

Minute of Kilmacolm Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 28 February 2012 at 7.30pm in Room 205 Kilmacolm Community Centre

Present:

Stephen Hampson – Chair
Helen Cook – Vice Chair
David Goddard – Secretary
Robin Gordon – Treasurer
Alda Clark
Helen MacConnacher

Attending:

Cllr Stephen McCabe, Cllr Jim McLeod,
Police Inspector Brian Shaw, PC Irene McIntyre, PC Karen Docherty – Strathclyde Police
Lord Maclay, Nicol Cameron, E K Hart, Maisey Galbreath, Margaret Forbes, Margie
McCallum, James McColgan, Katrina Vine

Apologies:

Jan Johnston, David Madden, John Watson, Cllr David Wilson,

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the February 2012 meeting of the Kilmacolm Community Council and welcomed those present. He established the issues the non-members present wished to bring to the attention of the community council for discussion either under the appropriate agenda item or any other competent business.

2. Minute of the Previous Kilmacolm Community Council Meeting

The year in the dates of the next meetings was incorrectly shown as **2011** and should have been **2012**. With this correction the minute of the Kilmacolm Community Council meeting held on 31 January 2012 was approved.

3. Strathclyde Police Report

Police Inspector Brian Shaw introduced himself to the meeting and explained that he had recently taken charge of community policing in the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde areas. It was his intention that there would be a more visible police presence in the community and that changes would be made to give a focus to meeting the needs of policing in the villages within his area of responsibility.

PC Irene McIntyre gave a breakdown of the reported crimes in the Kilmacolm/Quarriers area for February 2012. There were only four reported crimes during the month – one breach of the peace, one traffic offence, one theft and an act of vandalism. Again, pleasingly, there were no reported housebreakings.

Illegal and unsafe parking in Kilmacolm was one of the concerns that PS Brian Shaw wished to deal with as a priority. He was seeking to work in partnership with the schools to get the

co-operation of parents and bus operators to improve the situation on the roads adjacent to the schools.

It was suggested that the sign on the bend of the A761 Kilmacolm to Port Glasgow road just beyond the junction with Auchenbothie Road, which advertises a take away outlet in Port Glasgow, was a serious distraction to motorists and it should be removed. It was felt this was a matter for the Inverclyde Council to resolve. The Secretary would, in the first instance, lodge a complaint with the Inverclyde Environmental & Commercial Services.

4. Kilmacolm Community Council Finances

The Treasurer reported that the KCC's current bank balance was £1581.84 and there had been no expenditure or income since the last report.

A request for a £70 donation as a contribution to some of the cattle class prizes at the 2012 Kilmacolm and Port Glasgow Agricultural Society had been received. It was agreed to donate £70 on the proviso that it would, as in previous years, be publicly acknowledged.

Katrina Vine clarified that the planting exercise in which the Quarriers Village Council were involved was a Woodlands Trust project to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and was not a response, as thought by the KCC, to replace the trees lost in the recent storms. It was agreed that the Treasurer would liaise with Katrina to determine whether some of the proposed plantings could include species that would meet the conditions on which the KCC's proposed donation was predicated. If the Treasurer was satisfied with the outcome he would, on behalf of the KCC, make the agreed donation to the plantings which were deemed to be of benefit to the community.

At the previous meeting the Chair had asked that members bring to this meeting ideas on how, in the next financial year, to best use to the benefit of the community the KCC funds which were not committed to administrative expenses. One idea that met with general approval was to provide a suitable gift to the community to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Chair's suggestion was for the KCC to gift a flag pole to be erected in Birkmyre Park. This idea met with some agreement but concerns were expressed that it would be necessary to 'employ' someone to raise and lower the flags and that a flag pole, for which planning permission would most likely be required, could be a target for vandalism. The Vice Chair thought that the KCC may wish to consider organising a 'Jubilee' competition for school children resident in the villages of Kilmacolm and Quarriers and awarding prizes. It was agreed that the idea needed to be developed into a specific proposal before it could be properly considered. The Vice Chair and Helen MacConnacher agreed to develop the proposal. The Secretary favoured the idea of gifting a suitable tree, with a commemorative plaque, and planted in Birkmyre Park.

The Secretary would discuss with Ian Moffat - Head of Environmental and Commercial Services – the ideas of erecting a flag pole and planting a commemorative tree in Birkmyre Park and would report back to the KCC.

The Secretary would submit to the members of the KCC prior to the next meeting suggestions for donations and some items of expenditure to be included in the planned 'budget' for 2012/2013.

5. Planning/Licensing

The Chair informed the meeting that the planning permissions for the erection of a wind turbine at High Mathernock Farm had been refused by Inverclyde Council - the KCC had not objected to this planning application. An appeal against the refusal of planning permission was lodged with the Scottish Government and was sustained.

The planning application for the erection of a farm worker's cottage in the fields bounded by Knockbuckle and Netherwood Roads, at the time it was considered and opposed by the KCC, was not accompanied by any documentation that would support the proposal for new dwellings in the Green Belt. Documentation in support of the application was added to the Inverclyde Council online planning application system subsequent to the KCC's decision to object to the application. Had this information been available at the time the application was reviewed the KCC would have taken it into account when considering whether and, if so, the grounds on which to raise an objection. Inverclyde Council Regeneration and Planning are recommending the application be granted.

It was agreed that Helen MacConnacher would write to Aubrey Fawcett – Corporate Director Regeneration and Planning – and copy in David Wilson, in his role as Chair of the Planning Board, expressing the KCC displeasure over the way this planning application had been handled.

The local planning applications lodged in the period 30 January to 20 February 2012 were:

- *12/0012/IC - East Green Farm Kilmacolm - Erection of new farmhouse (amendment to Planning Permission 09/0185/IC)*
- *12/0033/IC - The Lodge, Hazelmere Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4JW - Demolition of house and construction of two new houses*
- *12/0045/IC - Mossend, Glenmosston Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4PF - Proposed extension to form habitable accommodation over existing single storey part of existing detached dwelling house, including formation of balcony*
- *12/0030/IC - Knapps, Houston Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4NQ - Erection of a dwelling house*
- *12/0034/IC - 71 Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4LG - Alterations and extension to form porch*

After discussion it was agreed that the KCC:

- Did not object to or comment on the planning applications *12/0012/IC, 12/0045/IC, 12/0034/IC*
- Did not object to the planning application *12/0033/IC - The Lodge, Hazelmere Road* but would comment that its approval should be subject to the provision of suitable access, including during the construction, and that the same conditions imposed on the previous submission should be applied.
- Did object to the planning application *12/0030/IC - Knapps, Houston Road* as it was felt the proposed dwelling, which would be easily visible on the approach to Kilmacolm and from the Knapps Loch, was an inappropriate design for the area.

Helen MacConnacher would convey the KCC objection and comments to the Inverclyde Council.

6. Roads, Pavements, Street Lighting

The Secretary would request Inverclyde Council to attend to the cause of flooding on the B788 Road in the vicinity of Milton Farm and on the B786 about 100 metres from the Toll going towards Lochwinnoch.

The bad state of surface of the B788 – Greenock High Road – and the numerous and dangerous pot holes would be reported by the Secretary.

Dog fouling on the Kilmacolm pavements, the cycle track and in the open spaces around Kilmacolm – particularly the Knapps - is rife. The Secretary will submit an article for publication in the Advertiser aimed at the actions of irresponsible dog owners and post it on the KCC website.

7. Parks and Open Spaces

The Chair had received a response on the matters pertaining to Birkmyre Park that were discussed at their meeting in October. The bushes that were to provide a screening for the car park that had been destroyed last winter are to be replaced in the late Spring with more robust plantings. It was planned to set up bollards along the section of Broomknowe Road adjacent to the rugby pitch to prevent parking on the verges.

The Secretary had sent a note to Ian Moffat - Head of Environmental and Commercial Services – thanking him for the decision to base snow and ice clearing equipment in Kilmacolm but asking that he consider alternative accommodation for it as the container - sited in Birkmyre Park - in which the equipment is housed detracts from the park setting. The reply to this note was disappointing and it was felt that insufficient consideration had been given to addressing the problem of siting a container in Birkmyre Park and the justifiable complaints that had been received. It was agreed that the Secretary should arrange to meet and discuss the situation with Ian Moffat.

Work had started on the upgrade of the children's play area in West Glen Park

8. Inverclyde Council Minutes/Reports

The agenda for the 6 March 2012 meeting of the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee included a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment on the representations received in response to the additional suggested development sites incorporated in the Post Main Issues Report. The majority of the representations on the new sites were opposed to further Green Belt release around Kilmacolm. There was however limited support for further release of Green Belt land at Smithy Brae which was linked to the development of the adjacent brown field site in the centre of the village. Forty six representations, including one on behalf of fifty four residents were concerned with the three suggested development sites in Quarriers Village which had been included in the MIR itself which was published last summer. It appears that many residents in Quarriers were not aware of the original MIR exercise.

9. Reid Headstone – Kilmacolm Cemetery

The Chair had attended a meeting called by Janice Crean which included *inter alia* representatives from Historic Scotland, the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society and the Kilmacolm Civic Trust. Funding and agreement had been obtained to undertake the restoration of the Reid headstone situated in the Kilmacolm Cemetery which had been designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and is categorised as a 'listed building'. An information board will be erected at the entrance to the cemetery providing details of the headstone and its history.

10. Cycle Rack Sculpture

No suggestions about the positioning and decorative finish of the cycle rack sculpture - now erected near to the entrance of the Library - had been received from members prior to the meeting. The feeling of the meeting was that the KCC had made a very significant contribution towards the provision of the sculpture as a gift to the Cargill Centre and it should not be put in position out of view or where it could not be used as a bike rack. The Secretary would again ask for suggestions and relay these to Colin McGinn, the KNCC board member who had commissioned the work.

11. Kilmacolm Cross Conservation Area

Nicol Cameron of the Kilmacolm Civic Trust explained that the Scottish Civic Trust had proposed, during the Local Development Plan consultations, that an area around the Kilmacolm Cross should be designated a conservation area. The Scottish Civic Trust, in conjunction with the Inverclyde Council, was developing the suggestion and the next stage was to define the precise boundary of the proposed area. The KCC and other local stakeholders were invited to contribute to this boundary definition process by participating in a walk around the possible boundaries and in 'on site' discussions which would be followed by a discussion on the conclusions. It was requested that the 'walk about' be arranged for Tuesday 13 March 2012. Once the date had been agreed the KCC Chair would confirm which KCC members would participate in this exercise. The KCC members felt it was important that the village traders and the residents in the flats in the centre of the village were invited to participate in this walk about and discussions.

12. Broadband Speeds in Kilmacolm

Despite having been sent a reminder BT had not replied to the request made by the Secretary for their assistance to improve the broadband speeds in the Kilmacolm area. It was agreed that the Secretary would make a further request, this time to the head of BT in Scotland for BT to undertake work to remedy the situation.

13. Bridge of Weir

Katrina Vine enquired whether the KCC would be giving their support to the campaign to oppose Renfrewshire Council's sale of the Bridge of Weir Moss Road Park and to object to any plans for the site to be developed to include a retail outlet. There was some considerable discussion which sought to light the differing views of the KCC members. It was agreed to delay, until a subsequent KCC meeting when a greater number of the

members were present, any decision on whether the KCC should become involved in what were essentially Renfrewshire Council and Bridge of Weir issues.

14. Kilmacolm Community Cleanup

The Secretary reported that Karen Maitland was again organising the Community Cleanup using local volunteers to clear the accumulated litter from the verges of the roads leading in and out of Kilmacolm. The Community Cleanup is planned to take place on a Saturday in April – probably 21 April. The Secretary was disappointed that in previous years the KCC had done nothing to support this worthwhile community project. In the past the volunteers were transported to and from their designated cleanup ‘spots’ by the Kilmacolm Community Bus which was no longer in service. Karen Maitland had provided lunch ‘boxes’ for the volunteers at her own expense.

The Secretary proposed that this year the KCC members consider offering their services either to transport the volunteers or to participate in the cleanup itself. He further proposed that the KCC fund the lunch ‘boxes’ or light lunches for the volunteers.

It was suggested that the KCC members’ car insurances may not cover the transportation of volunteers and that alternative means of transport be sought. At the suggestion of Cllr McCabe the Secretary agreed to contact the Port Glasgow Transport Group to establish if they could transport the volunteers.

It was agreed that the KCC could fund the lunch ‘boxes’ or light lunches for the volunteers. The Secretary would establish an estimate of the costs and seek the KCC approval for the expenditure.

15. Dates of Next Meetings

- Tuesday 27 March 2012 – Kilmacolm Community Centre – 7:30pm
- Tuesday 24 April 2012 – Kilmacolm Community Centre – 7:30pm