

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2006 at the Inverkip Hotel

Present: Innes Nelson; Ron Potter; Paul Maloney; Brian McArthur; Hugh Ritchie; Lynne Chambers

Apologies: Harold McPherson

In attendance: Cllr Eric Forbes; Police Sgt Norrie Barnes; PC Jane Perratt; Fran McIntosh; Jim McIntosh; N Cupples and Cliff Lyons

3. Police Matters: PC Perratt reported the following statistics from Inverkip and Wemyss Bay:

- 6 cases of vandalism
- 1 road traffic offence
- 1 underage drinking
- 2 thefts from cars
- 1 attempted theft of a car
- 2 thefts elsewhere

Brian McArthur said he was concerned about underage drinking in Inverkip. PC Perratt replied there was a positive move against underage drinking across Inverclyde. There was feedback from the public meeting held by the police in Inverkip on the 23rd of November. Ron Potter said at the liaison meeting concern had been expressed about the new call centre. He said there was an incident number generated per call and the caller was entitled to have it.

Sgt Barnes informed the meeting he was retiring as from the 22nd of December. The Community Council thanked him for his contribution and wished him well in his retirement

4. Minutes of the Business Meeting held on the 2nd of November 2006 –

Matters arising:

Bankfoot roundabout: Cllr Forbes reported the findings of a stage four audit by Amey. It appears there are problems on both northbound and southbound approaches with both surfaces and camber at fault. Remedial work is required. Cllr Forbes said he would pass a copy of the report to the secretary

Planning Aid workshop: both Innes Nelson and Ron Potter attended the workshop and found it interesting

Inverclyde Council on Disability invitation: Ron Potter had attended their meeting. Cllr Forbes said he would pass a copy of Inverclyde Council's draft disability scheme to Ron Potter

Christmas lights: Ron Potter, who had organised and liaised on behalf of the Community Council with Inverclyde Council and Wemyss Bay Community Association reported the clown had been much appreciated by the children. His fee had been £200. It was agreed that appeared expensive but Ron Potter said it had been extremely difficult to find a performer who wasn't already fully booked. He suggested in future a performer should be contacted in September or October.

Dog fouling: Hugh Ritchie said that following a residents' meeting at Kip Village there were loads of plastic bags on show. Cllr Forbes said the Council had a list of places where dog waste bins were needed and the Council is working through the list. The Minutes were approved

5. Secretary's Report and correspondence:

Postwatch Scotland's newsletter, dealing with the future of rural post offices

A background paper giving a brief overview of the emerging findings from the consultation exercise reviewing community councils by Anna Gilbert of the Scottish Executive was received

Inverclyde Elderly Forum Pensioners' Action Group newsletter

A copy of a letter sent to Cllr Forbes by chartered surveyors Walker Fraser Steele on behalf of O2 (UK) Limited was sent to the Community Council. It dealt with a proposal

for the installation of street furniture at Main Street Inverkip near the recycling area and Kip Park. Cllr Forbes said he'd just received the letter himself and would inquire further.

An email was received from Brian Purdie of Inverclyde Council saying he was leaving the Council. He thanked all for their co-operation over the years and sent best wishes.

An email was received from Nigel Willis of the Ladymoor Group saying an extension to the windfarm at Dalry was planned and asking if the Community Council would be lodging an objection. It was agreed it would. The Council was reminded an exhibition was planned at the Wemyss Bay Hotel on the 6th of December by West Coast Energy who plan a 14 turbine wind farm at Corlarach in Argyll, directly across the river from Inverkip. Members said they would try to visit the exhibition. Cliff Lyons said successful wind farms were located offshore – e.g. Denmark and Holland. However he pointed out that the depth of water around the UK coastline made such developments difficult and expensive. Lynne Chambers said that a report submitted to Inverclyde Council's Environment and Community Protection committee considered the review of Charter Aims for Clyde Muirshiel Park. In the report it said 'As it is not the intention of this revision of Charter Aims to signify a shift in the Park Authority's position on windfarms, the Park Manager recommends the alteration achieved by the addition of the word 'environmentally' as proposed by some respondents'. Cllr Forbes will find out more information.

An email was forwarded to the Community Council from a group – Stop Climate Chaos - sent by their Scottish Co-ordinator Ruth Cameron. The Council decided it needed to know more about the group

6. Stewart Milne application update: The Community Council wrote to Inverclyde Council's Chief Executive with final objections to the proposal, and the letter was delivered on the eve of the meeting of the Planning and Traffic Management Committee. That letter and two other letters of objection – one from CC vice chairman Ron Potter and one from Jim McIntosh of the Kyles Residents' Association – were presented to the Committee. Head of Planning Services Fraser Williamson said not one of the objections – despite the failure to install a copy of the committee papers and report in Inverkip Library – would prevent the application going ahead. The application was unanimously approved by the Committee. The application will go to other committees for consideration of the implications of the maintenance of the bridge and the dispensation to be sought from the Department for Transport for the proposed erection of a bridge which would not comply with the Disability Discrimination Acts. Jim McIntosh said he was surprised there had not been much discussion of the application – only three councillors of the seven in attendance spoke. Cllr Forbes, convener of the committee, had been unable to attend the meeting because of a family funeral. Jim McIntosh said Cllr Forbes had been unable to speak before the meeting but asked him how he now saw the application and how could he justify it to the community. Cllr Forbes said a great deal of hard work had been done by Council officers on the first two bridges that had been proposed. From the beginning he had been against the urban sprawl he saw the first location of the application causing, and supported the bringing together of the village. He said that in the draft Local Plan of 2002, before the Lib Dems came to power in Inverclyde, there was a footbridge. Cllr Forbes said he had supported the location of the new application and the bridge on the grounds of connectivity. Those who attended the meeting pointed out that at the outset of the meeting of the Planning and Traffic Management Committee Head of Planning Services had said the proposed bridge was not about connectivity. Cllr Forbes maintained that the currently proposed bridge is the 'best we can get'. He said he was having a meeting with Inverclyde Council on Disability. The Community Council felt it should have a meeting with ICOD. Jim McIntosh said he too would be seeking a meeting with ICOD. Cllr Forbes said he hasn't changed his opinion – it's the best we're going to get. Fran McIntosh said that despite a petition signed by one thousand and thirteen people still Inverclyde Council had ridden roughshod over the wishes of Inverkip residents. A general discussion ensued. Jim McIntosh asked Cllr Forbes if he would have been – had he been able to attend the meeting – mindful to support the application. Cllr Forbes replied that he would. Jim McIntosh asked if there had been a road safety audit. Cllr Forbes said he would find out. Jim McIntosh said that Planning Officer David Ashman had told him there was no allowance for grit in the proposed £98,000 maintenance allowance. Hugh Ritchie asked, now the application had been approved and the planning gain amount improved to £600,000, would the total amount come to Inverkip for community facilities. Cllr Forbes said the cash would be

lodged with Inverclyde Council and it was up to the Council to decide how to disburse the money. However, Cllr Forbes assured those present he will make sure all the money comes to Inverkip. He will try to find out at what stage of the development planning gain funds are released and will get a statement re planning gain. Ron Potter asked Cllr Forbes if he was happy all the information in the application report was accurate. Cllr Forbes said he had to have faith and trust in the Council officers. Innes Nelson asked how long it would take to get a dispensation to build a non-compliant bridge. Jim McIntosh informed him around two to three months. Cliff Lyons said Network Rail had had to pay £1.171 million pounds approximately for a wayleave at Inverurie. Jim McIntosh said he expected this wayleave to be around the same. Cliff Lyons said Network Rail got the money for doing nothing – Inverclyde Council Taxpayers may be paying for the bridge. Cllr Forbes was asked how he felt to be part of only the second Council in Scotland to own a railway bridge, and the financial implications. Is it wrong, asked Cllr Forbes. Jim McIntosh asked if detailed costings would be provided to the public. Cllr Forbes said this would be considered by the Policy and Strategy Committee and as far as he was aware it would be made public. He will be guided by officers as to when the report for the Committee will be made available to the public. Cllr Forbes said the £98,000 offered by the Milne Group for the maintenance of the bridge will be considered by the Council's surveyors and they may say it would take more money. Ron Potter said the fact the report to the Planning and Traffic Management Committee hadn't been lodged in Inverkip Library in time for local residents properly to consider its implications had been brushed aside by Head of Planning Services Fraser Williamson at the Committee meeting. Cllr Forbes said the department responsible had had their fingers burned, but it wasn't enough to defer the application for one more month. Paul Maloney said he accepted it was a mistake but it only favoured one side.

7. Proposed Inverkip Community Facilities: It was reported there had been a meeting between representatives of Inverkip Community Enterprise (ICE) and Community Council members and both groups were moving forward. Cllr Forbes was asked to set a date for the establishment of the forum to take the project onwards. The Minutes of the meeting had not been circulated, but a copy was deposited with the secretary. She will approach ICE's secretary to ask for the Minutes to be forwarded to her by email for distribution to Community Council members. She will also ask for a copy of ICE's constitution.

8. Community Council Notice Board: The secretary agreed to clear out the notice board, which now has had a new lock – the keys to be held by the chairman, the vice chairman and the secretary. Advertisements may be placed with the secretary or any member of the Community Council, and will be charged at £10 per quarter for an A6 size

9. Review of Wemyss Bay Community Centre: as Harold McPherson was not in attendance at the meeting the matter was deferred again

10. Treasurer's Report: following a robust correspondence between acting treasurer Ron Potter and the Bank of Scotland dealing with their incompetence, he was awarded £120 by the bank as a gesture of goodwill towards his travelling expenses for multiple visits to the bank. Ron Potter reported the Council's current balance is £1,612.79

11. Planning Matters:

31 Findhorn Crescent, Inverkip – alterations and extension to dwellinghouse

18 Primrose Avenue, Inverkip – alterations and extension to garage to form living accommodation

Wemyss Bay Primary School – demolition of single storey extension and replacement with two storey extension

7 Cedar Walk, Wemyss Bay – erection of conservatory

Wemyss Bay pier, Wemyss Bay – replacement of roof sarking boards and slates

5 Morar Road, Wemyss Bay – upper floor extension at rear and replacement of existing garage with an attached garage

12. Date and time of next meeting: the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 4th January 2007

13. Any other business:

Community Council website: the secretary asked if she should send details of the Council's procedural changes to the website in addition to posting them on the notice board. It was agreed she should. Should Minutes of business meetings continue to be sent to inverkip.com and the Wemyss Bay website. It was agreed they should.

Meeting with Greenock doctors: the secretary reminded members she had emailed them with a request from a group of Greenock doctors who wish to meet with members of the CC. It was agreed she should try to arrange an evening meeting and report to the CC.

Cliff Lyons asked if copies of Minutes of the Community Council's business meetings should be lodged in Inverkip Library. Lynne Chambers said she would contact the Library and if the librarian was agreeable would email Minutes to her so they may be available there.

Cliff Lyons asked if those attending realised Inverkip's Christmas tree had been vandalised, bulbs broken and some thrown at Marine Court windows. Last year's Christmas tree had also been vandalised. Cllr Forbes revealed the shocking statistic that Inverkip's tree was the most vandalised in Inverclyde and has been for years.

Cllr Forbes said there had been an inspection of the junction in Wemyss Bay where a schoolchild was injured in an accident. Amey reported that between January 2003 and December 2005 there had been four accidents at the junction – all of them slight, and between January 2001 to 2006 there had been six accidents – five slight and one serious. It was therefore concluded no reshaping is required at the junction.

The meeting ended at 10.10pm.