

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on Thursday 4th June 2009 at the Inverkip Hotel

Present: Innes Nelson (chairman); Hugh Ritchie (vice-chairman); Ron Potter (treasurer); Brian McArthur and Lynne Chambers (secretary)

Apologies: Harold McPherson; Liz Roders

In attendance: Cllr Gerry Dorrian; Cllr Ciano Rebecchi; Eric Forbes; PC Jane Perratt; PC Billy Gray; Isabel Hunter; Penelope Hof; N. Cupples; Cliff Lyons

Innes Nelson extended a welcome to all attending the meeting. He said he was standing as a candidate in the forthcoming ward by-election and handed over the chair to vice-chairman Hugh Ritchie

3. Police matters

PC Perratt reported the following crimes:

Serious Assaults 2	Detected 1
Breach of the Peace 2	Detected 2
Vandalism 5	Detected 1
RTA offences 3	Detected 3
Assault 3	Detected 2
Theft 4	Detected 1
Theft HB 1	Detected 0
Communications Act 1	Detected 0
Total Reported 21	Detected 10 – Detection rate of 48%

Lynne Chambers asked the officers if they could explain their new 5 week shift pattern. PC Perratt said there were 6 community officers in the Ward, but she would remain the Community Council's contact point. Ron Potter asked, in their absence, how up to date their colleagues were, and PC Perratt said there was only so much they could pass on. Indeed, she said, it should be supervisors who attended the meetings, but they would not have the same knowledge. Further to discussions about anti-social behaviour surrounding the play park at Spey Road, Inverkip, the officers said it wasn't really the playpark that was the focus for youths, but the fields at the gate where youths are camping. When asked about the residents suffering severely from anti-social behaviour, PC Gray said it was the houses closest to the playpark that were affected, and other residents nearby would be unaware of the problem. They said they were liaising with the affected households. The secretary passed on a request for information - could the officers provide statistics for the past two to three months, as to the number of call-outs to anti-social behaviour in the playpark area at Spey Road. PC Gray said he would try to find out the figures. When asked what age the youngest

of the youths might be, the officers said around 12. And they were out all hours, camping overnight. Last weekend both the police and fire brigade had to be called to attend what was described as a book burning ceremony to mark the approaching end of term. The officers said residents at Harbourside had been complaining about fires being lit on the beach causing smoke to blow towards their houses. Also Lady Shaw Stewart had complained about the fires, especially as live trees were being burned. Innes Nelson said years ago locals lit fires on the beach. PC Perratt said the foreshore belonged to Ardgowan Estate. Innes Nelson said only from the high water mark. Hugh Ritchie said there had been a big clear up of the area but the officers reported it was once again covered in plastic bottles and carrier bags containing empty cans. The officers checked their future shift patterns and said they would be able to attend the September Business Meeting – the only one for the remainder of the year. They were thanked for their attendance

4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 7th of May 2009. Matters arising

The secretary said she had replied to the inquiry from Swiss company Astra Trade AG re ownership of Power Station land at Inverkip

The secretary said she had written to Amey inquiring about the re-design/re-engineering of the Bankfoot Roundabout. Amey replied that although the junction has not been highlighted for study they were aware of a number of damage-only accidents, as are Strathclyde Police. It remains their opinion that the predominant cause of these accidents is inappropriate speed on negotiating the roundabout and they are in discussion with the Police regarding measures to encourage a reduction on approach. However, they say, they currently have no instructions to investigate either re-design or re-engineering. This reply rather surprised those attending, as Community Councillors and Inverclyde Councillors were under the impression such work was in hand. Cllr Rebecchi said this was an occasion when MSPs should be approached to contact Transport Scotland. It was also observed that the three month survey Amey had been required to undertake on junctions from Inverkip and Wemyss Bay on to the A78 was to be done during the school holidays. This was felt to be unacceptable. There had been an audit around three years ago and it was thought the statistics from that time may form an interesting comparison. The secretary said she would contact MSPs Stuart McMillan and Duncan McNeil, both of whom have been recently involved in safety matters on the A78, to bring these matters to their attention.

The Minutes were proposed as accurate by Ron Potter, seconded by Brian McArthur

5. Report from Public Meeting – Footpath access - Spey Road/Everton Road, Inverkip – report from Public Meeting held on Monday 1st of June 2009 in Inverkip Primary School

Before the secretary could begin her report Cliff Lyons asked why there had been such short notice for the Public Meeting – was it anything to do with chairman Innes Nelson's political aspirations. Brian McArthur said Cliff Lyons usually complained the CC took too long to undertake business. Cliff Lyons said the *Greenock Telegraph* had indicated a presentation would be made at the Business Meeting on the 4th of June. The secretary said that had been the original intention but that information had been withdrawn and replaced with details of the Public Meeting. He asked when the

notice had been placed on the CC noticeboard, and when the replacement article appeared in the Greenock Telegraph. He was told the replacement article had appeared in the Saturday (30th May) edition of the *Telegraph*. Why wasn't the information on the CC website, he inquired. He was told the CC's webmaster was on holiday. Ron Potter explained when it was realised a presentation at the Inverkip Hotel would be too much of a crush, it was also realised a school let was not available at the school on the 4th of June – the date of the Business Meeting - because of the Euro Elections. The school hall was available on Monday 1st of June. Homes in the Hill Farm development had been leafleted – those homes most affected by the path closure - and Hill Farm resident Allan Marsh was thanked for delivering them. Had the meeting been chaired Cliff Lyons asked, and if so, by whom. It was explained Innes Nelson had chaired the meeting and made a presentation. The secretary said 37 members of the public had attended as had Cllrs Dorrian and Rebecchi. Following the presentation and discussion two votes were taken – there was a unanimous vote in favour of the access path being re-opened, and 25 people voted - with two abstentions - for re-opening even if it meant the playpark would be closed. The CC will now take up the matter with Inverclyde Council. Penelope Hof said she and other residents were grateful for the work the CC was doing on their behalf. Cllr Dorrian sent an email to the secretary saying he would pass on to Head of Planning Fraser Williamson and his boss the depth of feeling expressed at the meeting.

6. Secretary's report and correspondence:

Letter from Kenneth Gibson MSP re Protecting Scotland's Regional Parks Bill
Save Your Regional Park newsletter
Correspondence with Fraser Williamson re changes to planning meeting
From Willie Wilson at Inverclyde Council – information re core grants payment
From Association of Scottish Community Councils – letter and email - looking for new Area Representative
From IC – draft of Inverclyde Alliance Single Outcome Agreement
From the Scottish Advice Service for Additional Support for Learning - information.
It was agreed details should be posted on the CC noticeboard and website
From IC – a report by Corporate Director, Improvement and Performance –
Responding to the Economic Downturn – Action Plan
Receipt from Planning Aid for payment of subscription – passed to the Treasurer
Invitation from IC to chairman, secretary and treasurer to attend the Kirkin' of the Council – Sunday 14th June. The treasurer and secretary plan to attend
From IC – applications for grants
Newsletters from Stuart McMillan MSP
From IC – proposed traffic regulation order – Millhouse Road Bridge, Inverkip
From Scottish Water – notice of Annual Consultative Meeting – Kilmarnock 30th June 5.30-7pm
Letter from the Forestry Commission – Native Woodlands Survey of Scotland – want to know if there are any access restrictions to our woodland. It was agreed the secretary would alert the NWSS to the closed access at Spey Road
Email to website – asking who was responsible for the rusting, dilapidated goalposts at the football pitch in Inverkip. Brian McArthur will speak to Rico Giovanacci
From Willie Wilson, IC – Awards for All
Email from Stuart McMillan MSP – re the response he received to A78 questionnaire

7. Treasurer's Report

Ron Potter reported that he had not as yet received the final instalment of last year's monies, despite details sent to the Finance Department over a month ago. Willie Wilson of IC has just asked the Department to process the current core grants. Cllr Rebecchi said if the CC has complied with all requirements, it should have its money and that he would make inquiries the following morning. Ron Potter reported the balance in the CC's account was £129.73. The councillors recommend when dealing with a council officer they should be copied in and could investigate any delays. Brian McArthur asked if all CCs were in the same position, and was told yes. Ron Potter said the Finance Department waited until the information from all CCs was received instead of working on each as it came in. He said IC claimed they didn't know the ward population. Electoral roll figures had been received from Stuart McMillan's office and Ron Potter had made his own calculations and come up with a higher figure. However, he used the slightly lower figure and put that to Willie Wilson at IC. He had heard from Stuart Jamieson at IC that the amount had been approved, but still no money has been received. He said the problem was that at the end of the financial year the Finance Department would take in to revenue any money left over. £3000 due to active CCs was lost this way. Cllr Rebecchi said the CC shouldn't have to beg – it should get its money. Cllr Dorrian asked if Ron Potter would copy to the two councillors the email he'd sent to Stuart Jamieson, and Ron Potter agreed to do so. If there's a problem with a council officer the councillors can help. The councillors claimed they hadn't been kept informed – they don't receive copies of the CC's Minutes. However it was pointed out the councillors had been in attendance when this issue had been raised at previous meetings. It was agreed the secretary would send copies of the draft Minutes to the Councillors. The secretary said she sent copies of the approved Minutes to the Community Liaison Officer at IC and assumed councillors could access that copy.

8. Planning Matters

From IC – letter re Stewart Milne application – amendment to condition 29 – to inform the CC the application has been granted

Wemyss Bay – Wemyss Bay Primary, Lomond Road – erection of fencing and floodlighting and formation of access and hard standings

Wemyss Bay - 2 Station Cottages, Shore Road - internal alterations to form new bathroom (Listed Building Consent)

9. Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 2nd of July 2009

10. Any other business

Ron Potter asked the councillors if the land previously owned by Stewart Milne at Everton had been transferred to Inverclyde Council. Cllr Rebecchi said this issue had probably been lumped together with other issues affecting the builder and it was likely the matter was currently being attended to. Eric Forbes said in March or April the land swap had been accomplished and the Council's Legal Department will probably be finalising matters

Ron Potter asked Cllr Rebecchi, as a member of the working party, when IC's next meeting on the reform of CCs was to be held. Cllr Rebecchi said he would find out the date and let Ron Potter know

Ron Potter said the Inverclyde Forum of CCs had repeatedly asked Inverclyde Council for a copy of its document showing 'balloons' – circles on a map depicting preferred CC areas. Cllr Rebecchi pointed out that Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council and the other Ward 6 CC, Larkfield, Braeside and Branchton, were mutually content with their boundaries, so IWBC is not affected. But Ron Potter said it affected the amount of money the CC would receive.

Lynne Chambers reported the bin at the recycling area at the Brueacre Junction, Inverkip, had been burned. Cllr Dorrian will pursue

Ron Potter said that Wemyss Bay Road in Wemyss Bay – a private road – was a favourite walk for dog lovers, but there were no dog waste bins. Cllr Rebecchi said that was the problem – it was a private road, and apart from bin collections the Council had no jurisdiction there. However, he would discover if a bin could be installed.

Cliff Lyons asked whether there had been any further thought about changing the location of the CC's Business Meetings. He was told the matter was still under consideration. It was felt it would be helpful to have meetings in Wemyss Bay, but it was reported attendance at CC meetings in Wemyss Bay tended to be poor. The secretary said it was accepted the stairs up to the Rogues Room, where Business Meetings are held at the Inverkip Hotel, were a barrier for some

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