

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Business Meeting Held on Thursday 5th January 2006 In the Inverkip Hotel

Present: Innes Nelson (chair); Ron Potter (vice chair); Cliff Lyons (treasurer); Lynne Chambers (secretary); Hugh Ritchie and Harold McPherson

Apologies: Paul Maloney

In attendance: Cllr Eric Forbes; P.C. Lesley Strachan; Graham Scott; N. Cupples and Jim McIntosh

3 Police matters: PC Lesley Strachan told the Community Council she should have access to the police station situated in the Londis building in Inverkip from Monday 9th January. Her report was as follows:

Disorder – Disturbances 3; Assaults 1; Domestic Incidents 1

Dishonesty – Thefts 2; Thefts from vehicles 2; Thefts of vehicles 1; Housebreaking 2; Suspect persons 3

Traffic – Vehicle escort 4; Vehicles abandoned 5; Road accidents 2; Drunk drivers 6; Traffic other 5; Broken down vehicles 3

Miscellaneous – Damage to property 4; Alarms 3; Fire 2; General complaints 15; Assist members other agencies 1; Sudden death 1; Miscellaneous calls 2; Assist members of the public 2; Test incident 1; Message delivered 3; Constable requires assistance 1

Total number of calls – 75

Reported crime –

Total number of Crime Reports raised 17

Detections 4

Expressed as % 24%

The number of abandoned vehicles was discussed and Cllr Forbes said this is a very complex issue these days. Police are no longer responsible for the removal of such vehicles. In addition, it depends on the type of road where the vehicle is abandoned - trunk roads or local roads - as to where the responsibility for removal lies.

Further discussion took place, following the observation that Inverclyde Councillors Hunter and White are seeking a 30mph speed limit on the coast road from Gourrock to the Bankfoot roundabout – that the 40mph speed limit should be extended from Wemyss Bay to the Bankfoot roundabout. No real conclusion to discussion as various views are held by Council members.

4 Minutes of business meeting held on 1st December 2005 – Matters arising:

Bankfoot roundabout: Cllr Forbes continues to keep an eye on the situation and awaits the Scottish Executive's policy document on large roundabouts. Hugh Ritchie asked if the Scottish Executive said no to a sponsored roundabout whether Inverclyde Council could intervene. Cllr Forbes replied it could not.

Christmas tree lights: Cllr Forbes vowed to get better Christmas lights for Inverkip

Civic Trust: Cllr Forbes reported he had passed on information about Kilmacolm Civic Trust to Alan Cumming

Meeting of Community Council members with Inverclyde Council's Head of Planning Services, Fraser Williamson: Ron Potter asked whether a letter had been sent to Fraser Williamson with the Community Council's recommendations re planning gains. It was stated the letter had not as yet been sent. Cllr Forbes said Fraser Williamson awaited the letter

Community facilities in Inverkip: following the discussion at the Business Meeting of December 2005, it was confirmed that the foremost need for the village is a community hall with comprehensive facilities. A letter will be sent to Fraser Williamson. One of the ideas at a previous discussion had been a community bus, suggested by Hugh Ritchie. Harold McPherson said he believed that under the auspices of the Education Department mini buses were available to the community. Hugh Ritchie will pursue

Outstanding letters: to be written by the Community Council re lack of residents' parking in Wemyss Bay

Proposed bridge at Inverkip Station: Jim McIntosh asked Cllr Forbes whether new drawings for the proposed bridge are now available. Cllr Forbes will check up. There was a discussion as to whether Jim McIntosh, representing The Kyles residents, should write to Network Rail confirming their intention that if the bridge goes ahead the residents will reclaim their parking spaces, leaving no parking at the station.

The Minutes of the Business Meeting of 1st December 2005 were adopted.

5 Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

From Inverclyde Council – Affordable Housing Provision – Consultative Draft Issues Report

Inverclyde Council Report to the Community Committee to consider the Youth Strategy for Inverclyde. Lynne Chambers asked Cllr Forbes whether there are implications for the young people of Ward 20. Cllr Forbes replied, with regret, that such initiatives are aimed at multiple deprivation areas and not places like Inverkip and Wemyss Bay

The Community Council has been put in touch with and is corresponding with ArgyllWindFarm.com as they too – from the other side of the River – have an interest in the proposed application for a windfarm on Leapmoor

From Inverclyde Council – a letter containing the Notice of Intention to Adopt the Local Plan

A letter from Brian Purdie, Head of Performance Management and Policy Development at Inverclyde Council sending the Community Council festive greetings Newsletter from Planning Aid Scotland including their report on the Scottish Parliament's Communities Committee Event

Secretary Lynne Chambers had sent an email to Edward Green of Community Windpower Ltd saying that following the public meeting held in Inverkip on the 23rd of November 2005 and the overwhelming vote rejecting plans for the construction of a windfarm on the Leapmoor, the Community Council at December 2005's Business Meeting had voted to oppose the plan. Two communications were received from Edward Green – one saying how disappointed they were by the Council's decision

and asking for a more detailed explanation of that decision. The second observed that Community Windpower Ltd has not as yet submitted a planning application and before they submitted the application they would like to present a non-technical summary to the Community Council in the hope the Council would make a more informed decision. It was decided that the secretary should write to Community Windpower Ltd saying that there is no objection to them making another presentation but the Council felt their decision was sufficiently informed.

6 Treasurer's report: treasurer Cliff Lyons reported that the balance of the account at 14th December 2005 was £763.52 but a cheque for £150 – to the Christmas entertainer for Inverkip and Wemyss Bay – was to be issued that day, leaving a balance of £613.52

7 Planning matters:

55 Leapmoor Drive, Wemyss Bay – extension to dwellinghouse and erection of new double garage

Paguera, Main Street, Inverkip – installation of replacement windows

Station Avenue, Inverkip – amendment to house type by Inverkip House Ltd

90 Lomond Road, Wemyss Bay – erection of extension to front of dwelling

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 2nd February 2006, 7.30pm at the Inverkip Hotel

Any other business:

It was reported to Cllr Forbes that there was a build up of plastic bags around the recycling facility at the Bruceacre slip road. Cllr Forbes said it was an Inverclyde wide problem and is being addressed.

Cllr Forbes reported Scottish Power now has a strategy for community participation re their proposed development at the Power Station site

Cliff Lyons asked if there is any remedy for the dog fouling that has assumed epidemic proportions, particularly in Main Street, Inverkip. Would fixed penalties make a difference? Cllr Forbes will consider the problem

Cllr Forbes reported that Inverclyde Council has put out to contract drainage work at Langhouse Road, coming from behind the clubhouse to the gully

Cllr Forbes was asked if all outstanding issues regarding the Londis development had now been resolved. He will find out. As to the green lighting illuminating the Londis building – Cllr Forbes will try to discover whether it has a purpose.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm