INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Business Meeting held on Thursday 5th of June 2008 at the Inverkip Hotel at 7.30pm

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

Apologies: Cllr Gerry Dorrian

In attendance: PC Jane Perratt; PC Billy Gray; D. Cramman; S. T. Ramage; Andy Lynch; B. Blacklaw; N. Cupples and Cliff Lyons

Innes Nelson welcomed all attending.

3. Police Matters

18 crimes had been committed with a detection rate of 30% but inquiries are continuing
1 Fraud
1 Racial Breach of the Peace
7 acts of Vandalism
1 Breach of the Peace
2 Thefts – not elsewhere classified
1 Serious Assault
2 Thefts by Housebreaking
1 Road Traffic Offence – no licence; no MOT; no insurance
1 Speeding Offence
1 Littering offence

The officers said they had no burning issues to report and continue to monitor the reported speeding at Swallow Brae and will be out and about across the area with speed guns. PC Perratt confirmed there was still a problem of parking on the zig-zags outside the Post Office in Inverkip and tickets are still being issued. PC Gray said he had to arrest a chap who was camping and lighting a fire in the woods and beach at Inverkip. He was given 3 hours to pack up and leave but refused to do so and was arrested. He claimed he'd been camping there since he was a boy but PC Gray said times had changed and respect was needed for the area.

The officers also asked if anyone saw lads getting off the train and crossing the road bridge towards the beach to phone 492500 to let the police know.

Innes Nelson asked where the acts of vandalism were being committed. The officers said there had been a window broken at the church in Inverkip and graffiti on the wall at the Pavilion. Most of the vandalism was being carried out in Wemyss Bay with cars being targeted in Cliff Terrace Road and Lomond Road with wing mirrors and windows being broken.

4. Minutes of Business Meeting held on Thursday 1st of May 2008 – Matters arising:

Dangerous Tree in Ardgowan Road: Harold McPherson reported that he'd heard, because of the size of the tree, 4 estimates were required from contractors to undertake the work - which should have been lodged by last Friday. The work should be completed in 2 weeks

Fly tipping: Brian McArthur had been touch with the secretary to ask her to write to Inverclyde Council on behalf of the Community Council as he had made 2 submissions reporting fly tipping to the Inverclyde Council website. He copied the email to Cllr Dorrian who said he would follow up the matter. Following Cllr Dorrian's intervention Brian McArthur has received a response and apology. The Council will be looking at the fly tipping site – their workers can't enter the gully so will get contractors to clear the site. He had then written to the website suggesting some improvements and outlining what he thought was wrong with the site and has received no reply.

Maternity Services in Clyde: following a letter received by the Community Council from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde – noted in May's Minutes – a proposed report from Inverclyde Council's Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee was received. The report expresses Inverclyde Council's concern about the proposal to transfer the birthing suite services from Inverclyde Royal to Royal Alexandra Hospital. The Community Councillors agreed with Inverclyde Council's concerns and will write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to support Inverclyde Council's stance

Calor Village of the Year competition: the secretary had been asked to investigate the competition but reported - given the timescale - it would not be possible to identify a project and bring together a credible submission

Scottish Water: following May's Business Meeting the secretary had written to Scottish Water to inquire if Stewart Milne Homes had submitted a Development Impact Assessment before work on the Hill Farm site commenced. Dawn McDermott, Regional Community Manager, was able to confirm the builder had submitted an Assessment and as a result was asked to carry out work – two recommendations. The secretary has written to Ms McDermott to ask if she is able to say what the recommendations were

Jacob's Ladder: Ron Potter reported he was dismayed to see Jacob's Ladder in Inverkip showing as a path to be deleted in Inverclyde Council's Core Paths Plan. He said it was a condition of the planning consent for the development at Hill Farm that the pathway should be kept open. He wondered if there were other proposals we should consider and contest. It was agreed to investigate the situation and consider what action should be taken. In addition the secretary was asked to write to Inverclyde Council about the reopening of the footpath section of Finnockbog Road and discover what will be happening to Everton Road.

The Minutes were proposed as accurate by Hugh Ritchie and seconded by Innes Nelson.

5. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

Newsletter from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde – Health News

From the Scottish Government – consultation document on the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 – Amendment Bill 2008

Letter from Planning Aid Scotland – request for renewal of annual subscription (£25). Approved and documents passed to the Treasurer

From Inverclyde Council's Grants Sub-Committee a document detailing grant applications

Request from Wilson Dunlop of the Inverclyde Community Council Forum looking for written support to aid the lottery grant re-submission for the new Arts Guild. Having consulted Community Councillors the secretary wrote a letter of support which was acknowledged as 'very much appreciated'

Email to Inverclyde Council confirming the Community Council had no objection to the proposed removal of the BT payphone at Langhouse Road

Email to Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee saying the Community Council wished to receive newsletters and information from them

Letter to Mrs Susan Robertson, daughter of the late Councillor Bob Campbell, expressing the Community Council's condolences on the death of her father. The secretary reported she had attended Bob Campbell's funeral representing the Council

Letter from Planning Aid Scotland with details of their AGM

Email request from Inverkip Community Enterprise that 2 members of the Community Council attend their meeting on the 22nd of May. The secretary replied that no one was able to attend

From Firth of Clyde Forum/Clyde Breakers, details of their conference and two newsletters

Postcard from Inverclyde Arts Strategy with an invitation to attend an evening of entertainment on 10th June.

From Inverclyde Council – amended document in relation to the External Audit Progress Report – passed to Hugh Ritchie

Letter from Inverclyde Council inviting representatives of the Community Council to attend the Kirkin' of the Council on Sunday 15th June.

From Inverclyde Council – notice of an information day for the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership

From NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde – the Community Health Partnership Plan.

From Inverclyde Council the Improvement & Performance Directorate Plan 2008/11 – passed to Hugh Ritchie

From Inverclyde Forum of Community Councils – notice of their next meeting on the 9th of June

From Save Your Regional Park Campaign – notice of the Kelburn Public Inquiry asking for supporters to attend the Inquiry if possible. Cliff Lyons said a notice could be placed on the Community Council noticeboard seeking support. Innes Nelson thought that a good idea and would attend to it

From Willie Wilson at Inverclyde Council – an email from the War Memorials Trust Grant Schemes to be sent to Community Councils requesting war memorials in the area be inspected, and if in need of repair outlining how grants may be applied for

Email correspondence between Cllr Gerry Dorrian and Head of Planning Fraser Williamson re Swallow Brae traffic calming measures, including a police report

6. Treasurer's Report:
Ron Potter reported the Community Council's bank balance is £154.76. He presented accounts for the Community Council's consideration. They were approved unanimously.

7. Planning Matters:
Inverkip – the Planning Board of 4th June 2008 consideration of the application for the construction and installation of a lift at Inverkip Railway Station. At the May meeting of the Planning Board the application was continued for a site visit by Members. It was recommended the application be granted subject to conditions. However it was reported all three ward councillors - Gerry Dorrian, Ken Ferguson and Ciano Rebecchi - voted against the application and it is now to be carried forward to the August meeting of the Board
Wemyss Bay – Footerhoose, Cliff Terrace Road – erection of an extension to rear of dwelling together with the provision of dormer windows to both front and rear – the recommendation for the Planning Board meeting of the 4th of June was the application be granted
Inverkip – 2 Lapwing Grove – formation of rear patio
Wemyss Bay – 5 Morar Road – alterations to entrance porch
Inverkip – 9 Lapwing Grove – erection of retaining wall
Wemyss Bay – land to the south of 38 Leapmoor Drive – erection of a dwelling house
Inverkip – Kikbraefoot Cottage, Main Street – installation of replacement windows to side and rear elevations and sun lounge
Inverkip – 5 Millhouse Gait, Millhouse Road – erection of decking at rear of dwellinghouse

8. Date and time of next meeting:
Innes Nelson proposed that the July meeting be cancelled given the number of councillors unable to attend. The next Business Meeting of the Community Council will be Thursday 7th of August 2008.

9. Any other business:
The secretary reported that further to a meeting between representatives of the Community Council and Inverkip Community Enterprise, Willie Wilson of Inverclyde Council had sent draft Minutes of the meeting and outlined various options for the carrying forward of the proposed community centre in Inverkip. The Community Council felt none of the options represented its view and at Willie Wilson's suggestion sent a preferred option. The Community Council awaits a reply.

It was reported polystyrene blocks which appear to have been removed from the Hill Farm building site are blocking the stream beside Everton Road

It was also reported that the dip in the road where the channel crosses Finnockbog Road as it approaches Spey Road is becoming deeper

Another report was made that at the corner of Langhouse Avenue and Langhouse Road deep potholes have appeared

The condition of the road under the railway bridge beside Beatock Place and towards Everton Road in Inverkip is very poor, and the whole road appears to be sinking.

The poor condition of the playpark on Main Street, Inverkip has been reported to the Community Council. It is felt the equipment should be pressure washed and repainted. Where there is tree bark the soil is showing through. It was recommended by two community councillors that consideration should be given to replacing the tree bark with recycled tyre chippings which have been used successfully by other local authorities.

Ron Potter presented various community council related documents to the members. He said all councillors would be receiving documents outlining the way forward for community councils. The documents should be available around the end of June to mid-July. Replies would be sought as soon as possible after the end of August.

Ron Potter produced a leaflet he'd picked up in Morrisons supermarket looking for local unsung heroes. It was agreed that details should be posted on the community council's website

Hugh Ritchie asked who was responsible for emptying the recycling bins at Sainsbury's. He said they were constantly full to overflowing. It was agreed it was Inverclyde Council or their agents who are responsible for emptying the bins. It would be helpful it there was a notice with a phone number to call when the bins are full. The secretary said she would contact Inverclyde Council.

It was noted the local free paper Inverclyde Extra is looking for contributions to their community column. The secretary agreed to send some details from May's approved Minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.