

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Business Meeting held on Thursday 6th November 2008 at the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm

Present: Innes Nelson; Ron Potter; Harold McPherson; Brian McArthur; Liz Roders and Lynne Chambers

Apologies: Hugh Ritchie

In attendance: Cllr Gerry Dorrian; Cllr Ciano Rebechhi; PC Jane Perratt; PC Billy Gray and Cliff Lyons

Innes Nelson welcomed all attending

3. Police Matters

Crimes reported – 24

House breaking with intent – 1

Theft from a motor vehicle – 1

Theft by opening a lockfast place – 2

Breach of the Peace – 3

Vandalism – 10

Attempted housebreaking with intent – 1

Simple Assault – 2

Serious assault – 1

Road traffic – drunk driver – 1

Breach of licensing by security firm – 1

Vehicle seizure (no insurance) – 1

20% detection rate

The officers reported their current major concern is vandalism – cars and property – fairly evenly spread between the two villages. Breaches of the Peace and assaults were mainly located at the Wemyss Bay Caravan Park – CID is investigating.

Liz Roders wondered about reports in the *Largs and Millport News* of drunks rampaging along Main Street, Inverkip. The officers said they had not had complaints but were following up the reports.

4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 2nd of October 2008 – matters arising

Flooding in Inverkip:

At the October meeting the CC had undertaken to write to politicians seeking their support and asking them to exert their influence where they may so that work can be undertaken to rectify the ongoing flooding/sewage problems. The secretary wrote to

Duncan McNeil MSP; and all West of Scotland MSPs; the Minister for the Environment; the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment; the Minister for Public Health and the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing at the Scottish Parliament. The letter was also sent to David Cairns MP and SEPA. The correspondence was copied to Inverclyde Council's Corporate Director of Environment and Community Protection and the three ward councillors. Responses were received from:

Trish Godman MSP

Ross Finnie MSP – says he is currently in correspondence with Scottish Water in an attempt to bring about an early resolution to the matter

Duncan McNeil MSP – says he has written to the Environment Minister calling for an inquiry and would wish SEPA to take a lead in the inquiry. He is also meeting with Scottish Water in Inverkip

Annabel Goldie MSP – is prepared to take on the issue but because of Parliamentary protocol is obliged to ask if any other MSP is assisting as only one MSP is permitted to assist a constituent with any one issue

Stewart Maxwell MSP – sent a letter to Stewart Stevenson, the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate change. Will contact the CC again when he gets a response

David Cairns MP – sent a letter to Richard Ackroyd, Chief Executive of Scottish Water – and will contact CC when he gets a response

Cllr Gerry Dorrian – emailed a copy of the letter Duncan McNeil sent to the Scottish Government

The situation will continue to be monitored closely by the CC

The secretary also reported that she had received information from Dawn McDermott, Scottish Water's Regional Community Manager, that while investigations were taking place at one problem area in Main Street it had been discovered that a gas pipe had gone through their sewer and a brick had lodged there too. Work was to be undertaken as soon as possible to rectify that problem.

Resident Mike Orobczuk – who has experienced internal flooding at his house on Main Street – emailed to say that a company called Grontmij has been engaged by Scottish Water to investigate the cause of the sewage flooding of domestic premises in Main Street. They have sent customer interview forms to several random properties to establish if there are any other locations where property sewer flooding may have been experienced. He asked if the CC would contribute to the investigation. The secretary contacted Grontmij requesting a form but has had no reply. She will write further to the company

The councillors reported on the problems of flooding at Wemyss Bay, outside the hotel and under the bridge. Evidently water is coming through the wall and Network Rail is investigating the problem. Amey cleared leaves from drains in the area Cliff Lyons spoke again of the silt and sand evident at times of flooding in Main Street, which he attributes to the Stewart Milne site. When he went to the site to examine the current situation he found the area fenced off. He said he had called SEPA eight times to inspect the ongoing problems in Inverkip

Branches of trees obscuring '20's plenty' sign near Inverkip Primary School:

Passed to councillors and attended to

Unlit lamp standard in Station Road near CC noticeboard:

Passed to councillors

Overflowing bins at Stewart Milne playpark, Spey Road, Inverkip:

Passed to councillors

Speeding buses in Main Street, Inverkip

PCs Perratt and Gray said they had monitored the speed of buses travelling along Main Street but reported because of parked cars it was sometimes difficult to exceed 20mph along that stretch. They saw no evidence of buses exceeding the speed limit

Bus services to upper areas of Inverkip:

Cllr Dorrian said he had contacted Bert Muir of McGill's Buses who said the uptake of buses was very limited and not commercially viable. Cllr Dorrian has written to Cllr David Wilson, Inverclyde Council's member on the SPT board saying the CC would like the situation revisited, particularly a service which would support people going to work in the morning and returning in the evening

Travellers parked at The Point, Inverkip

Both councillors reported on the ongoing situation at The Point

With amendments the Minutes were proposed as accurate by Innes Nelson and seconded by Ron Potter

5. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

Letter from Inverclyde Council – Christmas Lights Switch On – Inverkip: Friday 5th December - 6.00pm-6.30pm at the Pavilion and Wemyss Bay: Friday 5th December – 7 - 7.30pm at Wemyss Bay Community Centre Car Park and thereafter at Wemyss Bay Community Centre

From Inverclyde Licensing Board – details of Transitional Applications for Premises Licences

Inverclyde Elderly Forum newsletter

From Inverclyde Council – Review of School Crossing Patrol Service. The letter says the site at Main Street/Station Road, Inverkip has failed to meet the criteria to justify the provision of a School Crossing Patroller. As part of the ongoing process the site will be reassessed shortly to investigate current usage taking into account any changes as a result of the School Re-provisioning Programme. Liz Roders said that from personal observation the crossing patroller was certainly needed at Inverkip primary school. Cllr Dorrian said it had been requested the issue be taken back to the Safe, Sustainable Committee for reconsideration

Email correspondence, forwarded by Cllr Dorrian, between Brian Blacklaw of The Kyles, Inverkip and Neil Graham, Inverclyde Council's Corporate Director of Environment and Community Protection about excessive noise during the night at Inverkip Station. Neil Graham said he was meeting senior representatives of Stewart Milne Holdings and will raise these concerns with them. In addition he has asked the Head of Safer Communities to check out the noise levels the next time the contractor is on site. He said it was known night work would be required for this job but excessive noise is unacceptable and he will try his best to make sure it's minimised

Newsletters from Stuart McMillan MSP
From Inverclyde Council – papers for the Regeneration Committee meeting on 30th October. Included is a Community Council Review update – see 8 below – and another item referred to the lease of ground at Hill Farm, Inverkip. The councillors reported the fields around Everton Farm – now in IC ownership following the land swap with builders Stewart Milne – will be leased to the Scouts so no other builder

can encroach on Everton Scout Camp. Cllr Rebecchi was able to reassure Innes Nelson that grazing leases would not be endangered

Invitation from Inverclyde Council's Community Safety Partnership to attend a Ward 6 meeting. IWBCC community councillors were not free to attend but Minutes of the meeting will be sent to the CC

An invitation from Inverkip Community Enterprise for a representative to attend the opening of the new computer suite at the Pavilion. The chairman and treasurer attended

Details from the Firth of Clyde Forum of their annual conference

Firth of Clyde Forum newsletter

Letter from Friends of Planning Aid inviting members to attend a guided tour of the National Museum of Scotland

From North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority – their Area Plan and Annual Report

From Inverclyde Council – Agenda for Audit Committee meeting on 21st October 2008

From Inverclyde Council – papers for the General Purposes Board of Wednesday 8th October 2008 dealing with the age of vehicles licensed as taxi/private hire cars

Letter from IWBCC to the Arts Guild in support of a Big Lottery bid

Correspondence with Save Your Regional Park Campaign. At a recent Business Meeting consideration was given to the CC becoming 'family' members as there is no corporate or similar membership classification. It was agreed an annual subscription of £15 would be paid to the Campaign

Email sent to Kirsty Donnolly giving details presented to the CC by Stuart McMillan MSP of his local A78 survey for possible inclusion in the Wemyss Bay newsletter

From Inverclyde Council – details of Inverclyde Alliance's Community Plan, Inspiring Inverclyde

Further details from the Association of Scottish Community Councils re their AGM – passed to Ron Potter

From Willie Wilson at Inverclyde Council, note of Inverclyde's new area representative on the ASCC – passed to Ron Potter

Email request from Inverkip Community Enterprise for a poster to be placed on the CC noticeboard – attended to

Letter from the Information Commissioner's Office requesting information and/or a subscription. The secretary will liaise with Ron Potter on the issue

6. Treasurer's Report

Ron Potter reported the CC's balance was £257.80 and that he had spent a sizeable sum on stationery, office equipment etc.

He said the CC had received the £700 paid to all community councils and had learned from the Community Services Manager that 90% of our previous grant will be paid within 10 days – the money was due to be paid in June.

Ron Potter repeated his frustration that the additional amount – payable on top of the basic £700 – is on a per capita basis on figures taken from the Voters' Roll. His frustration arises from the fact the additional sum is based on 2002 figures which he feels do not reflect the current numbers living locally. The Community Services Manager says he is unable to access statistics from Inverclyde Council. Ron Potter

was advised by the councillors to contact Aubrey Fawcett and Stuart Jamieson at Inverclyde Council but Ron Potter said he had already done so. He was then advised to wait until the outstanding 90% had been paid and then report the situation to the councillors

7. Planning Matters

Wemyss Bay – Ferry Terminal, Shore Road – siting of replacement Portakabin within car park by Caledonian MacBrayne

8. Community Council boundaries

Further to the Inverclyde Council Regeneration Committee papers referred to in the Secretary's Report and Correspondence, the section dealing with the Council's Community Council Review update was discussed. Cllr Rebecchi said the Community Council should write to Inverclyde Council restating their views on boundaries. Ron Potter said Inverclyde and Wemyss Bay Community Council had had discussions with Larkfield/Braeside/Branchton Community Council and with Gourock Community Council about where boundaries could and should be. All had agreed. He said it was difficult to discover exactly what Inverclyde Council's proposals are – he had seen a map with vague circles drawn on it without definition of where boundaries should be. Until an accurate drawing is produced all is in doubt. Cllr Rebecchi said the Council committee had been told to go back and look at the situation again – some councillors want 6 community councils, some 9 and some 12. This is the time for thoughts and consultation. Cllr Dorrian said IWBC should write to the Council to say it had had discussions with Larkfield and Gourock CCs and boundaries had been agreed. Cllr Rebecchi said the CC should write to Willie Wilson, Community Services Manager; Stuart Jamieson, Head of Economic & Social Regeneration and the four councillors on the committee making clear the CC's position.

9. Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 4th December 2008

10. Any other business

The secretary has received an email from Grace Young of Inverkip. She said there is an ever increasing amount of dog excrement on Finnockbog Road – the stretch leading up from Station Road. There are no bins to deposit the excrement and she wonders if around two could be installed, one or either being combined with a litter bin as there are quantities of fast food containers lying around.

It was suggested by the councillors that the CC could identify sites in both villages. Photographs could be taken of the proposed sites, passed to the councillors who would forward them to Head of Environmental Services for consideration.

Liz Roders added that dog fouling on Main Street, Inverkip, is absolutely disgusting. She reminded Cllr Dorrian he had said he would try to organise a 'No Dog Fouling' notice for ground that she maintains beside her house in Wemyss Bay. Cllr Rebecchi said it's a bit tricky putting up signs on private ground but Cllr Dorrian will investigate.

Ron Potter reminded Cllr Dorrian that a repair to a dip in Finnockbog Road, close to Spey Road, by builders Stewart Milne had been considered not up to standard by

Inverclyde Council. The job was to be redone. It would appear it has not been remedied and Ron Potter asked Cllr Dorrian please to chase it up
Ron Potter said a litter bin, for the plastic bags holding bottles for recycling, at the bottle and clothing banks under the Brueacre Junction was overflowing and seldom emptied. Cllr Dorrian will pursue.

Ron Potter said that a stretch of the A78 on the left hand carriageway heading into Greenock, around the IBM bus stop, has tar broken away on the outside lane. Areas on either side have been resurfaced, but not this stretch. Cllr Dorrian said Ron Potter should contact the Amey website.

Ron Potter also reported in wet weather that on the Brueacre Junction off ramps water poured out of a gully down the road towards another gully, creating a surface hazard. He wondered who was responsible for the off ramps. Cllr Dorrian again advised him to contact the Amey website.

Complaints have been received from residents about bus parking outside a house on Cullen Crescent, Inverkip. If parked on the road with its back end sticking out it proves an obstacle on the road, or if parked on the pavement it makes pedestrian access difficult. The bus/buses appear to be on contract to North Ayrshire schools and is/are sometimes parked on an off ramp at the Brueacre Junction. It was suggested by the councillors that photographs should be taken and forwarded to them.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm.