

# INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Business Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2011 in Inverkip Primary School at 7.30pm

**Present:** Hugh Ritchie; Ron Potter; Liz Roders; David Adams; Brian Blacklaw;  
Brian McArthur; Harold McPherson and Telfer Ramage

**Apologies:** Lynne Chambers and Cllr Ciano Rebecchi

**In attendance:** Cllrs Gerry Dorrian and Innes Nelson; N. Cupples; PCs Paul  
Cosgove and Gary Arthur; Cliff Lyons; Allan Marsh

The chairman Hugh Ritchie opened the meeting by welcoming all present and  
thanking them for their attendance.

### **3. Police Matters:**

The following crime statistics were submitted by the police after the Meeting for the  
period 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011-3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2011

Total number of crimes:	20
Detections	7
Assault	0
Vandalism	2
Thefts	9
Thefts HB	1
Theft OLP	1
Breach of Bail	1
Disturbances	2
Road Traffic Offences	2
Immigration Offences	1
Lewd and Libidinous Practices	1

Following the police report of the traffic accident, Ron Potter commented on  
Transport Scotland's (TS) position relating to the A78 north junction at Inverkip. TS  
currently takes the view that the junction does not warrant any further upgrade as the  
level of incidents is low in comparison with other areas. TS says it cannot justify any  
further expenditure at this stage.

Ron Potter also raised the issue, concerning the reported accident at the junction, of  
glass and debris not being cleared away as soon as would have been expected.  
Constable Arthur said he would pass the information to the Traffic Division.

On the subject of the reported accident at the north junction at Inverkip, Cliff Lyons expressed his concern that a local MSP, by way of a newsletter, was taking credit for the alleged recent improvements to this junction. However, he said, as the reported accident highlights it is still considered by many residents of the village that the layout of the junction is still far from satisfactory.

In reply the chairman observed that it was normal, and only to be expected, that politicians – who to be fair have been active in seeking local improvements to the A78 - would make statements from time to time and this should be accepted as such.

However, the Community Council (CC) is fully aware of the feeling in the community regarding this junction, and would continue to be active in seeking ways forward to improve the current arrangements at the junction.

Constable Arthur stated that police were unaware of a number of minor spin-off incidents occurring at the Bankfoot roundabout going unreported. A local MSP has raised this issue again with Amey who, it is said, is investigating the situation.

The officers were thanked for their attendance.

#### **4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2011. Matters arising**

Liz Rodgers, Cllrs Gerry Dorrian and Ciano Rebecchi said their apologies for absence had not been recorded and this was duly noted.

**Stolen refuse bins:** Cllr Dorrian said there had been a change in policy regarding the replacement of black/grey waste bins. Blue or brown bins will be replaced if damaged or stolen. Black/grey bins will only be replaced if residents obtain a police report number, otherwise the replacement of these bins may be charged for. Wear and tear raises other questions.

**Stewart Milne site, Inverkip:** Telfer Ramage reported that Inverclyde Council (IC) planner David Ashman had been in touch again with Stewart Milne Homes, following the progress of items discussed at the January 6<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting. It can now be reported that work to improve the pavement drainage problem at the rear of Cullen Crescent gardens bordering onto Finnockbog Road has now been carried out, and the Herres type fencing around the catchment tank area of Finnockbog and Everton Road corner has been put back in place. Also work to refill this corner has started and should be levelled off and left in a much tidier state than has been the case.

The safety issue regarding access to the catchment tanks remains.

**Jacob's Ladder, Inverkip:** the future of Jacob's Ladder discussed at the January meeting came up following a copy of an email received by Telfer Ramage from the Ardgowan View Residents' Association. Stewart Milne Homes had advised the Association's secretary that the pathway down to Jacob's Ladder on the south side of the railway would be completed by the end of March. This will then allow IC to reopen the bridge. Some residents in Beatock Place are of the opinion the bridge is no longer sound and Network Rail will not allow it to be reopened. Cllr Nelson advised that he was not aware of any restriction to the opening of the bridge and that IC, to his knowledge, had no problems with the reopening of the bridge. The situation will be reviewed in April.

**Inverkip station access bridge:** Brian Blacklaw advised the meeting the new access bridge to Inverkip station, linking the Ardgowan Rise and Sylvan Brae developments to the station area, will commence building towards the end of March and should be

ready for use by the end of September 2011, along with a car parking area situated on the south side of the railway.

**Christmas entertainer:** the secretary contacted Darren Spiers (Davro the Clown), the entertainer employed by the CC to entertain at the Christmas Tree lights switch on events in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay to discover if he would be interested in performing at the 2011 events. IC has not yet formalised the date but as the switch on has taken place on the first Friday in December for years that was the date offered to Mr Spiers. He replied that he would be pleased to take part and has noted the date in his diary, to be contacted nearer the time.

**Main Street, Inverkip grit bins:** Cliff Lyons asked if the Community Council could request that 2 or 3 grit boxes could be sited along the Main Street to assist pedestrians who had experienced difficulties on the pavements during recent heavy snowfalls. *(Please note it was agreed at the January Business Meeting that the secretary would pass this same request from Cliff Lyons to IC which she did, and was awaiting a reply)*

Allan Marsh wished it to be conveyed to the employees of IC the high level of satisfaction expressed by the residents of the Ardgowan View area on how well they had performed in keeping the roads open in the area during December's snow and ice conditions. The effort was a big improvement on that experienced during the heavy snowfall of February 2010

**A78 junction at Inverkip/Bankfoot roundabout:** the secretary emailed Ricardo Aigbekaen, Transport Scotland's Area Manager for the A78 to say anger had been expressed at the January Business Meeting of the CC that rather than improve the A78/Inverkip/Main Street junction it had become more dangerous since TS/Amey had painted 'Give Way' road markings on the left turn slip road into the village. She also reported no signage – temporary or otherwise – had been installed as it was said would happen, and said the results of the Bankfoot roundabout Safety Audit were awaited

**Community Councillors:** further to the *en bloc* re-election of the CC office bearers in January, Inverclyde Council will be contacted to confirm the current CC has been elected to continue until new arrangements come into force

The chairman asked for the Minutes to be approved and Ron Potter proposed the acceptance of the Minutes, seconded by Telfer Ramage

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

As Lynne Chambers is on holiday, Ron Potter ran through the items received:

From IC:

Agenda for the Safe, sustainable Communities Committee meeting to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2011

Agenda for the Regeneration Committee meeting to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2011

Agenda for the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee Meeting to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Agenda for the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Notice of a meeting of the General Purposes Board to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Agenda for a Special Meeting of the General Purposes Board to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011 to review Budgets 2011/13 and Capital programme 2011/2013. Report by Chief Financial Officer

Agenda for Audit Committee meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011

Agenda for the Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership Sub-Committee for meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

Copy of Tactical Assessment (Strathclyde Fire & Rescue) giving statistics for the month of January 2011

Recruiting leaflet from the Community Safety Team for school crossing patrol officers

Newsletter from Save Your Regional Park campaign

Letter from the Scottish Health Council outlining its purpose and saying the Council would be pleased to meet to discuss strengthening and building links with Inverkip & Wemyss Bay Community Council (IWbcc)

Copies of Your Voice (Inverclyde Community Care Forum) some copies of which were distributed at the meeting

Email received from the Association of Scottish Community Councils regarding its Common Ground meeting to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 in Glasgow

Also an item about a grant scheme through 'Need a Fresh Idea for the Community Activity'. This can be a one off event and can attract grants between £300-£2500.

The scheme is administered through The Swimming Council. It was decided to approach the Inverkip Gala Day committee to see if this would be of any interest to it

A letter from Sail Inverclyde in connection with the Tall Ships Race to be held in Greenock between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011. It advised of a meeting, now past, held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at its offices in Greenock. In the letter Sail Inverclyde asks if any local organisations would like to become involved in the activities. If so to contact [www.tallshipsracesgreenock.com](http://www.tallshipsracesgreenock.com)

It was agreed Telfer Ramage would pass these last two items to the Gala Day committee for it to review.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Ron Potter presented the accounts showing a balance of £649.31

He reported that no advice from Inverclyde Council regarding the level of future funding had been received as yet.

The chairman raised the matter of honoraria for office bearers of IWbcc carrying out CC business. At present this is set at £75 and paid to the secretary and treasurer. As part of an ongoing review the chairman proposed this figure be raised to £100. A general discussion took place and Harold McPherson proposed the figure should be raised to £125.00. The chairman asked for a seconder – Liz Roders seconded the proposal.

Before taking a vote the chairman explained he had chosen not to receive an honorarium and further suggested the treasurer and secretary be paid at the new proposed level for the next financial year.

Members of the Council passed the proposal for the new figure of £125.00 unanimously.

## **7. Planning Matters**

Ron Potter had reviewed the planning applications and highlighted the following:

Inverkip – alteration of house type for 6 houses by Redrow – some smaller, some larger but overall numbers unchanged – granted  
Wemyss Bay – application by Scottish Power for a new sub station sited opposite the Lighthouse flats - granted  
Inverkip – the application for a restaurant sited at the Old Police House, Main Street has been refused by IC and an appeal has been passed to the Reporter

### **8. Election of vice chairman**

The chairman spoke of the need to fill the position of vice chairman. No candidate has been nominated and after discussion it was decided to carry on as is until a new CC is formed in May/June 2011

### **9. Letterhead/logo**

As the CC in its current form will be changing in May/June 2011, the chairman guided that this matter be left until the new format CC is up and running. This was agreed

### **10. Date and time of next meeting:**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 in the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm

### **11. Any other business:**

Allan Marsh spoke briefly on the situation concerning **the possible closure of the Maritime and Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Navy Buildings in Greenock**. He outlined the position in Scotland and urged all parties interested in saving the Centre and the work it carries out to register their thoughts on the matter as soon as possible. The new proposals can be found by visiting the Maritime and Coastguard Agency website.

If this plan were to be put into operation, possibly 10 of the current 19 operational centres would be closed, leaving 9 areas to cover the whole of the UK. As far as Scotland is concerned, there would be only 1 centre, this being based in Aberdeen. This operation would be backed up by a part-time operation based in either Shetland or Stornoway.

This plan would leave huge areas of Scotland without any ‘hands on’ people or direct operational staff at all. On the face of it, it looks to be a bold plan but could put the safety of people at sea in the area currently administered by the Greenock operation very much at risk. For full details go to [www.mega.gov.uk](http://www.mega.gov.uk)

The chairman thanked Captain Marsh for his contribution and urged those interested to go to the website for further information and if they wish, express their views on the matter as soon as possible

Telfer Ramage ran through an update regarding the **Berfern plantation** at Hill Farm, Inverkip. He said David Ashman of IC’s Planning department had advised that Stewart Milne Homes had sought permission to fell the entire plantation. This was refused as it was not part of the 25 year Development Plan which is in place for the plantation and would have gone against the requirements laid down when planning permission was granted for the development at Ardgowan Rise/Sylvan Brae. However, due to the dangerous state of many of the trees on the Cullen Crescent side of the plantation it has been agreed to fell parts of the plantation in this area. This

work has now been done. Permission has also been granted which covers any serious wind damage that may occur in the future, when Stewart Milne Homes will be permitted to remove the affected trees as and when required. Landscaping of the felled area is also to take place, so it is to be hoped the area will be aesthetically very much improved for the benefit of local residents who, to date, have witnessed the plantation's rapid decline following the commencement of the new housing development. Regarding the replanting of deciduous trees called for in the 25 year Plan, this will now be done in reverse to the original agreement. New trees will be planted from the outer edges of the plantation instead of working from the centre out.

David Adams raised safety concerns regarding the state of some trees in the **Nature Reserve in Wemyss Bay**, bordered by Rannoch Road; Linnhe Road and Carron Road and thought the matter should be brought to the appropriate department's attention within IC who it is thought has overall responsibility for the Reserve.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.