

**WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2008 at 7.00PM
WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present:	Kirsty Donnelly	Ann-Marie Cockburn
	Elaine Blue	Denise Anderson
	Iain Buchan	Michele Barrett
	Donna Galvin	Jenny Eaton
	Billy Harrison	Jackie Watt
	Alex Hardie	Joseph Craig
	Willie Wilson (Inverclyde Council)	Cheryl Cairns
	Jill Pearson	George McLeod
	Ian Hutchison	Lynn McConnachie
	Julia Gibson	Marion Maclean
	Lorna Bradley	Jean Kerr
	Edna McKillop	Roddy McAskill
	David Innes	Janet Innes
	Jane Morris	Allison Battley
	Suzanne Cunningham	Kenny Wilson
	William Rice	Steven Watson
	John Reid	Tom McClurg
	Joan McClurg	Ann Reid
	Pauline Jackson	Yvonne Stirling
	Linzi Lynch	Juliane Neilson
	Lynsey Halliday	Heather Miscandlon
	David Miscandlon	Cathy Fullerton
	Scott Campbell	Nicola Campbell
	Anne Weir	Margaret Buchan
	Martin Thomson	Pamela McKellart
Apologies:	Pamela Noble	Bobbie McCabe

Welcome

Kirsty Donnelly in the chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for the tremendous turnout at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

Willie Wilson from Inverclyde Council advised that the AGM for the Association was held on 26th October and that the Committee and one other person from the Community. Willie advised that the Council have two ways of looking at this. Either the Community are not very happy with what is going on because only one person turned up the other is that the Community are absolutely delighted with what is going on and are saying to the Committee that they are doing a great job. Willie confirmed that if the first was true then the Committee were potentially going to have to hand the keys back and ask Inverclyde Council to take over the running of the Centre – Willie confirmed that this is not something that the Council would want as they would merely run the Centre as a letting facility. Willie advised that as far as he was concerned he has the answer he hoped to get ... given the turnout and obvious support of the community for the Committee and the Community Centre going forward.

Willie advised that the remainder of the EGM would be like the AGM held on 26th October to enable everyone present to find out what the Committee had been doing for the last year and to elect

sufficient Committee members to allow the Committee to continue to run the Community Centre and avoid the running of the Centre being handed back to the Council.

Annual Report 2007/2008

Kirsty reiterated the details provided at the Annual General Meeting held on 26th October 2008 which confirmed that once again this has been a very successful year for the Community Association. The Community Centre, one of the busiest in Inverclyde with regular lets, including the, Tiny Tots, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Junior and Senior Bible Clubs, Youth Group, Dance classes, Judo, Karate, Football and Sunday School. Kirsty advised that the Nursery, as discussed at last year's AGM, have now moved out of the Community Centre and are within their new facility in the newly refurbished School. The Committee are attempting to fill these lets and in recent months a few new lets including Yoga, Jo Jingles and Tae Kwon Do have started as well as being used for Brownie Country Dancing rehearsals. Outwith the times of these lets numerous one off bookings fill most of the remaining space and the ability to hire the centre, complete with bouncy castle or disco, for birthday parties continues to be popular and most weekends a party takes place on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings. In addition to parties and various meetings, other irregular lets have included parliamentary surgeries for both local MPs and MSP's and used again as a Polling Station.

Throughout the year a number of free lets and monetary donations were given for charitable fundraising events and this is something which we will hopefully continue to offer.

The Annual Gala also surpassed those of previous years, with a little help from the weather this year, and once again it was decided to extend the event over three days starting on the Friday with a family themed fancy dress and music evening. On Saturday we had our traditional Gala Day, with lots of stalls, entertainment, displays, sideshows and fairground attractions that proved popular with young and old alike. Many more user groups ran stalls than in previous years, which, in addition to raising their profile within the village, also provided a welcome boost to their own individual funds. Sunday was turned over to the Ardgowan Football Development's Annual Prize giving, displays and tournament. An undertaking of this sort depends on an army of volunteers and by the time of the Gala the community had pulled together to provide a willing team of helpers although a lot more or helpers would make things a lot easier. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all on the committee who worked tirelessly for months in advance to ensure that everything ran smoothly on the day and made the gala the success that it was.

At the Annual Christmas Lights switch on as usual, Inverclyde Council provided tea, coffee and mince pies for the adults and juice and crisps for the youngsters and our thanks must be extended to them. However the Association decided to boost the festive cheer by serving mulled wine and shortbread and having Santa in his fabulous grotto handing out 250 Christmas lucky bags to the children resulting in around 700 people congregating in the centre after the switch on generating a real community spirit. Our thanks are also extended to the Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council for providing a children's entertainer at this event. All monies raised at this event this year was donated to Wemyss Bay Primary's Malawi project where they have twined with a School in Malari – we were able to donate stationary and equipment for 10 teachers and all 1100 pupils.

Eila and Ken Roberts stepped down as Editors of the Village News and Michele Barrett has taken over this role with me as her assistant and Iain Buchan making up the adverts. Gill Pearson has taken over distribution of the Village News. My thanks go to everyone involved.

My thanks are extended to those who held the positions of Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Asst Treasurer, and Facilities Manager up to the end of the financial year 31st March 2008, Ian Buchan, Elaine Blue, Cheryl Cairns and Pamela Noble.

Finally thanks must be extended to everyone involved with the Community Association, whether committee members, user groups, gala volunteers or members of the local community who make use of the centre or attend special events. Without all of these people we would not have an Association because we would not have a community.

Cheryl Cairns confirmed details from the AGM held on 26th October 2008:- that at the end of the previous financial year the Association had £35,002.27 cash in the bank and by the end of the financial year 2007/2008 there was £36,915 cash in the bank. Cheryl confirmed that Gala income was £11,630 although expenses were £13,245 – resulting overall in a £1,614 loss for the Gala. Expenses for the printing of the Village News were just under £6,880 and income was £6,400 – resulting in an overall loss. Gas and electricity costs for the year were £4,261.38. Hall rental income was £12,766 and expenditure was £9,110 making a profit of £3,656. Income for the year was £30,498 and expenditure was £31,652. Main expenses for the year were hall maintenance, Gala, Village News and towards new equipment for the Disco – we received a £500 from the Community Police who chose the Association as a worthwhile cause and this money was put towards new disco equipment. A copy of the Accounts audited by Rosalind Woolard are available for anyone wanting to view them.

Kirsty explained that a steering group has been set up, headed by Iain Buchan, to deal with trying to get the decision re. the AstroTurf park turned over and had recently reached agreement with the Council on what facilities the community would be getting and work should be starting in June next year. It was confirmed that the steering group works under the Association's umbrella and therefore if the Association had to fold the steering group would also have to fold. Iain also confirmed that the steering group were looking into extending the Centre with the possibility of putting a gym into the Centre and also into the possibility of getting a MUGA (multi use games area) at the back of the Centre but if the Centre is handed back to the Council and the Association has to fold then the steering group cannot take these ideas forward.

The Committee then officially stood down and the meeting was then passed to Willie Wilson of Inverclyde Council. Willie Wilson again congratulated the Association on their efforts over the last year. Willie confirmed that the Council look at the Centre as one of the most well organised and run Community Associations in Inverclyde and that the Council hoped that the Committee would continue with new members coming on board to learn from them and eventually take over from the existing Committee.

Willie Wilson then asked for nominees for the position of Chairperson - Kirsty was nominated by Elaine Blue and seconded by Denise Anderson and was again elected as Chairperson. Elaine Blue was nominated as Secretary by Kirsty Donnelly and seconded by Michele Barrett. Iain Buchan was nominated as Vice-Chair by Michele Barrett and seconded by Kirsty Donnelly. Cheryl Cairns confirmed that due to family commitments she would not be able to continue in her role as Treasurer and therefore a new Treasurer would be needed to allow the Committee to function. Edna McKillop confirmed that she would be willing to take this role on and was proposed by Iain Buchan and seconded by Denise Anderson. Pamela Noble was nominated as Assistant Treasurer by Kirsty Donnelly and seconded by Denise Anderson. Kirsty confirmed that at present Iain Buchan was Vice-Chair, Facilities Manager and also does the adverts for the Village News. The Committee hoped that someone would be willing to take the role of Facilities Manager on – Alex Hardie confirmed that he would be willing to take this role on and this was proposed by Kirsty Donnelly and seconded by Elaine Blue. Kirsty advised that as well as her role as Chairperson she was also the Letting Secretary and it was opened to the community to see if anyone would be willing to take on the position of Letting Secretary – Pauline Jackson confirmed that she would be willing to take this role on and was proposed by Elaine Blue and seconded by Michele Barrett. Five committee members were re-elected as Pamela Noble, Jenny Eaton, Annemarie Cockburn, Michele Barrett and Denise Anderson although it was noted that additional Committee members could be nominated at a later stage.

Before going any further Kirsty confirmed that Paul McConnachie has confirmed that he will audit the Association's books next year and thanked Paul for this.

Kirsty confirmed that there were a multitude of jobs and tasks which need to be filled. Parent group representatives were needed – this is essentially a parent whose child attends one of the user

groups who can come along to monthly meetings and update the Committee on anything and would be able to then take back any information to the user group from the meeting. Another example of this is grant applications. The Committee no longer have a member who is able to take on the role of looking into and applying for grants and it would be great if there was someone in the village with the knowledge and capability to do this.

Kirsty confirmed that sheets would be passed round towards the end of the EGM and asked if anyone able to give up some of their time – whether it be to attend meetings on a monthly basis, take on a particular task or merely be added to the bouncy castle rota – could add their contact details together with a note of what they would be willing/able to do.

Kirsty then asked if anyone had any other business to be brought up or any questions. It was asked if there is a certain length of time within the constitution for members to serve of the Committee – it was advised that at present there was nothing in the constitution but it may be something that we should look at putting in.

It was also confirmed that our next meeting would take place after the EGM.

This brought the EGM to a conclusion.