WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER 2008 at 7.00PM
WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:	Kirsty Donnelly	Ann-Marie Cockburn
	Elaine Blue	Denise Anderson
	Iain Buchan	Michele Barrett
	Bobbie McCabe	Billy Harrison
	Beverley Hardie	Joseph Craig
	Willie Wilson (Inverclyde Council)	
Apologies:	Donna Galvin	Pamela Noble
	Cheryl Cairns	

Welcome
Kirsty Donnelly in the chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending this year's Annual General Meeting.

Annual Report 2007/2008
Kirsty 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, Bible Club and Youth Group, Youth Club, 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 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. Willie Wilson asked if the Association had ever applied for a grant from Community Chest who offer grants of up to £1,000 to help with running costs. 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 then asked if anyone had any other business to be brought up or any questions. Kirsty advised that although the bank account looks relatively healthy at the moment we have effectively lost £1,900 income per quarter as the nursery are no longer using the Centre and although the Association are striving to fill these lets if these lets are not filled the running costs of the Centre may need to eat into this amount. Willie Wilson asked if it was projected that in the future the Centre would make a loss ... Kirsty confirmed that yes this would be the case unless other means of bringing in funds were found. Willie Wilson asked if there were other ways of spending the revenue which might in turn provide income for years to come. The Association confirmed that they had been talking about the possibility of extending the Centre and Willie Wilson advised that it may be an idea to think of this sooner rather than later as at the moment we still had a sizeable amount of cash and that if we were looking to get grants it would be easier to get if we were able to put up a sizeable amount of cash ourselves. It was confirmed that the Association had spoken of this several times but that this was something that would need serious discussion in the near future.

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 said that in once respect it was great that the Committee has remained the same but in another hand everyone in the Community thinks everything is ticking over nicely and that the Committee are still there and happy to continue and that there is no real reason to get on board but that it would be good to get more people involved so that the current Committee are not as stretched as they are at present. The Committee asked what the implications of not having a Committee to run the Association would be as several posts may not be filled again this year – Willie advised that the Centre would essentially be a letting facility with anyone in the village who wanted to use the facility would have to contact Inverclyde Council – if making a block booking this could be done over the telephone however if making an irregular let they would have to go into the office. Willie confirmed that it would be pretty reactive .. ie the facility would sit empty until someone came and advised that they wanted to make a booking. Willie also advised that any let would be run on a cost effective basis ... ie if it was not cost effective for the Council to pay

a member of staff to come to the Centre to open it up they wouldn't do it and this could mean that many regular and irregular lets may not take place. 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. Ian Buchan was nominated as Vice-Chair and Facilities Manager by Michele Barrett and seconded by Kirsty Donnelly. Cheryl Cairns stood down as Treasurer unfortunately there was no-one present at the meeting who was able to stand as Treasurer and therefore this position was not filled. Pamela Noble was nominated as Assistant Treasurer by Kirsty Donnelly and seconded by Denise Anderson. It was also confirmed that there was another position of Letting Secretary which she had undertaken for a few years and asked if there was anyone else willing to take this role on – no-one came forward for this role and this role was therefore not filled. The meeting was then handed back to Kirsty as Chairperson and it was confirmed that the Community as it stands would continue temporarily until the appropriate additional members of the Committee were found and to this end an Extra Ordinary Meeting would be held on Sunday 23rd November 2008 at 7pm in the Community Centre at which time it was hoped that all positions would be filled the alternative being that the Community Centre would be handed back to Inverclyde Council. Five committee members were elected as Pamela Noble, Jenny Eaton, Annemarie Cockburn, Michele Barrett and Denise Anderson.
This brought the AGM to a conclusion.