

Minute of Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, 30 March 2010 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre

(Subject to approval at the next meeting)

Present:

Helen Calvert (Chair)
Stephen Hampson (Vice Chair)
Robin Gordon (Treasurer)
Helen Cook
Ian Couttie
Janice Crean
Maisie Galbreath
David Goddard

Attending:

Cllr Wilson, James MacAlpine – St Columba's School Board, Constable Irene McIntyre,
Constable Karen Docherty

Members of the Community:

Bob Armstrong, Anne Findlay; John Nicol, John Fergus, Ronnie Sheridan, Iain McCallum

Apologies:

Jan Johnson, Colin McGinn (Minute Secretary), David Scott

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 23 February 2010 was approved.

3. St Columba's School Development

James MacAlpine – on behalf of St Columba's School- addressed the meeting and presented - in outline – the proposed development of the School's facilities in the Gryffe Road area of Kilmacolm. The School was bound by a promise of confidentiality and this limited the amount of detail that could be divulged.

Head of Terms had been entered into with Duchal Estates for the possible acquisition of some of the land adjacent to Gryffe Road and opposite the School. This meant that detailed site investigations could be undertaken with a view to developing outline plans for a phased development. Communications with Inverclyde planning officials had been opened up but consultants had not yet been engaged by the School.

It was not intended to increase the School roll numbers but the development was considered necessary to provide facilities considered essential for the School's future.

The proposed site would allow for the incorporation of sporting and parking facilities both of which could potentially be shared with the community.

There was a good initial reaction from the School's near neighbours who were pleased that they had been kept up to date with the proposals. Concern, however, was expressed about any possible future non- residential use of the two adjacent houses the School had acquired. The condition of the properties was deteriorating and it was thought that it was in the interests of the School to attend to this and protect their investment. There were no plans about the future of the properties but the concerns would be relayed back to the School Board.

Mr MacAlpine and the School were thanked for sharing the information – albeit limited in some important areas – and an invitation was extended by the Chair for a further presentation to be made to future KCC meetings once an outline plan had been developed.

4. Strathclyde Police Report

Constable McIntyre presented the Strathclyde Police Report for the Kilmacolm area. There were nine reported crimes during March - three cases of vandalism to parked cars; one theft in Quarries Village; two house breakings with intent – nothing reported as stolen; one lewd and libidinous act; one vehicle theft – arrest was made; one attempted house breaking.

Concern was expressed at the lack of visible police presence in Kilmacolm and a plea was made that the police officers patrolling the area by car park up, patrol on foot and interact with members of the community.

It was confirmed that cases of people acting suspiciously should be reported to the police – telephone 01475 495060.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance was £1,757.03 and there were no outstanding payment at the end of March.

6. Roads, Pavements, Street Lighting

Although potholes in Kilmacolm's roads were a major problem it was doubted that there would a 'quick fix' given the severity of the problem throughout Inverclyde and the limited resources available despite the extra provision made in the budget. It was suggested that Inverclyde Council make a case for some of the recently announced extra funding by Central Government to local authorities to be allocated to the maintenance of Inverclyde roads.

There was a difference of opinion about the effectiveness of the Inverclyde Council snow clearance activities during and after the latest bouts of severe weather in Kilmacolm. It was agreed that a major failing was the positioning and 'topping up' of the Salt/Grit Bins.

A plan and the expenditure to improve the safety of the crossings at Kilmacolm Cross had been agreed. It was requested that these plans be made available to view in advance of the work.

7. Parks

Birkmyre Park

The Inverclyde Council had given the 'go ahead' for the provision of an all-weather surface multi-activity facility on the site of the former blaze tennis courts. Plans would be drawn up and submitted for approval.

It had been agreed that the bushes in the car park would be replaced by more appropriate plantings. It was felt unfortunate that it had taken so long to get a solution to a problem that should never occurred in the first place and for which there was a simple resolution.

8. Planning

The planning applications submitted since the last meeting of the KCC were:

- 10/0051/IC Merkland, Duchal Road - Time extension to previous planning permission
- 10/0059/IC 5 Yetts Avenue - Alterations and extension to front and rear of dwelling house.
- 10/0039/IC Kohala, Duchal Road - Erection of Side extension and Garage
- 10/0055/IC Rhencullen, Duchal Road - Installation of 2 roof windows
- 10/0003/LB Marcus Humphrey, Quarries Village – repositioning internal doors, (LB consent)
- 10/0064/IC 14 Finlaystone Cres – formation of external stair
- 10/0069/IC Rossall, Gryffe Road - Alterations , extension and dormer window to dwelling house

Note: All applications can be viewed online, no plans are being sent to library.

There was some discussion on the Kohala, Duchal Road and the Rossall, Gryffe Road applications but it was felt there were no grounds to oppose them although there were some concerns that the planned developments were out of character in the areas in which the properties were located.

A letter had been received from James Archibald giving an update on the planning application for developments at Haddockston Estate. There was no further action for the KCC in the processing of this planning application.

The KCC Chair and Vice-Chair had attended a training session on Planning. This had equipped them with a better understanding of the importance of the Structure Plans and the influence that Community Councils were able to exercise in the outcomes of the planning process.

9. Kilmacolm New Community Centre

It was reported that good progress was being made on the New Community Centre development – the adverse weather had resulted in some small delay in the planned progress but this could be re-couped.

10. Inverclyde Council Minutes/Reports

Stephen H raised a shared concern that the Report to the Safe Sustainable Communities Committee did not include any support for or development of the Kilmacolm centre in the Main Issues although Greenock, Gourrock and Port Glasgow town centres were included.

11. Correspondence

Correspondence addressed to the KCC was circulated to various members of the KCC for information and action.

12. AOCB

Iain C reported that there had not been any meeting of the Crime Prevention Panel in recent months and that he would establish what plans, if any, there were for the panel to reconvene.

Janice C updated the meeting on the progress in obtaining permission for the restoration of the Charles Rennie Macintosh designed headstone in Kilmacolm Cemetery.

It was agreed that the KCC would donate £100 towards the trophies which would be awarded to the category winners in the Kilmacolm 10K and Half Marathon events that will take place on Sunday 19 September 2010.

David G reported that two recently 'recruited' Sustrans Volunteer Rangers were now tending to the track in both directions of Kilmacolm. There was also a 'team' of three St Columba's pupils and another two teams of more than twelve Inverclyde school pupils each who were undertaking Sustrans volunteering activities in the Ward 1 area as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

David G undertook to contact the Inverclyde Council Dog Wardens to establish what advisory and monitoring assistance they could provide to reduce the incidents of dog fouling in and around Kilmacolm.

13. Date of Next KCC Meetings

- Tuesday 27 April 2010 – 7.30pm
- Tuesday 25 May 2010 - 7.30pm

MEETING OF THE KILMACOLM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

To be held in the Kilmacolm Community Centre on

Tuesday 27 April 2010 at **7.30pm**

AGENDA

1. Welcome, attendance and apologies
2. Submit minute of the previous meeting held on 26 January 2009
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