

INVERKIP AND WEMYSS BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Business Meeting held on Thursday 2nd of February 2012 in Wemyss Bay Primary School at 7pm

Present: Hugh Ritchie; Ron Potter; David Adams; Jean Anderson; Tracy Bunton; Telfer Ramage; Gordon Roders; Eileen Virtue.

Apologies: Lynne Chambers ; Cllr Luciano Rebecchi

In attendance : Cllr Gerry Dorrian; Cllr Innes Nelson; Sgt. S. Anderson; PC J.P. Monaghan; PC G. Whitelaw; John Lawrence, Roads Maintenance, Inverclyde Council; Mark Higginbotham, Team Leader Consultancy, Planning, Housing and Transportation, Inverclyde Council and approximately 15 members of the public

3. Police matters

Sgt Anderson introduced PC J.P. Monaghan as the new Community Policing presence allocated to Inverkip, Wemyss Bay and Larkfield. JP gave an overview of his community policing background, he explained the strong relationship the police have with Inverclyde Council's Community Warden service and the Anti- Social Behaviour Team where he was based for 2 years and he reminded that Inverclyde Council have in some respects more power than the police therefore it is very useful to have their involvement. He stressed the need for incidents to be reported to inform the policing resources dedicated to the area.

Sgt Anderson gave details of local crime statistics for January 2012:

Number of calls – 89

Assisting the public – 7

Disturbance – 1(Inverkip)

Crime Reports – 12 (house-breaking, Power Station theft of metal, Main St. Inverkip theft of machinery, 1 assault)

Road Traffic Accidents – not known

There were a number of requests for assistance with storm damage.

Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie stressed that residents continue to be dissatisfied with delays in response to incident reports and queried priority protocols. JP and Stuart explained the resources allocated across Inverclyde and the shift patterns and again stressed that reports must be made and communication with the community police must be maintained to influence police presence in the area. They explained that the police must have 'just and reasonable cause' to stop and search and although there may be

substantial suspicion of perpetrators they rely on witness statements to react quickly to make an arrest without the delay involved in obtaining forensic, CCTV etc. evidence. Sgt Anderson reminded that non-urgent incidents can be reported to tel. no. 495200 and agreed to email IWBCB with email addresses for all Community Police Officers. IWBCB will take steps to publicise the email addresses.

ACTION: Sgt. Anderson to forward email addresses for all Community Police Officers to IWBCB.

4. Flooding and roads issues in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay

Beattock Place/ Kip Avenue:

Community Councillor Telfer Ramage received an email from Inverclyde Council's planning department confirming a drainage pipe will be extended to the end of the area behind Beattock Place

Councillor Dorrian reported that he met with Aubrey Fawcett Inverclyde Council's Corporate Director, Regeneration and Environment and Councillor's Nelson and Rebeci on 17 January 2012 to discuss the long outstanding flooding of Beattock Place/ Kip Avenue. Commitment has been made to resolve the matter and a number of actions including checks being made with Inverclyde Council's Legal Services were agreed. While it was recognised that this matter has been ongoing since the construction of the Springfield/ Stewart Milne housing developments Councillor Dorrian stated that severity was only brought to the attention of the corporate director a few weeks ago. Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie stated the extent of the suffering and expense incurred by residents affected and that he was very disappointed that a more senior Inverclyde Council officer did not attend this evening's meeting. He did however thank John and Mark for their presence and contribution. IWBCB look forward to receiving a full report from the Councillors' follow up meeting with the Corporate Director.

Brueacre Bridge:

Ardgowan Estates are committed to resolving the flooding and are investigating the cause.

Finnockbog Road

IWBCB was pleased to learn from John Lawrence that a recommendation/ bid has been made to upgrade/resurface Finnockbog Road between Bruceacre Junction and Spey Road during 2012/13.

Cullen Crescent – rear

David Ashman, Inverclyde Council agreed to contact Stewart Milne to resolve.

Other areas were discussed however the officers present were unfortunately not familiar with the current issues. They went on to advise that **Transport Scotland (Ricardo Aigbekaen tel: 0141 272 7349)** Amey should be contacted in connection with the A78 because Inverclyde Council has no

jurisdiction. Community Councillors were disappointed that Inverclyde Council could not take this up with Amey on behalf of residents. It was agreed that Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie would write to Transport Scotland outlining the A78 flooding concerns. It was suggested that consideration should be given to copying the letter to MSPs for their support.

ACTION: Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie to write to Transport Scotland reporting the flooding repairs needed to the A78 through Wemyss Bay and Inverkip. Consideration to be given to copying letter to local MSPs .

Given the extent of the problems experienced across the area and to help Inverclyde Council coordinate its approach to resolving these it was agreed that Community Councillor Telfer Ramage will provide the officers from Regeneration and Environment/ Planning, Housing and Transportation with a definitive list and a detailed map of all of the areas subject to flooding with a note of actions to date including new reports of blocked drains in Wemyss Bay and Inverkip.

ACTION: Community Councillor Telfer Ramage to produce a definitive list and a detailed map of all of the areas subject to flooding with a note of actions to date and send to officers from Regeneration and Environment/ Planning, Housing and Transportation.

A resident commended Inverclyde Council for replenishing sand boxes throughout the area.

At this point of the meeting Community Councillor Chairperson Hugh Ritchie wished the extent of the work and commitment made by the Community Council to improving Inverkip and Wemyss Bay to be noted in response to public perception recorded in comments on a forum set up on Inverclyde Now earlier in the week. It was noted that it is unfortunate that postings were anonymous preventing direct reply to the authors.

5. Minutes of the Business Meeting held on Thursday 5 January 2012.

Minutes approved by Community Councillor Ron Potter and seconded by Community Councillor David Adams

Matters arising:

Bus stops on A78 at Inverkip

Councillor Gerry Dorrian awaits a response to his enquiry with Strathclyde Police. He reminded the meeting that the planning consent agreed with Ardgowan Estates to develop housing at Bankfoot included a planning gain of bus stops with lay-bys at both sides of the A78. It was agreed that it may be helpful to request support from MSPs.

ACTION: IWBC to contact MSPs requesting support for Transport Scotland to locate bus stops through Inverkip.

Poor lighting in Inverkip:

Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie received a reply from Councillor Rebeci

informing that Inverclyde Council does not provide lighting in car parks.

Power Station Development:

Community Councillor Hugh Ritchie reported back from a lengthy a conversation he had with David Ashman, planning officer. He stated that the application is unlikely to be presented before March 2012. He reported their discussion about the Atkins Engineer and Design Consultant's report and was able to clarify that the detail agreed in Local Plans are indicative meaning that the 400 houses outlined in the Local Plan can easily be changed. To date planning have received 90 letters about the application; 78 objections, 3 in support and 9 letters of observation. All agreed that the detail of the planning application must be scrutinised and Councillors must listen to the concerns of the community.

6. Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

Following the meeting on January the 5th 2012, the secretary received email correspondence from several local residents adding their voices in opposition to the proposed number of houses at the Power Station site and A78 congestion. Many chose to send letters/emails of objection or inquiry to Inverclyde Council's planning department – one household managed to rope in neighbours and in total 18 letters of objection were sent. A template letter was available to download from the Community Council's website.

Inverclyde Elderly Forum Newsletter Winter 2011

Association of Scottish Community Councils – 2 editions of January 2012
online Bulletins

Email invitations sent to and accepted by Peter McLaren of The Green Company and Nigel Willis of Save Your Regional Park campaign to make a presentation to March meeting of IWBC.

Confirmation from Inverclyde Leisure of change of venue from Inverkip to Wemyss Bay primary school for the AGM and Business Meeting on the 3rd

May 2012-01-13 Copies of IWBC's Constitution signed by the Council officers posted to Inverclyde Council for signature by Cllr Ahlfeld

Cheque for £15 as annual subscription to Save Your Regional Park campaign
Email from Iain Wilkinson at Ardgowan Estate asking for a meeting with Community Council members regarding grants for improvement of woodland areas

Email from Cllr Rebecchi regarding Daff Avenue, Inverkip, closure for re-surfacing – information to notice board

Copy of reply from Inverclyde Council to Telfer Ramage regarding Finnockbog Lane and the accumulation of mud there

From Inverclyde Council – Additional Agenda information for the Safe, Sustainable Communities meeting to be held on 17th January 2012 – Police and Fire Rescue Reform – Local Scrutiny and Engagement Implementation Network

From Inverclyde Council – the Agenda for the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee meeting on the 24th of January 2012

From Cllrs Dorrian and Nelson – information about resurfacing work on a part of Langhouse Road, Inverkip

Your Voice Newsletter

7. Treasurer's Report

Community Councillor Ron Potter reported receipt of a letter from Inverclyde Council outlining their expectations of Community Councils. He went on to inform the grant of £610 was credited by BACS by Inverclyde Council and then provided a financial report, total cash and bank: £847.32 (includes all receipts and un-presented cheques to 2.2.12) **Appendix 1**. Ron stated he continues to seek IWBC share of the balance of unallocated funds set aside for other areas where Community Councils have not been established.

8. Planning Matters

Inverkip – 3 Harbour Square – erection of fence (in retrospect) (11/0316/IC)

Inverkip – 16 Findhorn Crescent – single storey extension to side of dwellinghouse – granted (IC/0257/IC)

Inverkip – The Bell House, Langhouse Road – micro hydropower scheme – granted subject to conditions (IC/0114/IC)

Wemyss Bay – Kelly Mains, Kelly Road – erection of a 34.2 metres high 50kW wind turbine, access road and associated ancillary development – **granted** (11/0235/IC)

Wemyss Bay Caravan Park – IC/07/127 – extension/ reapplication submitted
Kellybank Caravan Park – application for alterations

9. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 1st March 2012 at Inverkip Primary School at 7pm

10. Any Other Business: no matters raised.