

# INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Business Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 – Inverkip Hotel – 7.30pm

**For unexpected reasons the Business Meeting due to be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December was not quorate, so another Meeting was rescheduled as above**

**Present:** Innes Nelson; Hugh Ritchie; Ron Potter; Harold McPherson; Liz Roders and Lynne Chambers

**Apologies:** Cllr Gerry Dorrian; Cllr Ciano Rebecchi; Brian McArthur

**In attendance:** Cliff Lyons

Innes Nelson welcomed all attending.

Hugh Ritchie asked fellow Community Councillors to join him in congratulating Innes Nelson who was recently awarded an MBA degree

**3. Police Matters** – Sgt Allan O’Hare and PC Jane Perratt had attended the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December and presented the following crime figures for November:

3 Thefts (not elsewhere classified)

1 Theft - opening a lock fast place (motor vehicle)

2 acts of Vandalism

1 Road Traffic Act Section 143 (no insurance)

1 Road Traffic Act Section 178 (taking motor vehicle without permission)

1 Simple Assault (domestic)

1 Theft by housebreaking

1 Opening a lock fast place with intent to steal

1 Theft by shoplifting

2 Misuse of Drugs Act (possession)

14 crimes – 50% detection rate

The officers reported no particular concerns at the moment and were thanked for their attendance

**4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009 – Matters**

**Arising:**

**Flooding in Inverkip**

Further responses have been received from various politicians to the letters sent by the CC

Response from MSP Jackson Carlaw saying he would be happy to pursue the matter but asked – as Annabel Goldie had done – whether any other MSP was helping the CC as Parliamentary protocol states only one MSP may help a constituent. The secretary was obliged to reply that several were.

Letter from David Cairns MP attaching a letter he had received from Richard Ackroyd, Chief Executive of Scottish Water. Ackroyd's reply confirmed SW is aware the sewerage network is unable to cope in storm conditions and causes external flooding when there is heavy rainfall. He writes of the plan to install the new vented manhole cover which will screen the waste water and alleviate damage to the road surface. Also carry out CCTV survey of the sewerage network to establish if there any new defects that are exacerbating the undercapacity issue. Unfortunately, he says, they don't have funds to carry out any significant capital investment to resolve external flooding – their priority is to relieve internal flooding. He says that while the planned work may mitigate any future flooding it is worth noting external flooding may occur again. Ackroyd says SW is aware of ongoing concerns and is currently arrange a Stakeholder Meeting to discuss the flooding in more detail. His public affair team will contact David Cairns once details of the meeting are finalised.

A response from the Scottish Government's Climate Change and Water Industry Directorate, Water Industry Division, in response to the CC's letters to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing; the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment; the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Public Health. They appreciate sewer flooding is very distressing but in the normal course these issues would be operational matters for SW and Ministers would not become involved. However, some inquiries have been made of SW. Investment objectives for 2006-14 were set in 2005 after extensive consultation. This consultation established that a higher priority was attributed to incidences of internal sewer flooding than external flooding. SW is not currently funded to carry out any significant capital investment to resolve external flooding and investment objectives for 2006-10 did not set SW any targets to meet in respect of external flooding. Objectives for 2010-14 are currently being reviewed and the issue of external sewer flooding is being considered. The Government expects to be able to confirm the objectives within the coming weeks.

As with the current investment programme, objectives which include improvements to drinking water, environment and customer service will have to be accommodated within the overall financial package available to SW. The package will be established in November 2009. The letter refers to Duncan McNeil and SW re the vented manhole cover and CCTV investigation. A Flooding Bill was introduced to Parliament on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Letter from the CC to Annabel Goldie MSP saying the secretary had written to all West of Scotland MSPs and Ministers and noted the Parliamentary protocol requirement. She notes in her reply that a lot is going on, but stands ready to help if possible

Correspondence with Inverkip resident Mike Orobczuk re flooding and his correspondence with Duncan McNeil

Correspondence with John McDonald of Grontmij

Cliff Lyons said he and fellow resident Mike Orobczuk had met with a Scottish Water official in Inverkip to discuss the new vented manhole cover it is intended to install – see above. Messrs Lyons and Orobczuk are of the opinion the vented manhole cover may make matters worse as it is in effect a pressure relief valve. The Scottish Water representative was not a technical man so couldn't comment

#### **Failed reinstatement on Spey Road**

Cllr Dorrian reported that the reinstatement of the road had failed; had been recently reinstated again and that too failed. Stewart Milne Homes are planning to carry out a final reinstatement in the near future

#### **Lack of dog bins in Inverkip**

Cllr Dorrian forwarded the following response from Willie Rennie of Inverclyde Council. Mr Rennie regrets to advise that at present Inverclyde Council doesn't have any bins in stock and will not be able to purchase any until April next year. The budget allocation for the purchase and maintenance of bins is very limited in comparison to the cost of bins, so very few bins are bought and most of the new bins replace old worn out bins that are already in situ. He will however add the locations Cllr Dorrian has identified to the waiting list and allocate bins as a matter of priority from 2009's purchase.

#### **Lease of land extension around Everton to the Scouts**

In a telephone conversation with the secretary, Cllr Rebecchi said he'd heard from Gerard Malone of Inverclyde Council that he'd instructed the Council's Access Officer Rachel Shipley to investigate the situation. She says the extension will not in any way affect the claimed Right of Way, and in fact there does not appear to be a Right of Way at all. There is however a pathway that can be used by all. It was also reported the farmer is very happy with the agreement he has come to on grazing rights. There followed a discussion where it was pointed out that children should be excluded from areas of grazing. Innes Nelson said there was a fence between the field for grazing and the Scout camp. It was also recorded the Community Council is very disappointed it was neither consulted nor informed by Inverclyde Council about the lease, given its very close involvement in the area. Ron Potter observed that the land has not yet been given over to the Council.

#### **Community Council boundaries**

Ron Potter said the matter was still under discussion

The Minutes were proposed as accurate by Harold McPherson and seconded by Ron Potter

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

From Inverclyde Council – Climate Challenge Fund details

From IC– insurance for CC belongings – passed to Ron Potter

From IC– a new sporting grant communities can bid for

From Inverclyde CC Association – notes from the SOA meeting held last month

From IC –a request for feedback from the ASCC conference at Holyrood

From IC – review of school crossing patrol service – disappointingly the site at Main Street and Station Road, Inverkip doesn't meet the criteria to justify the provision of a School Crossing Patroller

From IC – winter maintenance information

IC – Budget update – passed to Hugh Ritchie

Email correspondence with Kirsty Donnolly in Wemyss Bay and Alison Nugent of Inverkip Community Enterprise – re Christmas Switch-on arrangements  
Newsletter from MSP Stuart McMillan

Registration of the CC with the Information Commissioner's Office re Data Protection. It was noted the CC now operates under the auspices of the Data Protection Act

From Inverclyde Licensing Board – Entertainment Centre, Wemyss Bay Caravan Park and Café Melo in Inverkip – applications for Premises Licences

Newsletter from Save your Regional Park

From IC – Financial Strategy document – passed to Hugh Ritchie

Email from Cllr Rebecchi making his apologies and sending festive wishes to the CC

Email from Cllr Rebecchi forwarded from Alan Swinton of Inverclyde Council re road adoptions and winter maintenance in Finbracken Drive and area in Inverkip

Email correspondence between Cliff Lyons and the secretary, re posting of CC agendas. The secretary said in an effort to make the agenda as up to date as possible - while always aiming to post it on the Inverkip noticeboard a week in advance – on the odd occasion it was less than 7 days before the meeting. A standard agenda is sent to Wemyss Bay mid-month. Cliff Lyons said he didn't intend his comments to be

seen as criticism but as a suggestion to increase attendance at CC meetings. It was agreed that a standard agenda would be posted on the CC website. Liz Roders said in addition to the agenda being posted in the Wemyss Bay Community Centre it could now be placed on a noticeboard outside the school by approaching the janitor

Email from Cllr Rebecchi with information from Inverclyde Council re the flooding in Wemyss Bay.

By email – a copy of a letter sent by Cliff Lyons to Community Councillor Liz Roders following a conversation at the CC's November Business Meeting. Innes Nelson said his letter would be responded to in writing

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

Email from Inverclyde Council – re funding

A cheque for £430 had been received from IC

Ron Potter reported the current balance as £348.92

## **7. Planning Matters**

Wemyss Bay – 60 Mountstuart Drive – Certificate of lawfulness in respect of the erection of a conservatory at rear of dwelling house

Wemyss Bay – 1 Brueacre Place – foundation of decking together with relocation of existing 1800mm high timber fence

Wemyss Bay – 5 Kishorn Road – extension to dwellinghouse

Inverkip – 8 Commoncraig Place – erection of rear conservatory

Inverkip – 14 Ardoch Drive – construction of decking in rear garden (in retrospect)

## **8. Argyll Wind Farms**

The Secretary said she had received correspondence from Philip Norris of Cowal and Renewable Energy Sense (CaRES) alerting the CC to three current proposals for wind farms in Argyll – Corlarach Hill, above Innellan – a public inquiry is to be held to decide the appeal by the developers following a unanimous decision by Argyll and

Bute Planning Committee to refuse permission for 14 turbines; Black Craig, above Loch Striven – the developers are appealing the fact the Council planners have not decided their application for 16 turbines and Bishops Seat, above Dunoon, where an application has been made to locate eight turbines. Philip Norris and his colleagues gave support to the CC in its opposition to the proposals to site wind turbines on the Leapmoor above Inverkip and Wemyss Bay, and is keen to alert local residents to the drastic impact the turbines would have on the area's scenic beauty. He says they would be highly visible – particularly from higher ground - from Largs to Gourrock. The secretary sent the information to the Wemyss Bay newsletter where it was printed. The Reporters have said letters of objection to the projects will still count and more information may be found on the CaRES website – [www.cowalwind.com](http://www.cowalwind.com) under 'Objections' or 'Latest News' or on [www.argyllwindfarms.com](http://www.argyllwindfarms.com) Innes Nelson will make an additional contribution to the article and the CC supported the secretary's suggestion that it should be sent to the *Largs and Millport Gazette* and the *Greenock Telegraph* to make the information available to a wider range of people. Innes Nelson said these proposed wind turbines sites were outwith the Strategic Area of Search included in Structure Plans and Local Plans, and the CC would send letters of objection

### **9. Bus Regulation Consultation**

From the Scottish Parliament a consultation document on the proposed Regulation of Bus Services Bill. Ron Potter said the Inverclyde Forum of CCs is interested in this issue and he recently attended a meeting where Eric Stuart, director of bus operations for SPT gave an interesting talk on the funding of different bus routes. Where people are willing to use the bus the SPT will subsidise the route. Where few people use the route it's up to the bus companies whether or not they'll provide a service. Cliff Lyons praised the subsidised late night service from Greenock to Largs. Ron Potter and Lynne Chambers will work together to feed comments into the consultation process

### **10. Wemyss Bay Station**

Following further contact by First Scotrail about the Station, it was agreed that next spring the CC would consider what contribution it could make to the station

### **11. Business Meeting dates in 2009**

Following discussion Ron Potter proposed there should be no CC Business Meeting in January following the rescheduled December meeting, but from February 2009 meetings should be held as usual on the first Thursday of the month - a proposal supported by the CC

### **12. Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

### **13. Any other business:**

Cliff Lyons suggested that in addition to the names and contact telephone numbers sheet passed round at each Business Meeting to those attending, email addresses should be asked for so that information could be sent out in an effort to boost the numbers attending meetings. His suggestion was noted. However in discussion it was agreed that standing room only at CC meetings usually resulted from a burning

issue facing the local community and when that issue was resolved for better or worse numbers attending the meetings decreased. However, the secretary pointed out that contact was still made by local residents via the CC website, phone calls or conversations, and the issues were then pursued on the community's behalf. It was ruefully accepted it was human nature that a personal interest often attracts residents to attend and not all local residents are generally interested in the wider community. It was observed that at some other CC meetings no members of the public attended at all

Cliff Lyons raised the matter of the Remembrance Day Services. He was asked by chairman Innes Nelson if he had been requested or authorised by Cllr Ciano Rebecchi to act on his behalf. Cliff Lyons replied that he had not. He was then advised by Innes Nelson that as no new information had been offered, the matter would be dealt with in writing.

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