's Report: L Marshall advised correspondences had been received and dealt with. Two letters have been received from B Purdie, the first advising that his name had been incorrectly spelled in the minutes of December 2004, which we have apologised for, the

second advised that Inverclyde Council will never deal singularly with the Community Council Forum, this is reassuring for us as a community council. He also requested that the matter of the Constitution be made clear. It was presented to Inverclyde Council for approval just prior to the Christmas Break and any delay was due to this seasonal holiday period.

Lorraine wished to advise that she has no formal typing qualification and is purely voluntary. H Ritchie raised a vote of thanks for all her hard work.

We have been asked to mark Trafalgar Day, as this is not until October it will be on the agenda nearer the time.

Should anyone require the Your Right To Know booklet (freedom of information law in Scotland) this may be downloaded from www.itpublicknowledge.info/yourrights

7 Treasurer's Report: Balance £985.

As we are approaching the end of the financial year C Lyons advised that he had information on colour laser printers for perusal. This would be useful in the production of the village newsletters.

The community council members accepted the proposal in principal to purchase a colour laser printer. Further costings will be required and it may be necessary to make such a purchase via Inverclyde Council. L Marshall to write to B Purdie to advise of our intention so that funding may be carried forward into the next financial year. The estimated cost of such a printer should be in the region of £1100.

7.1 Expenses Policy: This document will require further consultation, Cllr Forbes to ascertain if Inverclyde Council have an allowance figure for childcare expenses.

8 Newsletter/website/press matters: The Spring Edition should be published in Early/Mid April. All articles to be received by 15 March 2005.

Several emails had been received and dealt with. T Nugent had requested information regarding Station Road should the land Swap development be implemented as this road and pavement are unsuitable for pedestrians in places. The email has been passed to Cllr Forbes.

9 Planning Matters: Between Seafield & Tall Trees Finnockbog Road Inverkip - Erection of a dwelling house

40 Leapmoor Drive Wemyss Bay - change of use of structured landscape ground to use as domestic garden ground.

Studio 19 Cameron Place Main Street Inverkip - Change of use and alterations to shop to form ground floor flat

47 Findhorn Crescent Inverkip - erection of a conservatory at rear of dwelling

10 Date & Time of Next Meeting: 7th April 2005 at 7.30pm in the Inverkip Hotel.

13 AOB: 1 E Cumming raised the issue of street lighting to be implemented along Langhouse road to the new Langhouse development.

We were advised that there is currently an Interdict order on the trees in this area and as such they may not be felled or lopped without prior consent from their owner.

Cllr Forbes advised that for the best information in this regard she should contact Nick McLaren of Inverclyde Council Planning.

2 Cllr Forbes to investigate the slippery pavement in Jacobs Ladder from Beatock Place to Finnockbog Road.

3 The footpaths raised in AOB 03.02.2005 13/9 Carron Road Wemyss Bay to the woodland area are private property feued to the adjacent properties.

4 Hunterston Developments in North Ayrshire are strictly out with our remit but in this instance it is felt that the proposals in this development re: coal/ore cargo, containers will more than likely put further stress on the already at capacity A78 between Greenock and Hunterston. It was also felt that this may take business away from Greenock Container Terminal with a subsequent loss of jobs in Inverclyde.

Cllr Forbes suggested that we write to Ronnie Small who is now Roads Director for North Ayrshire with our concerns.

5 Wemyss Bay old pier in Leapmoor Drive – there is a public right of access to this. Currently this is not available. Cllr Forbes to investigate.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10.10pm.