

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 6th January 2011 in the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm

Present: Ron Potter; David Adams; Brian McArthur; Telfer Ramage and Lynne Chambers

2. Apologies: Hugh Ritchie; Brian Blacklaw and Harold McPherson

In attendance: Cllr Innes Nelson; Sgt Dunsmore and Cliff Lyons

In the Chairman's absence, Ron Potter chaired the meeting. He wished all attending a Happy and Prosperous New Year

3. Police matters:

Sgt Dunsmore made the following report on crime figures in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay in December 2010:

Total number of crimes -	16
(Detections 50%)	
Assault	1
Vandalism	0
Thefts	10
(From vehicles – Inverkip male charged for 4 of them	
Theft and Housebreaking – Wemyss Bay	2)
Complaints – Inverkip	4
Complaints – Wemyss Bay	6
Disturbance calls	2

Sgt Dunsmore said there had been quite a few road traffic accidents during the bad weather

As there had been a fatal accident just beyond the Bankfoot roundabout there was a discussion about the roundabout. Sgt Dunsmore agreed it was a difficult roundabout. He was thanked for his attendance

4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on the 2nd of December 2010. Matters arising:

Email to Caroline Shaw at Inverclyde Council (IC) to inform the Council Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council (IWbcc) had voted to withdraw its objection to the Public Path Diversion Order at Leapmoor Cottage, Inverkip

From Cllr Innes Nelson – an email to IC copied to IWBCB – saying he would not be withdrawing his objection to the Public Path Diversion Order, as above, and a copy of his letter of objection. There was a discussion about the Leapmoor pathway and the Community Council awaits developments.

David Adams brought up the problem of an unadopted lane or footpath in Wemyss Bay, parallel to Lomond Road and next to the woods. He said the surface is starting to break up, being undermined by trees, and there is a water main running under the footpath and streetlights. Cllr Nelson said the lane had to be maintained to a proper standard before IC would consider adopting it. David Adams said what annoyed him was that when the lane was up to standard it wasn't adopted. Cllr Nelson asked David Adams to bring a map showing the lane to the next meeting when the matter would be considered.

An email from Cllr Nelson. A question was raised at December's Business Meeting as to whether people who live on boats can register to vote. The reason for establishing this is that currently the marina at Inverkip has been excluded from the proposed Community Council boundary. Alasdair MacTaggart, Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer for Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board, has replied as follows. He said it had always intrigued him that the Inverclyde Boundary appears to follow the Low Water Mark around the inside of the Kip Marina. There is, perhaps, a case to be made to the Boundary Commission to have this reviewed. He continues – provided they qualify to be registered, there is no reason why people who live on boats in such circumstances cannot register, and, as with Second Homes, there is nothing to prevent an individual registering at two addresses although prosecution awaits anyone who votes more than once at any one election. Assuming that the boat does not have a permanent address, a Declaration of Local Connection can be made – this is an annually renewable certification and details/forms are available from his office (Paisley) or the Greenock office. Such a declaration would require that the applicant give an address where he/she would be living if it were not for their current situation or an address where they have lived in the past or an address where they spend a substantial amount of their time. All of this supposes that the boat spends the majority of its time in the Marina and not on the high seas. Ron Potter said there is an argument that other CCs take in sections of the river and harbour areas.

The secretary completed on behalf of IWBCB and returned to the Scottish Government its survey on the Association of Scottish Community Councils' (ASCC) stakeholders 2010

The Inverclyde Forum of Community Councils (IFCC) had requested two nominations from IWBCB as representatives on the Forum. The names of Hugh Ritchie and Ron Potter were sent to the IFCC

As requested at December's Business Meeting, Sgt Dunsmore forwarded the outstanding crime statistics

David Adams proposed the Minutes as accurate, seconded by Telfer Ramage.

5. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

From IC – papers for the Safe Sustainable Communities Committee meeting on the 18th of January 2011 – IC's draft response to the Scottish Ministers who wish to simplify the rules applicable to the requirements for householders to obtain planning permission for minor and uncontroversial proposals

From IC – paperwork for the above meeting – further to Scottish Ministers undertaking a 12 month review of the planning system following the fundamental changes introduced by the Planning etc (Scotland) Act of 2006 and secondary legislation, the consultation seeks views on implementation issues raised by practitioners – IC’s response

An email from Colin Broadwood, at Transport Scotland in response to IWBC’s email of 10th November re Bankfoot Roundabout and the A78/Main Street, Inverkip junction. A Road Safety Audit of the new lining was undertaken on the 23rd of November and the final report is awaited. Transport Scotland will write on completion of the audit to advise further regarding the outcome of the road safety audit, the issue of re-profiling and additional measures being proposed by Amey. Regarding the northern junction of Inverkip with the A78 trunk road a copy of a letter to Stuart McMillan MSP was attached. It says the junction was re-marked to improve the visibility of the road markings, as well as to reduce potential for conflict between left and right-turning traffic. Amey has undertaken to erect temporary signing as a short-term measure until local drivers become familiar with the junction priority. The new markings are fully compliant with the national standards. All drivers, including those from outwith the location, will therefore be expected to comply with the markings and other signs as they would with any other unfamiliar road layout and under the general guidance of the Highway Code. He also advised the junction layout installed was that which was detailed in Transport Scotland’s report of August 2009. General anger was expressed at the meeting that the introduction of the give way lines at the run off lane from the A78 into Inverkip had created more danger at the junction than had existed before, and that danger is ambiguity. David Adams said a ‘Give Way’ sign was required – in fact he said there should be a sign indicating a ‘Give Way’ was coming up at the junction. Needless to say, Amey has not installed temporary signs. During the bad weather snow had completely obliterated the road markings so for those motorists who hadn’t driven in Inverkip recently there was no indication of the ‘Give Way’. Because the turning lane is so short there are fears that at busy times there may be shunts as motorists will expect the cars ahead to turn directly into Inverkip. The problem for drivers leaving Inverkip to turn right onto the A78 has not been addressed – they are still unable clearly to see oncoming traffic from the right. Unless, as it was observed, cars had cameras on poles as Amey had when monitoring the junction! Of course the camera could record oncoming traffic from its elevated viewpoint. The painted ‘Give Way’ road marking was perceived as a hazard by those attending the meeting. Referring to Bankfoot roundabout – as the results of the Road Safety Audit are awaited - Community Councillors reported that at last June’s meeting with Transport Scotland the issue of the camber on the Gourock side of the roundabout and standing water at the Cloch Road end were to be addressed. The secretary was asked to contact Transport Scotland to make these points known

From IC – documents for IC’s Community Council Reform meeting to be held on the 14th December 2010 – documents passed to Ron Potter

From IC – Winter Service – Policy and Procedures

Email to IC planner David Ashman copied to the secretary by Telfer Ramage – re unresolved problems on the Stewart Milne Hill Farm site and the condition of the Berfern Plantation. There has been no response from David Ashman and Telfer Ramage will pursue the matter

Email to John Arthur at IC informing him of the vote at IWBCC's AGM that office bearers were re-elected *en bloc*

Papers for a special meeting of IC held on 14th December 2010 including the Council's Financial Strategy 2010/11-2017/18

Papers for IC's Audit Committee meeting on the 11th of January 2011

From IC – correspondence re the cancellation of the Christmas tree lights switch-on ceremony at Inverkip – Wemyss Bay Community Association proceeded with its event and the clown/entertainer paid for by IWBCC performed there. Ron Potter suggested the entertainer be provisionally booked for December 2011. The secretary will follow up

From IC – an email to say Inverkip Primary School has gained its third Eco Schools Scotland Green Flag – a great achievement. The secretary asked IC's Education Services' Quality Improvement Manager to extend IWBCC's congratulations to the school

From Planning Aid for Scotland details of exclusive evening events for Friends of Planning Aid – one to be held in Glasgow on the 30th March 2011 to include access to planning professionals; discovering what town and country planners do on a daily basis and how they make their decisions and an update on PAS programmes and activities

2 ASCC Online Bulletins – one including an item saying the Association has received support from Parliamentarians from all Scottish political parties to support inclusion of promises to beef up Community Councils in their election manifestoes for Holyrood in 2011 – the secretary will forward copies of the Bulletins

Forwarded by Cllr Rebecchi, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Tactical Assessment

Email from Charles Bell of Sasanbell thanking those who attended the Design Workshop for the proposed Community facility in Inverkip in December. Excellent feedback was received, he says

From IC – a letter to say the Council is currently commissioning services for the year 2011-2012, subject to budget agreement and the appropriate resources being available – these services will replace existing services previously funded through the Fairer Scotland Fund, all of which will terminate on March 31st 2011. Assistance is being sought for the process and a consultation event will be held on Monday the 17th of January 2011 at 6pm. It is suggested this is a key opportunity to shape future service provision and delivery, targeted at alleviating poverty and reducing inequalities within Inverclyde.

Newsletter from Stuart McMillan MSP

From NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde – December newsletter

Email to Michael Lynch, Inverkip to say IWBCC would not be supporting his approach to the factors at Ardgowan Estate re deer fences because no recent incident could be recalled

From Inverclyde Elderly Forum – several copies of its newsletter

Treasurer Ron Potter sent an objection re CC boundaries to IC re the Review of Community Councils. He asked Cllr Nelson what had happened to his submission at the meeting held by IC on the 14th of December 2010. Cllr Nelson said it had gone forward to the meeting and currently the response is the group just note what is happening and no decisions are taken yet. It was the first consultative session and then proposals and suggestions are discussed and go on to a second consultative

period. Evidently minutes weren't taken at the meeting, a situation councillors are trying to rectify.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Ron Potter said the CC's balance was £855.13

7. Planning Matters:

Wemyss Bay – field at Kellybank Cottage, Kelly Road – installation of wind turbine – papers for the Planning Board meeting on the 5th January 2011. Recommendation is the application be granted and it was agreed by the Planning Board. Ron Potter observed that while the CC had not objected to this proposal it could not be assumed the CC would not object to any further proposals. Each application will be considered on its merit.

Inverkip – Old Police House – change of use from police house/station to restaurant – papers for the Planning Board meeting as above. Recommendation is the application be granted subject to conditions but the recommendation was overturned by Councillors and the application refused. Should the applicant wish to appeal, that appeal would go to the Scottish Government Reporters

Further to Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council's objection to the application to erect wind turbines in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park notice has been received from the Park Authority to say Scottish Ministers have appointed Reporters to examine the Finalised Draft Local Plan

From the Scottish Government – a letter to say the planning appeal re the Wings Law, Kilbirnie Wind Farm application has been withdrawn and consequently the public local inquiry has been cancelled

From the Scottish Government – a letter to say the planning appeal re the erection of wind turbines at Glenlora House, Lochwinnoch has been dismissed by the Reporter and the planning permission refused

Inverkip – 33 Cullen Crescent – erection of extension to side of dwellinghouse – granted subject to conditions

Inverkip – 3 Sandend Place – alterations and extension to dwellinghouse – granted

Inverkip – 9 Fraserburgh Place – new single storey side extension with rear sunroom

Inverkip – 1 Kip Park, Main Street – Sainsbury – installation of external roller shutter – granted subject to conditions

Wemyss Bay – 48 Leapmoor Drive – erection of decking (in retrospect) – granted subject to conditions

Inverkip – Area 6 – Hill Farm – sales cabin and associated parking, signage and flagpoles by Redrow Homes

From IC – notice that the next Local Review Body meeting will be held on Wednesday the 2nd of February 2011

Inverkip – Hill Farm (areas 8 and 9) – substitution of house types on 25 plots and the creation of 4 additional plots (Amendment to planning permission IC/06/008 and planning application 10/0225/IC) – granted subject to conditions

Inverkip – Ivy Cottage – Surgery – Main Street - replacement windows

Inverkip – Bridgedaff Cottage, Main Street – construction of rear extension and extension to existing dormer - refused

Further to applications by Stewart Milne Homes for additional houses at Hill Farm, the secretary spoke to IC planner David Ashman. He said the additional houses were

smaller types and the agreed 'footprint' of the development had not been extended – the smaller houses are to be incorporated in the already approved area. It was noted work was due to start on the bridge at Inverkip Station in February/March 2011

8. Date and time if next meeting:

It was agreed there would be no meeting in February and the next monthly Business Meeting will be held on Thursday the 3rd of March 2011 in Inverkip

9. Any other business:

Cliff Lyons wondered if the replacement of stolen wheelie bins could be confirmed. At December 2010's meeting Community Councillor Harold McPherson had said there was no need to get an incident number from the police if a bin is stolen as IC would replace it anyway. Cliff Lyons said that was contrary to what he'd been told. The secretary said she would contact IC's Cleansing Department and ask for clarification of the situation and whether black, brown and blue bins would all be replaced.

Cliff Lyons then brought up the issue of salt and sand bins. He lives in flats in Inverkip where there are elderly residents and the area in front of the building has been treacherous in the recent bad weather. When he phoned IC he was told sand and salt was no longer being made available to individuals from the Pottery Street depot and the grit should be taken from bins. Cliff Lyons also said the pavement on Main Street was dangerous and it was agreed – as he had had to hunt around the village to find grit bins – the secretary should contact IC asking for two bins to be located on Main Street

Ron Potter observed the CC had failed to elect a vice chairman at the December 2010 AGM and the matter could be resolved at the March meeting. As the secretary is due to be away for two months nominations with a seconder should be sent to Hugh Ritchie and Ron Potter

Ron Potter also said he was conscious the CC had no distinctive letter heading. Inverclyde Community Council Forum has a nice, plain one and he asked if members would consider possible formats and designs and bring ideas to the March meeting.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.