

# INVERKIP & WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Business Meeting Held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005 In the Inverkip Hotel

**Present:** Ron Potter (vice-chair); Cliff Lyons (treasurer); Hugh Ritchie; Harold McPherson; Lynne Chambers

**Apologies:** Innes Nelson (chair); Lorraine Marshall (secretary); Paul Maloney

**In Attendance:** Councillor Eric Forbes; Fran and Jim McIntosh; Julia McLellan; Isabel Hunter; Andy Lynch

Ron Potter welcomed all present. At 7.30pm the meeting was opened

**3 Police matters:** No police officer was in attendance and no crime figures had been submitted to the Community Council

However Cliff Lyons reported that a window of the Scouts' van had been damaged, though nothing stolen. And what appeared to be underage drinkers had been causing a nuisance on the A78 bridge. The incident was reported

### **4 Minutes: Matters Arising**

**Inverkip Library:** Cllr Forbes reported that faulty computers in Inverkip Library had been fixed by the Tuesday following the last Community Council meeting.

As to staffing the Library, he said a job dispute was not helping, but the matter is being actively pursued.

Ron Potter said it was annoying to arrive at the Library to find a notice saying the Library was not open that day, without prior warning.

**Hill Cottage:** Cllr Forbes said that Mr Saurin had met with Inverclyde Council's Legal Department and had been informed of the Council's view re the public right of way. Cllr Forbes said that it was Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council chair Innes Nelson who, two months ago, had brought up the use of vehicular traffic and said he would produce photographs as proof. The issue is on hold until the photographs are produced to Inverclyde Council's Head of Planning Fraser Williamson.

**Recycling:** On hold until site visit.

Cllr Forbes said that as the roll out of bins continued in the Inverkip and Wemyss Bay area the Council had received 111 calls – 51 to say they hadn't received bins as yet and some requesting smaller blue bins or an additional brown bin.

**Buses:** Cllr Forbes and Cliff Lyons had attended a two hour-long meeting with representatives of the Scottish Executive; SPT; Police; a road engineer and an Amey representative. Cliff Lyons said he would reserve his comments until the outcome of the meeting was known. There appears to be a lot of doubt about A78 bus pull-ins. A survey will be conducted on the junction at the east end of the village. As to speed limits – it has been observed that motorists average 53-55 m.p.h. on the A78 – as the road bears a 60m.p.h. limit – and that limit will remain on a trunk and by-pass road. Drivers have an expectation and drive to the limit. The apparent pull-in on the Brue Acre bridge was mentioned and noted. Cllr Forbes will send a letter to all participants at the meeting seeking a response within two weeks.

Ron Potter asked when there are deliberations on the cost of a bus pull-in, would it be helpful to discover the cost of the recent pull-in constructed at McInroy's Point. However Cllr Forbes says SPT claims all such constructions vary in price – e.g. land acquisition, and that a ballpark figure was difficult to come up with as a comparison. Cliff Lyons observed it was interesting that at the meeting it was asked who has overall responsibility in these issues – there was no answer to that.

**Main Street at Hotel:** Ron Potter asked about the water pipe in Main Street in front of the Inverkip Hotel. Cllr Forbes responded that the situation is in the hands of Scottish Water. If the pipe bursts, the Council will repair and bill Scottish Water. Cliff Lyons said that the corner of Langhouse Road where there was new tarmac had been dug up again. Isabel Hunter said she thought it was the third time this year. Jim McIntosh asked if Scottish Water is accountable to the Scottish Executive, could they exert pressure. Cllr Forbes said he will try to access Scottish Water and copy his letter to Scottish Executive minister Ross Finnie. It was confirmed the Fire Brigade is responsible for the maintenance of fire hydrants.

**Londis:** Jim McIntosh inquired about the condition of the pavement near the Londis store, which still appears to be substandard. Cllr Forbes said that the proprietor was working through what was required of him to upgrade the area to a tolerable standard for adoption by Inverclyde Council. However, he would check on the situation. Cllr Forbes also reported that there was a contract out for white line marking – Langhouse Road and the Londis slip road.

Ron Potter said he was pleased to see that the patch near the A78 bridge had been properly repaired. He also asked Cllr Forbes who was responsible for the road surface on the approach to the IBM slip road on the A78, which is breaking up. Cllr Forbes said Amey was responsible.

**Councillor Eric Forbes:** Cllr Forbes raised the following issue – in the minutes of the Community Council meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 it was noted under **13/3 Land Swap/Scout Camp** that H Ritchie advised that Cllr Forbes had 'misguided the interpretation of the situation of the possible Scout Camp closure, should the land swap not take place, when this subject was raised at the full Inverclyde Council meeting'. In the minutes of the Community Council meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> April 2005 under **Matters Arising: 13/3 Landswap** it states – 'Cllr Forbes advised that he had quoted from Mr Henderson's report on the Local Plan when he spoke at the Council meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February'. Cllr Forbes felt the minute did not completely reflect the agreement reached at the April meeting of the Community Council that he had not misrepresented anything at the land swap deal discussion, but simply quoted the passages from Mr Henderson's Report.

**Minutes:** With this issue noted and reported, the minutes of the previous Business Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2005 were approved.

**5 Secretary's Report:** In Lorraine Marshall's absence Lynne Chambers presented the Report on her behalf.

Inverclyde Council had – as usual – sent two tickets for Gourock Highland Games to the Community Council. Lorraine Marshall had been in touch with the Council suggesting as the Community Council now represented both Inverkip and Wemyss Bay it might be appropriate to send 4 complimentary tickets. Inverclyde Council did not agree

David Reid of Swallow Brae, Inverkip had emailed the Community Council inquiring whether there were plans clearly to mark the Londis junction in Inverkip with white

lines. Lorraine Marshall replied that the issue would be raised at the Business Meeting – please see previous minute under **Londis**.

Clyde Murshiel had written to the Community Council telling of the reconstitution of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Consultative Forum, asking the Council to nominate a representative to participate in the Forum. No Council member was immediately available, but Hugh Ritchie is considering the matter.

Kompan Ltd, providers of play areas, had written inviting Community Council members to attend a seminar. The invitation was declined.

The Forestry Commission Scotland wrote that their Corporate Plan had now been finalised and was available to read and download or a hard copy would be provided. The contents of the letter were noted.

Tesco had written to the Community Council re their project, Investing in Inverclyde. It was decided their correspondence should be filed for information.

Glasdon, manufacturers of floral accoutrements and street furniture for local councils, had sent information about their products. For file.

Calor Scottish Community of the Year 2005 entry forms and guidelines – the Council felt not this year

An email to the Council was received from Telfer Ramage of Aberdour Place, Inverkip. He notes that road and tree markings are already in place and samples drilled from the fields (5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 in the Local Plan) and wonders why that is happening when no planning approval has been granted. Cllr Forbes confirmed that as developers Stewart Milne already own the fields, they can do what they want as long as the work doesn't require planning consent. Mr Ramage is very saddened by the potential loss of valuable habitat and wildlife. He says he wouldn't object if building was permitted in the fields adjoining the current development, but totally opposes building on the land immediately adjoining the railway.

Mr Ramage requested that Cllr Forbes be asked why, when so many local residents had specifically objected to this development, his Council had chosen not to listen to their views, and ignore and ride rough shod over their wishes. Cllr Forbes said that he had already answered this question on several occasions. The Community Council members felt Mr Ramage should be contacted, assured that the Council had not given up on its opposition to the development and concurs with his views.

**Playscheme:** Cllr Forbes believes he has managed to find finance to allow one to be set up in Inverkip. He hopes to be able to confirm the situation in 2 to 3 weeks and is fairly optimistic that there will be a Council run playscheme.

**6 Treasurer's Report:** Cliff Lyons reported the Community Council's current balance stands at £910 and that he is awaiting an expenses claim of approximately £40, and would then close the books. Cllr Forbes asked if Inverclyde Council's Brian Purdie had been approached to inquire as to whether a special project could benefit from these funds. Cliff Lyons said that the Community Council had been keen not to fritter funds and had felt there was not enough time to investigate a potential project. Cllr Forbes will approach Brian Purdie to discover whether the funds could be spent for 'the good of Inverkip'. Cliff Lyons reported verbal thanks from marathon runner and hotelier David Cushley for the £25 donation from the Council. He had raised over £2000.

**7 Newsletter, Press matters and Website:** no matters to report

## **8 Planning Applications:**

4 Broom Road, Wemyss Bay – patio room

Bridgend, Inverkip – re-registration of application for erection of 28 houses. Cllr Forbes feels he should let the application run its course as he doesn't wish to compromise himself

South Lodge, Greenock Road, Wemyss Bay – construction of two townhouses – Cllr Forbes is still on the case of the missing gates

The Langhouse, Langhouse Road, Inverkip – application for non-compliance with Condition 15 (bat report) of Planning Permission

Bogside Farm, Millhouse Road, Inverkip – erection of 5 detached dwelling houses (amendment to planning permission)

17 Undercliff Road, Wemyss Bay – erection of replacement dwelling house (rebuild after a fire)

33 Leapmoor Drive, Wemyss Bay – proposal to erect one and half storey rear extension – permission granted

Isabel Hunter informed those at the Business Meeting that what appear to be 'neighbour notification' notices had appeared on the gates at Dalriada, outlining plans for what is believed to be a paint ball recreation area in the Square Wood. Final date for objections is the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2005. Cllr Forbes advised that if residents felt strongly objections should be lodged. Hugh Ritchie asked whether the Community Council should lodge an objection too. However it was decided that it may be better if the Council waited until a formal planning application was presented to Inverclyde Council.

Ron Potter informed Cllr Forbes that Alastair McIntyre of Kellybank is aggrieved his application to operate quad bikes has not yet come before the Planning Committee. Cllr Forbes said the application is coming up in June.

**9 Date and time of next meeting:** after discussion it was agreed that the next meeting will be held a week later than usual on the **9<sup>th</sup> of June 2005**, 7.30pm at the Inverkip Hotel. Apologies were submitted in advance by Cllr Forbes; Hugh Ritchie and Lynne Chambers.

## **10 Any other business:**

### **Inverclyde Council/Community Councils and Community Council Forum**

Ron Potter raised the issue of liaison between Inverclyde Council and the Forum with Cllr Forbes. He pointed out that the Forum was not set up within a legal framework. Ron Potter said that Community Councils would not submit in any circumstances to Forum decisions – the body that carries power is the Community Council. Ron Potter and Cllr Forbes agreed. The Forum had no direct communication with Inverclyde Council. Cliff Lyons asked why should it have – it was a discussion forum.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm