

# Minutes of Meeting of South Cowal Community Council Held in Innellan (Matheson) Church Hall on 5 April 2006

**Present:**  
Dr C Valentine (Chair)  
Mrs I Pratt  
Mrs M Little  
Mr R McGilvray (Treasurer)  
Mr S F Pearson (Vice Chair)  
Mrs P Forsyth (Secretary)  
Councillor J R Walsh

**Attending:**  
Mr C Molyneux  
Mr E Malcolm  
Mrs M Malcolm  
Mr R Fairlie  
Mr J Law  
Mrs S Gamage  
Mr W Jardine  
Mr I Gamage

**The meeting commenced at 7.10 pm.**

1. Dr Valentine welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 8 March 2006**

The minutes were **approved** by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

## **2.1. Matters Arising**

### **2.1.1. Future Meetings**

It was **agreed** that future meetings of the Community Council would be held on the following dates:

10 May 2006  
14 June 2006  
12 July 2006  
13 September 2006  
11 October 2006  
8 November 2006  
10 January 2007  
14 February 2007  
14 March 2007  
11 April 2007

The meetings would be held at 7 pm in Innellan Village Hall.

### **2.1.2. Community Council Bank Account**

It was reported that all signatories to the Council's account had been accepted by the Bank. Councillor Walsh reminded the meeting that an annual administration grant was available on submission of audited accounts (by December).

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### **3. Constitution and Standing Orders**

Mrs Forsyth drew the meeting's attention to those alterations to the Model Constitution and Standing Orders (previously circulated) that had not been discussed at the previous meeting. These were reviewed and **agreed** and the Standing Orders and Constitution were then unanimously **approved**, subject to their acceptance by Argyll and Bute Council. Mrs Forsyth **agreed** to forward them on to the Council.

### **4. Matheson Garden Project Group**

Mr McGilvray provided the attendees with a synopsis of the 2 meetings of the group that had been held so far, as follows:

- Rev David Anderson had been appointed Chairperson, Mr Jack Hutchins, Secretary and Mr McGilvray, Treasurer. Innellan Primary School was also involved in the project and a constitution had been approved.
- It had been agreed that the goal would be to create a contemplative garden for persons of all faiths or of none.
- A priority would be the creation of a disabled parking area which it was felt that the church could provide. The issue remained of the access road to the garden.
- £100,000 was the amount needed to fund the project. Argyll and Bute Council would be able to provide access to a database of organisations that might support.
- A bank account would be opened and formalised shortly. It had been agreed that project group cheques would be signed by both a Community Council member and a church member.
- Ms Jane Kelly, landscape architect, was presently formulating a theme and had suggested one of "regeneration", taking into consideration the natural landscape and the mature trees of the area.
- The timeframe for completion of the project was 18 months, with a view to planting in Spring of 2007.
- Consideration was being given to inviting HM The Queen to open the garden.

Mr Malcolm asked if the tree preservation order currently in place in relation to the garden site would be lifted, noting that the majority of trees there were sycamores. Councillor Walsh replied that this would be dependent upon an inspection of the species and the condition of the trees and that, if removal were permitted, there would be an expectation that equivalent trees would be planted elsewhere. Mrs Little cautioned that consideration should be given to nesting birds.

### **5. 2005 Accounts**

Mr McGilvray circulated the 2005 accounts to the Community Council members. He advised that they had not previously been approved as the Council had no longer existed at the relevant time for their approval. He was therefore seeking to submit them to the 2006 AGM. It was **agreed** that the accounts would be reviewed by members prior to the next Community Council meeting, at which point it would be decided if they should be submitted to the AGM. Any questions or concerns should therefore be raised with the Treasurer beforehand.

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Dr Valentine requested information on the auditor of the accounts and Mr McGilvray advised that it was Mr D MacKillop of Kirn, who had originally been recommended by Councillor Walsh. Mrs Forsyth **agreed** to write him a letter of thanks.

### **6. Matheson Lane**

Mr Pearson raised the subject of Matheson Lane, noting that it was not presently being maintained. In particular, its drains appeared to be choked and, in the event of heavy rain, much of the lane washed on to the Shore Road of Innellan. The poor state of the road also had implications for access to the planned Matheson Garden.

Councillor Walsh clarified that this was a private, unadopted road owned by the Forestry Commission. Councillor Walsh had recently written to the Forestry Commission reminding them of their duty of care in relation to the lane, however, no reply had been received despite a reminder. Councillor Walsh **agreed** to keep the Community Council informed of developments.

### **7. Community Council Website**

Mrs Forsyth provided background detail on the decision to proceed with a Website for the Community Council. Mrs Gamage raised the concern that not everyone had a computer, however, it was pointed out that the Website would be part of an overall, co-ordinated publicity effort and not the sole focus of the Council's co\*-mmunications.

It was unanimously **agreed** that the hosting package that should be adopted should be 1&1 Home, at a cost of £4.99 per month.

It was also unanimously agreed that the Community Council domain name should be [www.southcowal.org](http://www.southcowal.org), at a cost of £4.99 for one year.

Mrs Forsyth requested that a photograph be taken of Council members at the meeting of 10 May 2006 for posting on the Website. This was **agreed**.

On the subject of communications in general, Mr Jardine indicated that he would facilitate the publication in the Dunoon Observer of information provided to him by the Council.

### **8. Village Hall Collection of Funds**

Mr Pearson advised that the collection of funds for the Village Hall was going well this year, however, Mrs Little pointed out that no donations had been collected from Dalriada Grove for some 2 to 3 years. Mr Pearson **agreed** to investigate this.

### **9. Standing Agenda Items**

It was **agreed** that the following items would appear as standard on each meeting's agenda:

- Matheson Garden Project
- Planning applications pertinent to South Cowal (subsequent to Mrs Pratt's review of same)
- The Community Council Website.

### **10. Any Other Relevant Business**

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## 10.1. Wind Farms

Dr Valentine invited those present to put forward any other relevant business and Mr Fairlie raised the topic of potential wind farms on, and within view of, the Cowal Peninsula.

Mr Fairlie and Mr and Mrs Gamage provided some background information on the issue, in particular on the designation of land use for wind farms as part of the Argyll and Bute Finalised Draft Local Plan, and the scoping documents that had been submitted by wind farm developers. They voiced concern that they had only recently become aware of the proposals and that there now appeared to be little opportunity for the public to respond. Mr Gamage raised the question as to whether or not the Community Council was prepared to do anything in response and, if so, what action could be taken. He also questioned what could be done at an individual level.

Councillor Walsh advised that, subsequent to the Draft Local Plan consultation periods, approximately 300 objections had been received to the wind farms proposals. He explained the Local Plan process, noting that an area designation did not necessarily guarantee eventual approval and consent and that a formal hearing would be called.

Dr Valentine stated that he recognised that this was an important topic that warranted discussion by the Community Council as a formal agenda item. He encouraged that all arguments be heard, both for and against the proposals.

Mr Gamage proposed that a sub-committee of the Community Council be formed to address the issue, however, it was **agreed** that this topic would be a priority item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council when Mr and Mrs Gamage would make a 15 minute presentation. Mr Jardine stated that he would organise publicity for that meeting in the Dunoon Observer and other attendees offered to help post notices of the meeting.

During the course of the discussion, the process and implications of electing Community Council members, and of co-opting members, was explained to those present. It was confirmed that there were effectively 3 member vacancies on the Community Council.

## 11. Ideas for Areas of Focus for Forthcoming Year

It was **agreed** to defer this topic until the next meeting of the Community Council. General discussion ensued on locations within South Cowal that might warrant improvement.

Councillor Walsh indicated that a presentation could be made to a future meeting in relation to the Development Trust for Scotland and how to launch a community trust.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:25 pm**

**Signed** ..... **Chairman**

**Date** .....