

**Kilmacolm Community Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 27 October 2015 at 7.30pm in Room 204 Kilmacolm  
Community Centre**

**Present:**

Mike Jefferis – Chair  
Helen Cook – Vice Chair  
David Goddard – Secretary  
Jan Johnston - Treasurer  
Alda Clark  
Helen MacConnacher  
David Madden  
Dale McFadzean

Cllr Stephen McCabe – Ex Officio Member  
Cllr James McColgan - Ex Officio Member  
Cllr David Wilson - Ex Officio Member

**Attending:**

PC Mark Galvin, PC Gordon Devlin - Police Scotland; Peter MacDonald --  
Legal and Property Services: Inverclyde Council; Helen Calvert - KNCC;  
Jim Madden; Margie McCallum

**Apologies:**

Edwin Fisher, Cllr Jim MacLeod - Ex Officio Member

**1. Welcome**

The Chair opened the 27 October 2015 meeting of the Kilmacolm Community Council and welcomed those attending.

**2. Minute of the Kilmacolm Community Council Meeting – 29 September 2015**

The minute of the Kilmacolm Community Council Meeting held on 29 September 2015 was approved.

**3. Police Scotland**

The Secretary reported that an email had been received from Police Scotland explaining that the reason there was no police presence at the last KCC meeting was because the neighbourhood officers en route to the meeting became involved in an incident which resulted in an arrest. The KCC re-affirmed their understanding that policing operational matters must take priority over attendance at meetings.

PC Galvin presented a summary of the ten local crimes - Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village - that had been recorded in September and the six in October 2015. These numbers compared with the thirteen and the nine recorded in the same months of the previous year. Included in the September 2015 recorded crimes were three thefts, two attempted house break ins, one assault, three thefts from outbuildings and a case of vandalism. The recorded crimes in October 2015 to date included two thefts, a break in to a locked container, one wilful fire raising, one attempted theft from a garden and one house breaking.

Police patrols both uniformed and plain clothed were being undertaken in Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village. The amount of building work currently being undertaken in both villages means there are increased numbers of personnel and vehicular traffic in residential areas and extra vigilance needs to be exercised.

Chief Inspector Elliot Brown the Area Commander for Inverclyde intends to visit each of the community councils in his area and will be in contact with the KCC to make arrangements to attend one of the meetings.

PC Galvin clarified that although parking on a pavement was, in its self, not an offence it was, however, an offence to create a hazard or obstruction by parking on pavements. He also clarified that leaving a car engine running whilst parked is not a criminal offence but may be considered an environmental issue by local authorities.

#### **4. Kilmacolm Community Council Finances**

Prior to the meeting the Treasurer had circulated to the community councillors a copy of the approved 2015/2016 Budget together with a break down of the year to date expenditure of £527.29. A deficit for the year of £379 is forecast.

It was agreed that the KCC would support the Kilmacolm Primary School in their school house re-naming initiative and make a donation £75 towards the cost of posters publicising the re-naming.

#### **5. Appointment of 'Focus Leads'**

It was agreed that the 'focus leads' for the key areas of KCC 'business' would be:

- Planning - Helen MacConnacher
- Community Care - Alda Clark
- Roads, Pavements, Lighting and Open Spaces - David Goddard
- Twinning - Helen Clark
- Kilmacolm Schools - Jan Johnston

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### 6. Planning/Licensing

The KCC members considered the following planning applications that had been validated since the last meeting:

- *15/0022/TRE- Torwood Knockbuckle Road Kilmacolm PA13 4JT - Removal/reduction of Lawson or Leyland Cypress trees (3)*
- *15/0272/IC - 11 Victoria Gardens Kilmacolm PA13 4HL - Single storey extension to side of existing detached dwelling house*
- *15/0264/IC - 8 St James Terrace - The Village Newsagent Lochwinnoch Road Kilmacolm PA13 4HB*
- *15/0259/IC - 13 St James Terrace Lochwinnoch Road Kilmacolm PA13 4HB - Repainting of shopfront*

The KCC were not opposed to these applications nor did feel they required any formal comment.

Helen MacConnacher informed the meeting that an application - *15/0254/IC|Erection of dwelling house and associated works|Nether Knockbuckle Lodge Hazelmere Road Kilmacolm PA13 4JW* - had been validated since the last KCC meeting but had inadvertently been omitted as an agenda item. It was agreed that Helen would forward members the link to this application and invite comments.

The Secretary reported that the planning application for the erection of a cottage and a storage shed at Craigmarnoch Port Glasgow Road Kilmacolm PA13 4SG had now been granted. The application for the construction of new roads and the creation of development platforms with associated servicing and groundworks off Leperstone Avenue Kilmacolm had - by a casting vote - been approved by the Inverclyde Planning Board.

### 7. Roads, Pavements, Street Lighting, Parks and Open Spaces

There had been some drain clearing activity in various areas of Kilmacolm. It was agreed to assess the effectiveness of this work after the onset of the winter rains.

Cllr McCabe outlined the plan - approved by the Environment & Regeneration Committee - for improved replacement street lighting in Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village. This includes replacement lanterns along Bridge of Weir Road, Lochwinnoch Road and Port Glasgow Road in Kilmacolm and on a number of residential streets in Quarriers Village.

A request was made that the KCC seek to have a temporary order granted which would allow the Kilmacolm on-street parking limit to be extended from 30 minutes to two hours as had been agreed in principle

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by the Inverclyde Council. The request was prompted by the news that it could take until May 2016 for the Traffic Regulation Order for this extension to be formalised.

Cllr McCabe pointed out that the process had been started and that there were no short cuts. Jan Jonston stressed that the shopkeepers of Kilmacolm were of the opinion that the draconian enforcement of the traffic regulations were the main cause in the drop in footfall in the village. Cllr McCabe stated that he did not agree with this statement but felt that it was the economic climate that was the main cause – however he did concede that it may have a minor effect. He did point out that any member of the Inverclyde Council could seek a temporary order at a full council meeting. When asked if he would do so he declined but stated that Cllr Wilson could do so if he wished. When asked if he would support such a request he did not answer. He stated that any temporary order could delay the implementation of the agreed Traffic Regulation Orders. The result of this discussion was that Cllr Wilson agreed to make a formal request at the next full meeting of Inverclyde Council for a temporary order to be implemented. The Secretary would make a similar request to the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services.

Cllr McCabe informed the meeting that it was the wish of the Birkmyre Trust to use some of their accumulated funds to improve the Birkmyre Park facilities. He asked the KCC to consider the matter and to suggest improvements at the next meeting.

### **8. Closure of the RBS Kilmacolm Branch**

It had been confirmed at the KCC initiated meeting with the RBS Local Chief Executive Officer and senior RBS officials that the RBS mobile bank would visit Kilmacolm on Mondays - 10:30 to 11:30, Wednesdays - 11:30 to 12:30 and Fridays 10:30 to 11:15. Subsequent to this meeting it had been agreed that the mobile bank would park in the disabled parking bays in front of the the Kilmacolm Library.

### **9. Promoting Kilmacolm**

Jan Johnston undertook to take charge of a campaign in conjunction with the village shopkeepers to promote Kilmacolm as a place to shop, relax and socialise.

### **10. Kilmacolm Community Council Events**

The KCC would run a Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition with the judging and a Christmas Hamper raffle on Friday 5 December 2015 to coincide with the Christmas Tree Lighting Up. Members were asked to contribute items for the hampers which Alda Clark would assemble.

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### **11. Kilmacolm Village Centre Free WiFi**

It had been suggested at a previous KCC meeting that the incoming community council consider initiating a project to assess the feasibility and associated costs of establishing and running a free WiFi service. A service that could be accessed in the vicinity of the Cargill Centre 'piazza'. It was agreed at this meeting that this initiative should be pursued. The Secretary agreed to lead this project assisted by David Madden.

### **12. Dates of Next Meetings of the Kilmacolm Community Council**

- Tuesday 24 November 2015 - 7:30pm
- Tuesday 26 January 2016 - 7:30pm