

Minute of Kilmacolm Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 27 March 2012 at 7.30pm in Room 205 Kilmacolm Community Centre

Present:

Stephen Hampson – Chair
Helen Cook – Vice Chair
David Goddard – Secretary
Robin Gordon – Treasurer
Helen MacConnacher
David Madden
John Watson

Attending:

Cllr Stephen McCabe, Cllr David Wilson
Sgt Danny Godfrey, Sgt Lorna Allison – Strathclyde Police
Andrew Brewer, Norman Johnstone, James McColgan, Kirstin Zhang

Apologies:

Alda Clark, Jan Johnston, Cllr Jim McLeod

1. Welcome

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

2. Minute of the Previous Kilmacolm Community Council Meeting

Police Inspector Brian Shaw's police rank was incorrectly shown as "Superintendent" in the list of attendees and in agenda item **3. Strathclyde Police Report**. With these corrections the minute of the Kilmacolm Community Council meeting held on 28 February 2012 was approved.

3. Strathclyde Police Report

Sgt Danny Godfrey introduced himself and Sgt Lorna Allison to the meeting. There were sixty four incidents logged for the Kilmacolm/Quarriers area during the month of March but only one reported crime – a case of drunk and incapable. Illegal, unsafe and inconsiderate parking in Kilmacolm was being dealt with as a priority particularly around the schools. The approach that is being taken – which the KCC support – is, in the first instance, to bring to the offenders' attention the risks and dangers of their actions and appealing to them to modify their behaviour.

It was agreed that incidents of motor vehicles parking on pavements in Kilmacolm were at unacceptable levels and were causing dangerous obstructions for pedestrians, particularly for those in charge of a pushchair. Sgt Godfrey comments cast doubt on whether parking

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on the pavement was, in itself, illegal even though at a previous meeting it had been confirmed by the police in attendance that parking on the pavement was indeed an offence. It is nevertheless an offence to obstruct and drive on pavements and footpaths and the police would deal with the transgressions they witnessed themselves or which were reported to them. It was confirmed that the anonymity of those reporting incidents would be maintained. It was generally agreed that it may be less dangerous for all concerned – including the vehicle owners – and would help regulate vehicle speeds if vehicles legally parked on the roads rather than partly on the footpath and roads.

4. Kilmacolm Community Council Finances

The Treasurer reported that the KCC's current bank balance was £1511.84 and that the only expenditure since the last report was a £70 donation as a contribution to some of the cattle class prizes at the 2012 Kilmacolm and Port Glasgow Agricultural Society. A decision was still awaited on the Quarriers Village tree plantings which the KCC had agreed to sponsor up to a cost of £200.

Prior to the meeting the Treasurer had circulated a 2012/2013 KCC Budget proposal and had requested comments and suggestions which were considered at the meeting. After discussion the KCC 2012/2013 expense budget was agreed as:

Administration Expenses

Room Rent	£200.00
Website costs	£85.00
December Meeting	£60.00
Phone costs	£10.00
Stationery	£100.00
Travel	£100.00
	£555.00

Donations/Events

Jubilee Commemoration	£300.00
Best Dressed Shop Window	£100.00
Community Cleanup	£70.00
Flower Tubs - net cost (maximum)	£300.00
Agricultural Society donation	£70.00
Kilmacolm 10K Run - Prizes	£150.00
Remembrance Wreath	£26.00
	£1,016.00

Total Expenditure **£1,571.00**

The Treasurer would be able to raise cheques for items of expenditure that were within the agreed budgets without further reference to the KCC members. The budget would be continually reviewed and revised to reflect agreed changes to expenditure or donations. It was felt by some that it was an inappropriate use of the Inverclyde Council grant to fund the refreshments at the December meeting and a vote was taken with two members opposed and five members in favour of the spending.

5. Diamond Jubilee Commemorations

At the previous meeting the Chair had suggested that the KCC consider gifting a flag pole to be erected in Birkmyre Park. After discussion it was agreed not to pursue this suggestion.

The Secretary agreed to develop the proposal of gifting and planting a suitable tree in Birkmyre Park.

The Vice Chair and Helen MacConnacher had involved Kirstin Zhang – St Columba’s School ‘writer-in-residence’ - in pursuing their ideas for a KCC sponsored ‘Jubilee’ competition for school children who attend the primary schools in Kilmacolm. After discussion it was agreed that the Vice Chair, Helen MacConnacher and Kirstin Zhang would meet and develop the proposal for a competition of a creative nature which would be open to Junior/Primary 2 pupils of Kilmacolm Primary School and St Columba’s School. The competition would be an extra mural individual - not classroom - based activity. It was agreed that KCC would award prizes appropriate to the age group involved and that the winning entry would, if possible, be published in The Advertiser. The format of the competition would be such that it could be repeated in future years for the then Junior/Primary 2 pupils of Kilmacolm Primary School and St Columba’s School. The proposal would be presented at the next meeting of the KCC for discussion and approval.

David Madden suggested that the KCC may wish to consider donating to the community a framed picture by a local artist. The picture could be hung in the Kilmacolm Community Centre. David Madden would bring a detailed proposal to the next meeting for consideration.

6. Planning/Licensing

The local planning applications lodged since 28 February were:

- *12/0086/IC – 2 Houston Road, Kilmacolm - Alterations to design of dwelling house consisting of additional floor space at ground floor level, upper floor balcony and substitution of roofing material for front canopy.*
- *12/0072/IC - Chimney Rock, Park Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4EJ - Removal of chimney stack*
- *12/0066/IC - 4 Lodge Grove, Kilmacolm PA13 4DX - Demolition of conservatory and erection of new extension*
- *12/0044/IC – Auchenfoyle Farm, Auchenfoil Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4TH - Erection of extension and formation of dormer window to facilitate extension of one dwelling into neighbouring dwelling*
- *12/0064/IC - Sommerville Weir Hall, Faith Avenue, Quarriers Village PA11 3SX - Part change of use to create sport changing facility*

After discussion it was agreed that the KCC would object to the planning application *12/0086/IC - Plot 2, Houston Road* on the same grounds as the previous application – which was that the KCC considered the application constitutes overdevelopment in the conservation area surrounding Kilmacolm. Helen MacConnacher would convey the KCC objection and comments to Inverclyde Council.

Lambert Smith Hampson acting on behalf of GWM Balrossie Ltd (in administration) had informed the KCC that planning permission and listed building consent are being sought to allow the former Balrossie School site to be redeveloped. The proposals include the restoration and conversion of the existing buildings into private dwellings and also an enabling development of a number of new dwellings. It is intended to hold a public exhibition of their proposals in the Kilmacolm Community Centre on Wednesday 25 April 2012.

7. Roads, Pavements, Street Lighting

Prior to the meeting the Secretary had circulated copies of the Proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) C114 and C115. The plans that accompanied the TRO's were put on display.

TRO C114 includes a proposal to extend the 30mph speed limit on the A761 Port Glasgow/Kilmacolm Road at Port Glasgow from its current position southwards – towards Kilmacolm – to incorporate the new roundabout at the Port Glasgow Joint Campus. It is also proposed that the speed limit on the revised unrestricted section is reduced to 50mph.

TRO C115 proposes to reduce the speed limit on the B788 Kilmacolm/Auchmountain/Auchenfoil Road to 50mph between the existing 30mph speed limit close to Leven Road and a point south of the junction with Dougliehill Road.

The proposed reduction in the speed limit is a result of a review - as requested by the Scottish Government – of speed limits on A&B Class roads. The guidance provided advises that speeds should be set around the average speed at which cars travel.

The outcome after some considerable discussion on the principles of the review and how it was being undertaken was that the KCC would not oppose the proposals contained in TRO C114 and TRO C115. It was requested that the Secretary, in conveying the KCC response, should express the KCC's surprise at being asked to comment on proposals that had already implemented as the new 30mph signs at Port Glasgow had apparently already been erected and were on display.

It was again suggested by the Chair that consideration should be given to imposing a 50mph speed limit on the section of the A 761 Kilmacolm to Bridge of Weir road from the outskirts of Kilmacolm to just beyond the turn off to Quarriers Village. The Chair and David Madden would make this suggestion to Ian Moffat - Head of Service: Environmental and Commercial Services. The Secretary asked if they might also consider discussing a previously proposed extension of the 30mph limit to beyond the B788 turn off on this section of the A 761.

Dog fouling on the Kilmacolm pavements, the cycle track and in the open spaces around Kilmacolm – particularly the Knapps – was on the increase. The Secretary had submitted an article for publication in the Advertiser aimed at the actions of irresponsible dog owners which he would post on the KCC website.

8. Parks and Open Spaces

The Secretary had spoken with Willie Rennie: Service Manager about the disappointing reply from Ian Moffat to the KCC note about the siting of the Inverclyde Council container in Birkmyre Park. It was now requested that the KCC provide suggestions on alternative accommodation for the ice and snow clearing equipment. The Secretary will put some ideas to the KCC for consideration at the next meeting.

9. Inverclyde Council Minutes/Reports

The agenda for the 27 March 2012 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee and accompanying reports had only been delivered to the Secretary earlier in the day. Included was a report on the Olympic Torch Relay which would visit Inverclyde on Friday 8 June and would be carried through Kilmacolm. The report outlined the roles and responsibilities that were required of Inverclyde Council. The Head of Service: Environmental and Commercial Services would head a project team that would plan and resource the required support. The Secretary would determine if the KCC had any role to play.

The BBC and the London2012 websites carry details of the Kilmacolm torch route, times and torch carriers – none of whom are from Kilmacolm.

10. Kilmacolm Community Cleanup – 21 April 2012

The Secretary reported that Karen Maitland who was again organising the Community Cleanup had, in previous years, not only paid for the volunteers' 'lunch packs' but had also paid for the use of Kilmacolm Community Bus to transport the volunteer litter pickers. As requested at the previous meeting the Secretary had contacted the Port Glasgow Transport Group to establish if they could transport the volunteers to and from their designated cleanup areas on the day. They were able to make the bus available on 21 April but would have to make a charge for its use. The Secretary proposed that the KCC not only meet the costs of the 'lunch packs' - as agreed at last meeting – but also pay for the use of the Port Glasgow Transport bus if this was used. It was agreed that the KCC would donate up to £70 to fund this worthy community event if it was necessary to hire the bus. Karen Maitland was making an appeal for car owners to transport the 'litter pickers' and if this was successful then the cost of the bus hire would not be incurred.

The Vice Chair informed the meeting that on the same day as the Community Cleanup Kilmacolm Primary School pupils and parents would be participating in a summer planting in the school grounds and a tidy up of the boundary between the school and Duchal Wood.

11. 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 forthcoming since the last meeting. In discussion it was confirmed that KCC had made a very significant contribution towards the provision of the sculpture as a gift to the Cargill Centre and it was felt that it should not be re-positioned out of view or moved where it could not be used as a bike rack. It was, however, accepted that as the gifted sculpture was now the property of the KNCC they should decide on its positioning and finishing. The KCC would be unhappy if it were moved

outside the boundaries of the Cargill Centre as to do so would be at odds with the original purpose of the gift.

12. Kilmacolm Cross Conservation Area

The Chair, Helen MacConnacher and Alda Clark had, together with members of the Kilmacolm Civic Trust and residents and traders, met Gemma Wild of the Scottish Civic Trust in Kilmacolm on 13 March. The Kilmacolm Cross Conservation Area that the Scottish Civic Trust would be proposing to the Inverclyde Council would incorporate:

- The block bounded by Bridge of Weir Road, Norval Place, Gilburn Road and Market Place
- St James Terrace including the 'Institute' site
- Part of the block bounded by Bridge of Weir Road, Lochwinnoch Road and Duchal Road incorporating the Cargill Centre, the adjacent Lyle Building, St Columba's Church and its associated buildings and the Dorema Surgery.
- The Pullman Tavern
- The 'triangle' bounded by Market Place/High Street and Port Glasgow Road up to and including the Old Kirk and its associated buildings

The Chair did not think that sufficient explanation had been given by the Scottish Civic Trust about the benefits that would accrue, the implications or the constraints that would be imposed should the proposed area be given Conservation status.

The Scottish Civic Trust would put their recommendations to the Inverclyde Council after which it is assumed there would be a consultation phase in which the KCC would be involved.

13. Communication with Bridge of Weir Community Council

The Chair proposed that – with the approval of the KCC – he write to the Chair of the Bridge of Weir Community Council to establish whether the Bridge of Weir Community Council wished any KCC involvement in the current Bridge of Weir 'land use' issues. It was agreed that this was a very sensible approach by the KCC to what were essentially Renfrewshire Council and Bridge of Weir issues.

It was explained by Norman Johnstone that there was a submission in the Renfrewshire Council Main Issues Report (MIR) to change the zoning of the Bridge of Weir 'coal yard' site from Business and Industry to retail development. The date for submitting representations to the MIR had passed and the KCC, therefore, were not involved in the Local Development Plan for Renfrewshire.

14. Kilmacolm Community Council Minutes and Agenda

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Kilmacolm Library, because of space constraints, was not able to display the KCC minutes and agenda. The KCC had an obligation that *Notices calling meetings of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL and its committees shall be posted prominently within the COMMUNITY COUNCIL area for a minimum period of ten days before the date of any such meeting, and, where possible, be advertised by other suitable means.* The Secretary proposed that the KCC approach the KNCC for their agreement to fix a KCC Notice Board in the Community Centre on which to display KCC

meeting minutes and agenda. The proposal was not agreed and it was suggested instead that the Library and Community Centre be asked to file copies of the minutes and agenda and display notices making it known that the minutes and agenda were available to view in the files. The Secretary would make the approaches to the Library and Community Centre.

15. Gargill Centre – Scottish Civic Trust – My Place Awards

The Chair informed the members that the Kilmacolm Cargill Centre project had been commended at the Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards event in Glasgow which had been held earlier in the day.

16. Dates of Next Meetings in the Kilmacolm Community Centre

- Tuesday 24 April 2012 – 7:30pm – Meeting to be chaired by Vice Chair
- Tuesday 29 May 2012 – Annual General Meeting – 7:00pm
- Tuesday 29 May 2012 – 7:30pm