

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 13th July 2006 Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm

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

Apologies: Paul Maloney

In attendance: Cllr Eric Forbes; PC Willie Howat; Jim McIntosh; Fran McIntosh; Isabel Hunter; Alison Nugent; Anne Wallace; Graham Scott

3. Police Matters:

Isabel Hunter reported to PC Howat that quad and monkey bikes on the Loch Tom road were a disaster, with youngsters riding pillion. PC Howat said the Inverkip area wasn't alone in this problem – it was a problem across Inverclyde and he feared it would take a major incident before parents took action. He has seen 10 year olds with no helmets riding these bikes. He said he would pay particular attention to the area. Lynne Chambers asked PC Howat if she may have details of surgeries he plans to hold in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay to meet residents. He said he would email details but said it would be easier to hold the surgeries at the Community Centre in Wemyss Bay for both communities as the police station in Inverkip is so compact. However, he would be happy to meet anyone in Inverkip on a one to one basis whenever required. Fran McIntosh said the time delay in response by officers continued to be a problem. When vandals trashed Inverkip Station it was two hours before police arrived. British Transport police took three days to attend. Graham Scott said BT police are around in the afternoon not the evening at Wemyss Bay station. The vandals had thrown items on to the track and the first train in the morning had to plough through the debris with the potential for a serious accident. Cliff Lyons asked whether CCTV cameras at the station were switched on. Fran McIntosh replied they were not. Jim McIntosh advised PC Howat that youths tend to travel on the 2150 and 2250 trains from Wemyss Bay. PC Howat said he would contact BT police to see if they could come down to the area more often. Cllr Forbes said response times were not satisfactory and he would take it up with the Divisional Commander. Isabel Hunter said a young woman had phoned police to report a can being thrown at her window and when she'd given her address as Main Street, Inverkip had been asked where that was. PC Howat said he had heard the public reported having problems with the new call centre. Innes Nelson spoke of the high turnover of community officers. No sooner have they built up a rapport with local

youngsters but they're moved to other duties. PC Howat said he understood locals might feel aggrieved but he said the normal turn of duty was around three years and he hoped to be the local community officer for that period. He would report concerns to Sgt Barnes and his inspector. He also reported that following a recent incident in Wemyss Bay extra officers would be duty on Friday and Saturday. The matter of the other community officer now having been on sick leave for a year and no other officer appointed will be pursued by Cllr Forbes. PC Howat was thanked for his attendance

3a. Pavement in Inverkip: In an addition to the Agenda, Cliff Lyons introduced Mrs Anne Wallace and outlined a problem her disabled husband had found on a stretch of pavement on Main Street, Inverkip. Work took place recently to install drains and kerbs in an effort to avoid flooding of properties after the sewage burst of last year. Mrs Wallace declared herself grateful to Cllr Forbes who last year fast-tracked pavement maintenance on Main Street, but said this recent work meant her husband and a registered blind neighbour could no longer walk along to shops. The problem is the negative or adverse camber of the pavement. Mrs Wallace said the raised and reformed kerb line meant the pavement level was not maintained and the camber varies. Even able bodied people found it a problem and a local resident with a motorised scooter who couldn't use the pavement on the other side of the road as it was too narrow would find this very difficult. Cliff Lyons said he had phoned the Roads Department who had carried out an inspection that afternoon and declared the work in order. Cllr Forbes said he'd walked the pavement three times and found it OK. The new kerb is required to prevent loose water from the street entering gardens. He had been told by the Engineering Department that it had not been possible to keep the level straight. However, he said he would take the concerns back to the road engineers though they have declared it OK. Innes Nelson wondered if the camber in frosty weather would be slippery. Ron Potter said he'd walked along it with his stick and found it uncomfortable. Cllr Forbes said he would come along with the road engineers and meet with Mrs Wallace for a site visit, and would involve Chris Robinson of the Council on Disability.

4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on the 1st of June 2006 – Matters Arising:

Leven Road, Wemyss Bay – dumping of garden rubbish on cleared site: Cllr Forbes reported fly tipping operatives had been in Wemyss Bay to investigate

Inverkip Primary School – fence: Cllr Forbes said the fence had been repaired

Wemyss Bay Community Centre: Cllr Forbes said there would be no extension but a refurbishment of the existing Centre. Harold McPherson observed that the Centre was too small for the needs of the community.

Wemyss Bay residents' parking: Harold McPherson asked Cllr Forbes if there was any outcome from the feasibility study conducted in Wemyss Bay to examine parking proposals. Cllr Forbes replied the study was ongoing.

Information for developers from Scottish Water re water and sewage: Ron Potter had asked Cllr Forbes if he knew when regulations would come into effect. Cllr Forbes had not been able to find the answer but would be speaking to people the following day who should know. The Minutes were approved

5. Community Centre: following the discussion at June's business meeting there was further debate about a proposed community centre for Inverkip. Lynne Chambers and Cliff Lyons had attended the public meeting held by Inverkip Community Enterprise (ICE) in June to establish an elected working committee to pursue the provision of a community centre in the village, and Lynne Chambers had made a report to Community Council members. The Community Council had invited Jim Wood of the Kilmacolm community centre group – who had addressed the ICE meeting – to meet with them to discuss the Kilmacolm experience of setting up a centre. The majority of members on the Community Council felt the establishment of a group to work towards the provision of an Inverkip facility should remain with the Council at this time, and following the meeting with Jim Wood would consider other examples of villages which have or are in the process of acquiring a centre for their residents. Alison Nugent of the ICE group wished to be described as a parent and Inverkip resident. She had come to the meeting with a list of questions and stressed the conflict between ICE and the Community Council. She demanded to know when the Community Council would make a decision about how to proceed and Innes Nelson replied that it would be when all the information had been gathered and considered and he was not in a position at this time to give a definite time frame. Alison Nugent pointed out that that left ICE in limbo. She said that surely the centre should be what the residents of the village wanted and not what the Community Council wanted. Lynne Chambers pointed out the Council's record on consultation and that this very question had been put to a well attended public meeting at the end of November last year when it was established that the provision of a community centre was top of Inverkip villagers' list. What planning gain could the village show from the succession of builders in Inverkip, Mrs Nugent asked. The playpark at Hill Farm was identified as planning gain but Cllr Forbes pointed out that planning gain was not something expected of developers until recently. It was stated the Community Council had no intention of depending on any planning gain that may or may not come from the pending Stewart Milne application and would be prepared to negotiate with anyone to secure a centre for the village. Jim McIntosh said he didn't think it was a job six or seven people could take on. Innes Nelson repeated that discussions and research are being undertaken by the Community Council and those processes are ongoing.

6. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

A registered letter from Scottish Natural Heritage has been received re Renfrewshire Heights SSSI – it was not completely clear what the content of the letter referred to and Cllr Forbes said he would take it up with Inverclyde Council

A letter, enclosing a poster and pamphlets, from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde re Redesigned Local Children's Services in Inverclyde. Alison Nugent said she would take the poster and some pamphlets for Kip Nippers noticeboard. Harold McPherson thought the pharmacy in Wemyss Bay would have the pamphlets and Lynne Chambers will ensure some are placed in the library in Inverkip if they're not already in place. An email from Brian Purdie of Inverclyde Council inquired about a cheque for £50 paid to

Inverclyde Council on Disability for a report prepared for the Community Council. Treasurer Cliff Lyons agreed that on further investigation he realised the sum of money should have been referred to Brian Purdie, and the secretary was asked to write to convey this to him. Cliff Lyons said that in future he will ensure the notes of guidance are adhered to.

From Inverclyde Council a questionnaire re Local Transport Strategy Review 2006. A letter from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde informing the Community Council of the application to withdraw services from the branch surgery in Inverkip by Dr Rai and Partners and asking for comments. The letter from Dr Rai and partners to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde said the Community Council 'approved' the closure of the surgery. After discussion the secretary was asked to write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde pointing out that the closure had been presented to the Council by Dr Rai and Dr Chan when they attended a business meeting in August 2003 more or less as a *fait accompli* and the Community Council 'accepted' rather than 'approved' the proposed withdrawal of services. Concern has been expressed to the Community Council about the provision of healthcare in Inverkip and with the potential for another 230 houses to be built in the village plus 400 houses projected at the Inverkip Power Station site there is an urgent and increasing need for the provision of healthcare in the village to be examined. Fran McIntosh said she had lodged a formal objection about the proposed withdrawal of services. She said Dr Rai and Partners' practice was overstretched and refusing new patients.

Planning Aid newsletter

A letter had been sent to Alex Lynch chairman of Greenock District Scout Council indicating the contents of his letter and enclosure had been noted, and advising the Scout Council that the Community Council has throughout supported the preservation of Everton Scout Camp Site.

7. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Cliff Lyons asked the secretary to contact Inverclyde Council's Brian Purdie to discover if, at the financial year end, he would approve the payment of £30 to each Community Councillor for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in pursuit of their duties. Cliff Lyons reported that the current balance is £1298.28. An email had been received from Robert Polland per Paul Maloney and further to discussions about donations being made to Inverkip's Community newsletter and website and Wemyss Bay's Village News. Robert Polland indicated the Inverkip newsletter and website would prefer to maintain their self sufficient status. Robert Polland was thanked for his message. An email had been received from Ken Roberts of Wemyss Bay Village News saying a donation to the running of the News would be very much appreciated and suggested that any donation should be made to Wemyss Bay Community Association. The Secretary was asked to bring this situation to Brian Purdie's notice and seek his advice.

8. Planning matters:

4 Findhorn Road, Inverkip – erection of rear extension and timber decking (in retrospect)
The Langhouse, Langhouse Road, Inverkip – installation of two Velux Windows

The Langhouse, Langhouse Road, Inverkip – installation of two Velux windows – listed building consent

3 Hill Road, Inverkip – erection of side extension and timber deck to rear

5 Glebe Road, Inverkip – re-roofing with tile (in retrospect)

3 Morar Road, Wemyss Bay – erection of extension to dwellinghouse

7 Cedar Walk, Wemyss Bay – erection of extension to dwellinghouse

11 Morar Road, Wemyss Bay – erection of replacement porch at front of house

The secretary reported she had received the environmental impact report by Community Windpower Ltd for the erection of wind turbines on the Leapmoor. An objection to the application will be lodged by the Community Council and the secretary was asked to send a letter to Inverclyde Council planning department confirming the intention to object.

Cllr Forbes reported that following an appeal to the Scottish Executive, the Reporter agreed with Inverclyde Council that the Tree Preservation Order on the site at Leven Road, Wemyss Bay be upheld

9. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 3rd August 2006

10. Any other business: Cllr Forbes informed the Community Council of a temporary road closure at Millhouse Road in Inverkip

Cllr Forbes drew the Council's attention to an event organised by Inverclyde Council in conjunction with CVS Inverclyde to be held on the 23rd of August on how to apply for grants to the Big Lottery Fund

Cllr Forbes said a safety audit has been conducted on the east exit from Inverkip. Details were passed to Cliff Lyons and Cllr Forbes said the situation will be monitored Bankfoot roundabout – Cllr Forbes reported the roundabout remained under the control of ERDC and their contractors. Following complaints the contractors arrived on a very wet day – attempted to cut the grass which promptly sprang back up again and the grass is still long. It was agreed the roundabout was an important feature at the entry to Inverkip. Cllr Forbes will pursue. He also said he would investigate two lanes decreasing to one at Bankfoot at the roundabout when entering Inverkip.

He said he had inquired about the 'slow signs' on the A78 at the approach to the Bankfoot roundabout when leaving Inverkip. Amey is investigating the alleged poor camber on the roundabout.

Cllr Forbes said Inverclyde Council's Invernet bus will be at the library in Inverkip on the 31st of July, 1pm-3.30pm

Jim McIntosh told Cllr Forbes he'd received a letter from the Department for Transport saying the gradient decision for the proposed bridge at Inverkip station will be made by them. Cllr Forbes said Jim McIntosh should pass the information to Inverclyde Council's Head of Planning Services.

The meeting was closed at 10.40pm.