

**Minute of Community Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, 13 January 2009 at 7.45pm in the Community Centre**

**(Subject to approval at the next meeting)**

**1. Present**

Helen Calvert (Chairman)  
Stephen Hampson (Vice Chairman)  
Robin Gordon (Treasurer)  
Helen Cook  
Janice Crean  
Iain Couttie  
Maisie Galbreath  
David Goddard  
Jan Johnson  
Margaret McLeese  
David Scott

**Attending:** Inspector MacDiarmid, Cllr Fyfe, Cllr Wilson, Steve Dickie, Brian Manson, Marg McCallum and Paul Yacoubian

**Apologies:** Colin McGinn, Cllr McCabe, Cllr McLeod

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minute of the meeting held on 25 November 2008 was approved with the amendment of the word *annually* to *occasionally* in the sentence in Paragraph 13 that refers to the opening of the formal gardens of Duchal Estate.

**3. Matters Arising**

*These are included in the relevant Agenda item minute*

**4. Police Report**

- There were 20 reported crimes in the month of December 2008 – these included:
  - Six related to car theft or theft from cars – which had lead to the arrest and custody of the re-offending felon. Two shoplifting incidents, three breaches of the peace, four acts of vandalism, one shoplifting and a firearm incident which was still under investigation
- Sixteen Probationary Constables are to be drafted into Inverclyde over the next few months
- The Ward 1 Community Police establishment is to be increased from five to ten
- It is not the intention to assign a full time Community Police Officer to Kilmacolm – Beat 76 – but it was confirmed that the days that PC McIntyre is not on duty will be covered by other Community Police Officers
- The deployment of Inverclyde assigned police officers is reviewed on an ongoing basis in response to the needs of the communities they serve
- An updated Police article will be provided for posting on the KCC website
- A comparison of the Kilmacolm crime statistics for the twelve months before and after the reduction in the number of Kilmacolm Community police officers will be provided for the February KCC meeting by Inspector MacDiarmid
- There is concern about the activity at Balrossie School which is under surveillance by the Police and Inverclyde Council.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

- Bank balance stands at £1920 with no significant expenditure expected

- It was confirmed that KCC had not received a request to pay the Association of Scottish Community Councils membership fees since the last payment in May 2004

#### **6. Roads, Pavements, Street Lighting, Parks**

- Blocked drains at the corner of Port Glasgow road and Wateryetts Drive were creating dangerous road conditions and required clearing
- The drain by the footway on Lochwinnoch Road opposite Whitelea Road required urgent attention
- The potholes in Netherwood Road in the vicinity of Auchenbothie Mains were a danger to traffic as this part of the road is breaking up through heavy farm traffic.
- Chair to report these problems to the Roads Department
- Marg McCallum, on the advice of the KCC, undertook to relay to the Ward 1 Councillors the residents' deep felt concern of the inadequacy of the plantings between the Birkmyre Park parking and play areas. It was a shared view that the plantings did not constitute the safe and aesthetically compliant screening that Inverclyde Council were obliged to provide as part of the redevelopment of the Pavilion.

#### **7. Use of Birkmyre Park**

Lengthy and lively discussion took place in reaction to a proposal which is to be considered by the Inverclyde Council Regeneration Committee on 15 January 2009 seeking consultation on the creation of two football pitches and a subsequent reduction of rugby pitches at Birkmyre Park.

The main points of the discussion were:

- It was the view of the KCC that the situation had been handled very badly by the Inverclyde Council and that consultation should have taken place prior to the submission of a proposal to the Regeneration Committee.
- Any decision on the change of use or development of Birkmyre Park was the prerogative of the Birkmyre Trust and not the Inverclyde Regeneration Committee.
- A reduction in the number of rugby pitches and creation of an additional football pitch on the South East side of Broomknowe Road will have a significant adverse impact on St Columba's School, Birkmyre Rugby Football Club and village cricket.
- Some of the KCC members feel very strongly that there was a need for additional football facilities in Kilmacolm and Quarriers area and within Inverclyde.
- There is real need for a properly conducted review of the use of Birkmyre Park and its facilities and for a long term 'sports and recreation' strategy to be developed for Kilmacolm and Inverclyde.
- St Columba's School and Birkmyre Rugby Football Club have made representations to the Head of Economic and Social Regeneration and representatives of both attended and spoke at the meeting.
- The KCC would be included in any consultation on the future use of Birkmyre Park.
- Chairman would contact Stephen McCabe – who could not attend the KCC meeting – to make him aware of the depth of the ill feeling that had been caused by the approach taken by Inverclyde Council to such a sensitive community issue.

#### **8. Planning**

- Planning permission had been refused for the works already undertaken at The Manor, Houston Road
- Chair and Maisie G will review the applications for extensions at Bryndar, Langbank Drive and The Corrie, Houston Road
- The planning application for the Kilmacolm New Community Centre will be made in the coming week
- The activity at Dalliefour, Barclaven Road is being monitored

#### **9. Youth Group**

- The first meeting of the Youth Group is on Friday 23 January 2009. The Youth Group would not meet after Friday 3 April until the start of the autumn term in September.
- The Youth Group is actively seeking alternative premises for the period that the facilities in the Village Centre/KNCC are not available to them

### **Kilmacolm New Community Centre**

- Notice has been served on current users of the Village Centre that the building will not be available for their use after Easter 2009 and until the KNCC is opened
- The planning application for the new Kilmacolm Community Centre will be made in the coming week – this includes Class 2 permission for the Old School House in order to accommodate office space
- It is anticipated that the building works will start after Easter 2009 and last for one year – there will be a temporary loss of ten parking spaces
- The plans and proposed use of KNCC will be discussed at a public meeting sometime in March 2009

### **10. KCC Website.**

- The Police Report on the KCC website to be updated by Inspector MacDiarmid.

### **11. Inverclyde Council Minutes**

- Items of note included the report of the Regeneration Committee regarding the use of Birkmyre Park, a report on Political Balance of Committees and a Coalition Agreement, and a report from the Licensing Board which had suspended a Greenock club licence.

### **12. Correspondence**

- Mrs Perry had written again to KCC about the traffic congestion in Knockbuckle Road. Chair to reply that although in sympathy with the problem there is nothing further the KCC can do.
- Christmas and New Year's greetings from a number of the community had been received
- Nancy, Lady Maclay had thanked KCC for her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Card and flowers.
- Trish Godman MSP had written to KCC requesting that KCC respond to the public consultation into the Regulation of Bus Services Bill. David G to draft the KCC reply.

### **13. Any Other Competent Business**

- Helen Calvert will convey the KCC's appreciation to Willie Rennie for the well received Christmas lights, trees and decorations provided by Inverclyde Council to both Kilmacolm and Quarries Village
- It was agreed that the KCC should make an appeal to Kilmacolm residents to patronise their local traders during the economic down term. This appeal would take the form of a leaflet distributed to as many Kilmacolm and Quarries households as possible. Several options for the format, content and distribution of the leaflet were discussed. Stephen H volunteered to undertake further research and 'sketch' out his ideas for presentation at the next meeting of the KCC.
- Members of KCC were requested to note the impending 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of any of Kilmacolm/Quarries residents
- David G would confirm whether he is able to represent the KCC at the Monday 2 February 2009 meeting of the Inverclyde Forum of Community Councils.

### **14. Dates of Next Meetings**

- Tuesday 24 February 2009 – Chaired by Stephen Hampson
- Tuesday 31 March 2009

**MEETING OF THE KILMACOLM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

To be held in the Community Centre on  
**Tuesday, 24 February 2009 at 7.45pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Submit minute of the previous meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009
4. Police Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Roads, Pavements, Street Lighting, Parks
7. Planning
8. Youth Group
9. Kilmacolm New Community Centre
10. KCC Website
11. Extract of Inverclyde Council Minutes
12. Correspondence
13. Any Other Competent Business
14. Date of Next Meeting