

Minute of Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, 23 February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre

(Subject to approval at the next meeting)

Present:

Helen Calvert (Chair)
Stephen Hampson (Vice Chair)
Ian Coultie
Maisie Galbreath
Robin Gordon (Treasurer)

Attending:

Cllr Wilson, Cllr McCabe
Sgt Godfrey – Strathclyde Police
Hugh Scott – Inverclyde Council

Members of the Community:

John Nicoll, Helen McConnacher

Apologies:

Colin McGinn (Minute Sec), Janice Crean, Cllr MacLeod

1. Welcome

Helen Calvert opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The published minute of the meeting held on 26 January 2010 was approved.

3. Matters Arising

The Community Council had expressed its concern to the Planning Department about traffic issues in relation to the proposed development at the old quarry site on the Port Glasgow Road.

Cllr Wilson reported that SPT continued to consider the route of the number 1 bus with the aim of reducing the distance some passengers had to walk to their homes. It was proving difficult to find a suitable turning place for the vehicle at the end of its route.

4. Strathclyde Police Report

Sgt Godfrey reported that the following crimes had been recorded in the village during January and February (January figures in brackets): vandalism 4 (2); common assault 1 (1); assault 0 (1), serious assault 0 (1); theft of a motor vehicle 1 (1); theft from a motor vehicle 0 (1); theft 0 (1); housebreaking 0 (1); loitering with intent 1 (0); possession of drugs 0 (1). In addition, a case had been recorded in February of an adult who was drunk while in charge of a child. There was a continuing issue of certain field gates being left open, apparently for malevolent reasons. Over the two months 6 recorded crimes had been cleared up.

Sgt Godfrey told members that the "Inverclyde Initiative" had been undertaken in Kilmacolm one recent evening. Under this initiative the police work in co-ordination with Social Services to take children who are, for example, in possession of alcohol or drugs to a place of safety where their parents are also asked to attend. The immediate response to such issues, and the cooperation of police and social workers, helps to reduce the incidence of re-offending.

In response to a member's enquiry concerning rowdy young people carrying alcohol on the weekend evening buses to and from Port Glasgow, Sgt Godfrey said he was aware of the issue and that it was intended to deploy plain clothes officers.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance was £1,873.76. There were no accounts payable, but the Agricultural Society had asked for a contribution of £70 towards the forthcoming show. In view of the poor weather and consequent loss experienced by the 2009 show, members agreed that the contribution this year should, on a one-off basis, be increased to £100.

6. Roads, Pavements, Street Lighting

It was reported that Inverclyde Council were examining the issues of flooding and over-hanging vegetation on Bridge of Weir Road. Members agreed that the usual minor potholes would not be brought up with Inverclyde Council as the very cold winter meant that there was a general and serious problem of damage to roads. Cllr McCabe reported that additional resources were being allocated to road repairs.

Damage to the minor road from the A761 to Quarriers Village was nevertheless of concern to members, and was clearly a result of it being at present the route for diverted vehicles including heavy ones. It was noted that this would be attended to after Renfrew Council had re-opened Torr Road, and that this was expected to happen reasonably soon. It was also mentioned that Finlaystone Road close to the junction at the entrance to Finlaystone House was in a very poor shape with deep potholes and water running on the surface which, in present circumstances, had accumulated as thick ice. Finally it was mentioned that the "30mph Slow Down" sign on the inbound side of Lochwinnoch Road had jammed in the on position.

Some members had attended a recent meeting with Kilmacolm Civic Trust and Inverclyde Council to discuss plans for the Cross. Ideas for a mini or orthodox roundabout had been rejected after professional scrutiny by the Roads Department. Instead, a budget request was pending to cover the cost of replacing and re-siting the pedestrian refuges at the junction and of painting the road surface a distinctive colour. The need for further action on Lochwinnoch Road would be considered when the new Community Centre was in operation.

7. Parks

The Chairman had recently met Inverclyde Council for one of a series of regular meetings concerning Birkmyre Park. She had raised the matter of the inadequate screening of the car park. That it be screened was a condition of the original planning permission. Members expressed their discontent with the present unhealthy and stunted bushes. The Chair would press the Council to plant more and more suitable bushes in the spring planting season.

Cllr McCabe informed the meeting that he envisaged that the Council would be pursuing the proposal for a floodlit multi-use games area on the site of the old tennis courts. He expected opposition from some neighbouring residents, primarily concerning the lights, but pointed out that this was a useful initiative to provide outdoor activities for young people and particularly for girls, while also being available for adults. Members agreed that the way forward should include a system to turn off the lights at a sensible time in the evening, perhaps 9pm.

8. Planning

No applications have been recorded since the last meeting.

9. Kilmacolm New Community Centre

It was reported that good progress continues to be made on the Community Centre development.

10. Inverclyde Council Minutes/Reports

Nothing noteworthy.

11. Correspondence

Nothing noteworthy.

12. AOCB

Mr Scott enquired whether any progress was being made in efforts to revive the Youth Club. He was keen to assist. He was informed that there had been little response following a recent public meeting on the subject. The supply of volunteer adult supervisors remained a problem. Mr Scott reminded the meeting that Inverclyde Council can provide training for volunteers and help with the "disclosure" process. The Chair agreed to raise the matter with Jan Johnson.

A member noted that it was some time since the Community Council had heard anything about the intentions either of Lord Maclay or of St Columba's School following the rejection of the major planning applications each had submitted. Mrs McConnacher informed the meeting that St Columba's expected to make an announcement shortly. It was clarified that, to the regret of some members, this would relate to a specific proposal rather than be a consultation about future possibilities.

Mr Nicoll suggested that the small park in the Market Place, now that the children's play equipment had been removed, would be an excellent site for a public lavatory. He envisaged a modern, self-maintaining structure with separate provision for men and women. Members noted this idea, but questioned the likely cost and mentioned that lavatories would soon be available during opening hours in the new Community Centre.

13. Date of the next KCC Meeting

- Tuesday 30 March 2010 - 7.30pm

MEETING OF THE KILMACOLM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

To be held in the Kilmacolm Community Centre on

Tuesday 30 March 2010 at **7.30pm**

AGENDA

1. Welcome, attendance and apologies
2. Submit minute of the previous meeting held on 23 February 2010
3. Strathclyde Police Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Roads, Pavements, Street Lighting
6. Parks
7. Planning
8. Kilmacolm New Community Centre
9. Extract of Inverclyde Council Minutes
10. Correspondence
11. Any Other Competent Business
12. Date of Next Meeting