

KILMACOLM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Community Council Meeting (subject to approval)

Tuesday 25th March 2008 at 19:45 in the Community Centre

1. Present

Helen Calvert (Chairman)
Stephen Hampson (Minute)
Iain Couttie
Maisie Galbreath
Robin Gordon
Helen Cook
John Hunter

Apologies

Colin McGinn, David Scott, Bert Service, Insp MacDiarmid, Con McIntyre

2. Attending

Cllr McCabe (part meeting), Cllr McLeod (part meeting)
Janice Crean, David Goddard

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 26th February was approved.

4. Matters Arising

- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had had a further regular meeting with Inverclyde Council concerning the Birkmyre project. It was now hoped the gym would open in early May. It was noted that new and bright car park lights had recently come into operation. There was also some disquiet about the surfacing of the car park. The Council would await local reaction before considering any representations. Members asked if the fair was likely to visit this year and the **Chairman agreed to make enquiries.**
- Two local young people have been offered places on the 'Rugby Club initiative'.
- The prizes for the Poster Competition that were donated by the Council had been awarded at a ceremony at St Columbas School. While very appreciative of the efforts made and time taken by those involved, members felt an opportunity had been missed to involve also Kilmacolm Primary School in the award ceremony.
- David Goddard reported that plans for the 10 km fun run were progressing. The route would include sections of the cycle path and Sustrans and Inverclyde Leisure were working together on this project. The run was scheduled for 26 October. It might well be that the Council would be called on to make a contribution in some form.

5. Police Report

The Police representatives were unable to attend but had submitted a brief written report. There were 9 reported crimes in February but the Council noted that 2 of them apparently referred to events in Port Glasgow. The 7 Kilmacolm crimes comprised 3 cases of vandalism, 2 of theft, 1 drugs case and 1 motoring offence. It was also reported that officials of the Border & Immigration Agency had been in the village the previous week and that 2 people were being investigated.

The Council was pleased to note that Traffic Wardens had been active in Kilmacolm on 18

March. As a result there had been marked, albeit short-lived, benefits for both pedestrians and motorists in the centre of the village.

6. Treasurer's Report

The opening bank balance at the start of the month was £1658. After payment of £30 to the Agricultural show and receipt of an extra grant of £200 from Inverclyde Council, the closing balance was £1828.

The Council noted that the matter of a seat at the War Memorial was still with Inverclyde Council and it was hoped that this might be settled before the year end. **Iain Couttie to pursue.**

7. Roads, Pavements and Street Lighting

It was noted that several roads in and around the village were in a poor state of repair as a result of the spell of wet weather which had hindered maintenance work. It was also noted that the "SLOW" signs that were to be provided on the main road near the junction with the Beeches Road (B788) had not appeared when the white lines were re-instated after the recent re-surfacing work. The Chairman had raised with Renfrewshire Council the state of Finlaystone Road just across the boundary, and with Inverclyde Council the undermining of the pavement on Lochwinnoch Road on the slope up to the railway bridge. Action was awaited.

Other specific road issues raised by members included potholes:

- at the junction of Gryffe Road and Houston Road;
- at the junction of Lochwinnoch Road and Gryffe Road; and
- on Craigends Road, Quarrier's Village.

The Chairman will contact Inverclyde Council concerning these.

8. Planning

No applications that gave rise to concern had been submitted since the last meeting. The Council noted that the Reporter had recently conducted a site visit in regard to the Smithy Brae appeal and that the Knapps appeal had been rejected. St Columba's School had issued a pamphlet concerning their appeal but there was no other development to report on that matter.

9. Youth Group

No report was available. **The Council** discussed making further financial support available and **agreed that computer software to a value not exceeding £250 should be provided if it could be purchased before the end of the financial year.** Cllr McLeod suggested that the Youth Group be provided with a visit to the Scottish Parliament.

10. New Community Centre

The Chairman reported that she had accepted the Chair of the NCC board. Prospects of receiving a grant from the Lottery were fading, but other major contributors remained supportive of the project and it continued to progress. It was, however, likely that the scale of the development would have to be reduced.

11. KCC Website

The website at <http://kilmacolmcc.co.uk/> was now operational. The Council expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by Colin McGinn to bring this about. It was agreed that the website should be publicised. A modest advertisement should be inserted in the "Advertiser", and Inverclyde Council should be asked to insert a link in their website. Cllr McLeod suggested that the "Inverclyde Now" website might carry a note about it.

12. Inverclyde Council Minutes

It was noted that Inverclyde Council had allocated additional funds to the Birkmyre Park project.

Cllr McCabe said that Inverclyde Council sought to identify local events that warranted Council support. He mentioned such things as significant anniversaries and suggested that KCC might usefully contribute to developing a strategy. Members agreed to reflect on the matter.

13. Correspondence

None of note

14. Any Other Competent Business

- It was noted that Inverclyde Council had initiated some bramble clearance along the cycle track on the Port Glasgow side of the village. An assurance was given that this was designed to keep the path itself clear of vegetation and was not meant to damage the interests of those who collected blackberries from the edges of the route.
- It was noted that Inverclyde Council's review of Community Councils was nearing a conclusion and would be considered by the Regeneration Committee in April. Cllr McCabe explained some of the underlying issues, in particular concerns about the relatively large numbers of, but low levels of participation in, Community Councils in some parts of Inverclyde. There was, however, no suggestion that the area covered by Kilmacolm Community Council should be changed.
- (Janice Crean and David Goddard left the meeting at this point). Elections to Community Councils throughout Inverclyde had been delayed as a result of the review mentioned above. Meanwhile it was timely to look at the membership of the Council. The Chairman reported that Lawrie Campbell had resigned as a result of pressure of work while Bert Service remained unwell and it was not clear when he would be able to resume attendance at meetings. He had agreed that his membership of the Council should be temporarily suspended. The Council expressed its gratitude to them both for their contribution. **The Council discussed replacement members and agreed, without dissent, that Janice Crean and David Goddard be co-opted to the Council.** (Janice Crean and David Goddard then re-joined the meeting and were welcomed by all those present.)

15. Dates of Next Meetings

29th April 2008 at 7.45pm – Regular Meeting

27th May 2008 at 7.45pm – Regular Meeting