

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on Thursday 3rd of May 2012 in Wemyss Bay Primary School at 7pm

Present: Hugh Ritchie; Ron Potter; David Adams; Jean Anderson; Tracy Bunton; Telfer Ramage; Eileen Virtue and Lynne Chambers

2. Apologies: Cllr Gerry Dorrian; Cllr Innes Nelson; Cllr Ciano Rebecchi; Gordon Roders:

In attendance: eight members of the public

3. Police Matters

The Secretary was contacted to say no police officer was able to attend the meeting because of duties at polling stations that evening. The following statistics were entered after the Meeting:

April 2012

21 crime reports reported in April into May:

2 assaults at the caravan park in Wemyss Bay (detected)

1 vandalism to motor vehicle in Inverkip (undetected)

3 thefts of wheelie bins in Wemyss Bay

1 theft from a garden shed (undetected)

1 theft of kerosene oil in Inverkip (undetected)

Total of 97 calls to the area

6 disturbance calls

24 assistance calls

60 youths were stopped and searched in Inverkip last weekend and a large quantity of drink seized

4. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 5th of April 2012. Matters arising:

Notices were placed on the notice boards in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay and on the website regarding the suggestion the Community Council (CC) writes to the Transport Minister recommending a reduction in speed on the A78 at Inverkip. The notice invited comments by residents to be sent to the website. Not one has been received.

Notices regarding the CC's vote on windfarm policy due to be held at May's meeting and including the existing policy were posted as above inviting residents to make their thoughts known to the CC via the website. No response has been received

Email to the Greenock Telegraph with details of the consultation on both issues

Email from the Inverkip resident whose message of concern about litter and uncut grass verges was discussed at the April Business Meeting with further comments

The CC agreed in future the draft Minutes of meetings – which are sent to Inverclyde Council (IC) and ward councillors within 14 days of the Business Meeting - will be made available on the website 21 days after the Meeting, allowing the ward councillors 7 days to inform the CC of any amendments they

may wish to suggest. This will permit members of the public to inspect the Minutes in advance of the following month's meeting

The Minutes were proposed as accurate by Tracy Bunton, seconded by Ron Potter (in retrospect).

5. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

From IC – details of the Inverclyde Licensing Board meeting to be held on the 19th of April 2012

From IC – Minutes of the meetings of Inverclyde Council, Committees. Sub-Committees and Boards to be submitted to the Meeting of the Council on Thursday 12th April 2012

From IC – the Agenda for the meeting of Inverclyde Council on the 12th of April 2012
Correspondence regarding the organisation of the Daff Glen meeting

Email from Charlie Cairns of Lower Clyde Greenspace re grants for the Daff Glen

Email from Iain Wilkinson of Ardgowan Estate reporting on the condition of the Glen

Correspondence between Community Councillor Telfer Ramage and Cllrs Dorrian and Nelson regarding the clearing of a grating on Everton Road – the works appears to have been done

Copy of email sent by treasurer Ron Potter to John Arthur of IC regarding expenses and honoraria and other issues

Email to the Save Your Regional Park (SYRP) campaign letting them know no members of the CC could attend the protest march in Edinburgh on the 25th of April. Nigel Willis has asked to be kept informed on the policy adopted by the CC and a note of a new contact

Email from Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park (CMRP) with details of a meeting of the Consultative Forum on 20th April 2012

Forwarded by Cllr Rebecchi – Strathclyde Fire & Rescue Tactical Assessment

From the Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC) – Online Bulletin April 11th 2012 – including an article about Reaping the Benefits of Renewables

From the ASCC – details of its conference

From the ASCC – Online bulletin saying the Association will stop offering services and support to Community Councils on the 30th of April 2012. From this date CCs should approach their local authority or Scottish Government Community

Empowerment Unit for advice and support

From MSP Stuart McMillan – Annual Report 2012

The secretary sent a copy of her letter of resignation to IC for the attention of John Arthur and Maggie Paterson

Newsletter from MSP Stuart McMillan

Emails from two Wemyss Bay residents reporting litter and overgrown pavements.

The secretary wrote to the ward councillors forwarding the residents' concerns and received responses, passed on to the residents

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported he'd received a letter from IC saying the full grant would be paid to the CC following the submission of accounts approved at the AGM.

The CC's opening balance was £847.32 and after expenditure totalling £134.62 the current balance is £712.70

He said a members' expenses policy had been drawn up in 2006 and adopted in 2008 giving full details of what expenditure was acceptable. An IC contact said while the

- 3 -

policy was fine, honoraria will not be paid from Council grants. It was agreed the matter of expenses would be on June's Agenda.

The Treasurer also said it was time to review the CC's assets – a projector; screen; laptop, printer and various stationery items.

7. Planning Matters

From the Scottish Government – a letter saying the application for a Multi-Fuel Power Station at Hunterston has been transferred to the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals for the arrangement of a public inquiry – the Community Council objected to the application

Inverkip – Hill Farm - amendment to Woodland Management Plan - granted

Inverkip – 41 Swallow Brae – construction of a sunroom - granted

Wemyss Bay – Seaview Café, Shore Road – alterations and extension to the café together with the installation of a new shop front – granted

Email from Peter Fusco with details – again – of the plan to erect a 100kW wind turbine at Finnockbog Farm, Inverkip. The secretary spoke to the countryside officer at CMRP who said the farm was on the boundary of the park. From the maps submitted it was unclear exactly where it is proposed to site the turbine. Peter Fusco has asked to be informed of the CC's opinion at this pre-application stage.

8. Wind farm policy

It was agreed at the April 2012 meeting that the CC's policy on wind farms would be revisited. The policy was drawn up and approved in 2006. To that end, and to seek local opinion, the existing policy was placed on notice boards in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay, the CC website and details were sent to the Greenock Telegraph. No responses were received. Hugh Ritchie said he thought it was good to have a wind farm policy and that it was important to safeguard Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and the seascape in the local area for further generations. When asked by a member of the public as to why the CC had to have a policy Ron Potter said that since the Reform of CCs, CCs have a different responsibility in the planning procedure and now have an active role to play in every application that goes to Inverclyde Council. He also said the policy alerted developers that applications would be carefully scrutinised. The secretary added that when it was planned to site a wind farm on the Leapmoor above Inverkip and Wemyss Bay, it was thought prudent that CCs on both sides of the river should have a policy, and should in effect club together. A member of the public said he opposed wind farms technically and opposed the Scottish Government's policy on wind power. Hugh Ritchie said because of the location of the Power Station at Inverkip it was tempting for developers to wish to site wind farms in the area. Not so tempting, he said, to site them in Sutherland, perhaps 100 miles away from the grid. A local farmer, whose small wind turbine was not opposed by the CC, said that any profit produced by the turbine would be kept locally. He added though that we should look to the future and he believes the day when electricity can be stored is not too far away.

Another member of the public asked why wind power was opposed by the CC. Hugh Ritchie said because it was inefficient. He was asked if he could prove it, and did.

After discussion it was agreed the word 'farm' should be replaced by 'turbine' and the secretary would draft a further sentence to be added to the existing policy indicating consideration will be given to each application on its merits.

9. A78 – suggested speed reduction

Further to the decision at April's meeting the CC should write to the Transport Minister suggesting a reduction in the speed limit on the A78 to 40mph from the Bankfoot Roundabout to Wemyss Bay, it was decided further consultation was required. Details of the proposal were posted on notice boards, the website and the sent to the Greenock Telegraph. No responses were received. A member of the public asked what benefits the speed reduction would bring and more importantly how would it be enforced. She doubted drivers would adhere to the speed limit. It was noted that reduced speeds mean fewer gaps in traffic. It was believed a reduced limit would make entering and exiting Inverkip easier. The ongoing problem of buses not stopping on the trunk road with a speed limit of 60mph was again referred to. It was agreed the secretary would write to the Transport Minister saying that while the CC was disappointed no radical improvements were to take place it was felt a reduction in the speed limit would make that stretch of the A78 safer and would permit through buses to stop.

10. Daff Glen, Inverkip – report of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th of April by Hugh Ritchie.

He said an Inverkip resident had approached the CC concerned about the condition of the Daff Glen. He and Eileen Virtue had met up with representatives of Ardgowan Estate and Charlie Cairns from Lower Clyde Greenspace to discuss how the area could be improved. The Scouts and Inverkip Primary School have also expressed an interest in the project. Hugh Ritchie said the storms had made the Glen worse – some trees blown over and some hanging over the path. He asked Ardgowan Estate if it would put up warning signs. There have now been two meetings and funds are being applied for to improve the area. Hugh Ritchie added that if the project is successful the Estate is interested in rolling it out to other walkways

11. Inverkip Community Facilities – report of the Working Group meeting held on Thursday 19th of April by Telfer Ramage

Inverclyde Council is in negotiation with Ardgowan Estate and the leaseholder to purchase the football pitch as a location for the Community Facility. If the purchase is agreed – perhaps in June – then the go-ahead for the building will be given and it could be ready for use in 2014. A presentation was made by the architect and those attending the meeting were able to make suggestions about the layout of the Facility.

12. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 7th of June 2012 at Wemyss Bay Primary School at 7pm

13. Any other business

Discussion of arrangements to replace the secretary and distribution of workload:
(conducted following the AGM held prior to the Business Meeting but Minuted more appropriately here)

It was agreed the Secretary's role should be divided up. Gordon Roders, not able to attend this meeting, offered to be the central mail handling contact for the CC, recording and responding to incoming post and presumably distributing to members as appropriate – the job description to be defined further. Eileen Virtue suggested a new CC email address in addition to the website address – this was considered a good idea. It was agreed Tracy Bunton would become Minute Secretary, responsible for taking Minutes at meetings and for their distribution. The Secretary wondered if the CC would approve the purchase of plastic boxes for the storage of CC files, documents and reports. A filing cabinet was suggested. Ron Potter said all financial matters (apart from honoraria) are now to be handled by the CC without reference to IC. The question of secure storage was discussed – the Secretary will take advice from IC and David Adams in the meantime would investigate storage at the Community Centre in Wemyss Bay. It was agreed - given many of the documents fall under the terms of the Data Protection Act - that safe, fireproof storage would be preferred.

The secretary was given permission by CC members to 'fillet' the files, discarding documents no longer relevant nor necessary for retention. It was agreed the most desirable outcome – though hugely time consuming – would be over time to scan the files and hold them electronically.

It was agreed the website should continue. Ron Potter said website fees had been paid for the next quarter.

Other matters were discussed – the secretary said she would list her current areas of responsibility and members agreed to put their minds to how best to proceed with the allocation of those duties.

The secretary said she would book venues for CC meetings until the end of the year.

Grate at Everton Road, Inverkip

Telfer Ramage said he'd inspected the blocked grate and said that while the top had been cleared there's still a lot of mud in the pipe.

Flooding at Beatock Place, Inverkip

Telfer Ramage also reported on this ongoing problem. He said the residents involved had had another meeting with Inverclyde Council and he feels they are getting there, to a degree. There is a proposal to install a drain in the field, but when. He feels it's a real shame these residents are having to take this battle on themselves.

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay area clear up:

The secretary referred to two communications received from Wemyss Bay residents – following one from an Inverkip resident the previous month – complaining about litter; general untidiness outside business/shop premises; overgrown pavements and uncut verges. She said the Ardgowan View Residents' Association in Inverkip is planning a litter picking exercise down Finnockbog Road to the Brueacre Junction. She felt it was a matter perhaps the CC could address and it was agreed to put the issue on the Agenda for the June meeting

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9pm.