

Minutes of Meeting of South Cowal Community Council Held in Innellan Village Hall on 10 January 2007

Present:
Dr C Valentine (Chair)
Dr S F Pearson (Vice Chair)
Mrs P Forsyth (Secretary)
Mrs I Pratt
Mrs M Little
Mr M Jones
Mrs S Gamage

Attending:
Cllr J R Walsh
Mr J Bamber
Mr S Ireland

1. Dr Pearson opened the meeting at 7.00 pm. Apologies were noted from Mr R McGilvray.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 8 November 2006

2.1. The minutes were **approved**.

2.2. Matters Arising

2.2.1. Ref Item 2.2.3 - Toward Lighthouse

Mr Bamber stated that, contrary to the meeting's understanding, the Lighthouse was not owned by a private individual. It was **agreed** to revisit this.

3. Ardyne Point Proposal

Mrs Forsyth advised that Turley Associates had informed her in December that they had received no responses in relation to the proposed development at Ardyne Point. As a result, a small article had been placed in the Observer to encourage input from the community.

Attendees were requested for their views on an appropriate response from the Community Council.

Mrs Pratt raised the concern that there was inadequate pavement in Toward to provide safe access for schoolchildren in particular, especially in the event of increased traffic. Councillor Walsh commented that, ordinarily, where a large scale development was concerned, an attempt would be made to secure "planning gain" which could include improvements paid for by the developer. Further funding for footpath allocation in Toward would be available in the Council's financial year 2007/2008.

Mr Bamber commented that the proposal represented a waste of an industrial site which might otherwise have created jobs for local people. Mr Jones responded that the increase in tourism that would be created by the proposal would lead to related sustainable businesses emerging. In addition, it was believed that there would be potential for light engineering and small industrial premises.

It was **agreed** that Mrs Forsyth should send a letter to Turley Associates indicating the Community Council's support of the proposal in general.

4. Wind Farms

Mrs Gamage advised that the Council's Planning Department had responded to Land Use Consultants with a list of omissions from the Environmental Impact Assessment that had been

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submitted in relation to the Black Craig planning application. No response had been received as yet from Land Use Consultants.

Attendees were briefed on the Special Community Council Meeting that had been held on 13 December 2006, at which time it had been agreed to object to the said planning application based on shortcomings related to environmental studies and the absence of commitments regarding transportation routes as well as underground cabling. Dr Pearson pointed out that, as part of the Community Council's constructive objection, the route being used to transport timber from Loch Striven to Sandbank had been suggested as a possible alternative, should shipment of materials to Ardyne Point prove infeasible. He added that he felt that the recent newspaper article on the Community Council's decision had not sufficiently conveyed the fact that the decision pertained to the planning application as it presently stood for the reasons expressed, as opposed to being a final rejection.

Mrs Gamage advised that it would be approximately early spring before the Corlarach wind farm proposal would proceed further.

Dr Valentine joined the meeting and tabled a letter that he had received from Architectural Services on behalf of Argyll Windfarms Ltd.

At this point Dr Valentine took over the chairing of the meeting.

5. Matheson Garden Project

Dr Pearson stated that trees were presently being felled in the church garden. It was noted that the project could not proceed much further without financing, however, it was hoped that this would become available in due course.

6. Planning Applications

Mrs Pratt presented the attendees with a list of planning applications relevant to South Cowal. It was **agreed** that she should continue with this format at future meetings.

The applications for December 2006 were:

- a) Erection of double garage, Victoria Lodge, Shore Road, Innellan.
- b) Erection of replacement sun porch and alterations to side extension, Chirnside Cottage, Shore Road, Innellan.
- c) Formation of rock armour sea wall, re-profiling of land to accommodate buried septic tank, chambers and pumping stations, formation of access and ancillary development, deletion of manhole and reduction of distribution chamber, Scottish Water Solutions.
- d) Erection of 5 dwelling houses, land to the south west of March Cottage, Toward, Mr and Mrs Mundell.
- e) Erection of detached dwelling house, Plot 1, land adjacent to Ashgrove, Wyndham Road, Innellan, HMJ Developments.
- f) Erection of 4 dwelling houses, alterations and extension to vehicular access and installation of communal septic tank, Cosidon, Toward, Mr C MacArthur and Mrs S Sharp, 1 and 2 Alt-Darroch, Shore Road, Toward.
- g) Forestry Design Plan for 24/11/06 by Blairbuie Estate, Toward.

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Mr Ireland questioned what was meant by “rock armour” in relation to (c) above and whether this would produce an acceptable result, going by past examples. It was **agreed** that Mrs Forsyth would request a precise definition.

Again, the meeting noted the heightened need for adequate pavement in view of the increased traffic levels that would result from the developments listed in Toward.

7. Community Council Website

Mrs Forsyth presented the following statistics in relation to unique visits to the Community Council Website:

- October – 161
- November – 240
- December – 337
- January (first week) – 55

She requested attendees to advise her of any Websites that they felt it appropriate to request linkage from. Two were suggested: dunoon.tv and dunoon-argyll.co.uk and it was **agreed** that Mrs Forsyth would pursue these. Consideration was given to cowal-dunoon.com, however, it was felt that, as that site was primarily aimed at a tourist/visitor audience, it would probably not be as appropriate, especially in view of the cost involved.

It was also **agreed** that the traffic statistics would be posted on the Website.

8. Matheson Lane

Councillor Walsh advised that no conclusion had been reached concerning the upkeep of Matheson Lane. He indicated that residents had no responsibility and that it was his belief that it was not acceptable for the owner, the Forestry Commission, to say that they were not prepared to address the issue. He added that the Crown was liable for any injuries resulting from the deteriorating state of the road. It was **agreed** that Councillor Walsh would schedule another meeting with the land agent at which the Community Council would be represented. It was also **agreed** that Mrs Forsyth would send a letter to the lane’s residents advising them of the situation and requesting that they inspect their individual title deeds for any indication of responsibility for the lane’s upkeep.

9. Future Meeting Invitees

Dr Valentine confirmed that he would proceed with an invite to Mr Alan Reid MP. In addition, it was **agreed** that invitations would be issued to Ms Viv Smith, NHS Locality Manager; Mr Robbie Paterson, NHS Clinical Director; a representative from the Scottish Ambulance Service and the Police Inspector for the area.

10. Antonelli’s Garage

Having previously summarised the status of the former Antonelli’s Garage property as now being owned by the trust of the sequestrators, Councillor Walsh indicated that he would pursue the Council with a view to its purchase of the property and potential conversion to housing suitable for elderly people.

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11. Bullwood Quarry – Scottish Water Planning Appeal

Mrs Forsyth referred to the letter that had been received advising of Scottish Water's appeal against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission for sewerage works at Bullwood Quarry.

It was not yet known if there would be an enquiry and Councillor Walsh was investigating the associated cost implication. He stated that the Council's lawyers were seeking an extension to the appeal deadline, and that this remained an opportunity for any interested parties to voice their opinions. He confirmed that the concerns previously raised by the Community Council had been submitted as part of the planning application process. Dr Pearson summarised these as:

- there was no direct benefit to South Cowal residents, who would experience significant disruption
- the road should be widened to accommodate traffic disruption
- South Cowal sewage should be processed at the Bullwood site too.

It was **agreed** that an extension to the response deadline should be sought by the Community Council and that Dr Valentine would prepare a questionnaire on the subject for linking to the Website. In addition, Mrs Forsyth would request Mr Jardine to invite responses to the questionnaire via the local newspaper.

12. Dog Fouling

Dr Pearson advised that, despite it being a prosecutable offence, there appeared to be areas in South Cowal where dog fouling was of particular concern. This included North Campbell/Wyndham Roads in Innellan and the grass land in front of Dalriada Grove. He stated that it was difficult to obtain a response from the Dog Warden in this regard.

It was **agreed** that Mr Alan Lothian, the Council's Area Manager, would be contacted with a view to obtaining more bins and notices for the area. In addition, a dispenser for bags would be investigated. It was also agreed that, upon installation of more bins, a publicity campaign would be launched in conjunction with the local newspaper and the Community Council's Website.

Secretary/Chairman's Report

Mrs Forsyth noted the following correspondence had been received in December/January:

Date	From	Subject
29 November 2006	Mr H Brindley, Hitrans	Hitrans Regional Transport Strategy
14 December 2006	Mr G H Laidlaw, Scottish Executive	Scottish Executive Reponse to Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services: Draft Service Specification: A Consultation Paper
20 December 2006	Ms H Byrne, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	A Safe and Sustainable Future for Hospital Services in Inverclyde and Renfrewshire

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Date	From	Subject
21 December 2006	Mr J C Smith, Cowal Community Care Forum	Argyll and Bute Public Partnership Forum Future of Acute Hospital Services South of the River Clyde
28 December 2006	Mr S Ireland	South Cowal Community Council/Black Craig Wind Farm Proposal
4 January 2007	Ms J Pollard, Argyll & Bute Council	Dates and Venues of Core Path Planning Consultation Drop In Days

Some discussion followed on the status of emergency response in the area and Councillor Walsh advised that Dunoon General Hospital did not, in fact, operate Accident and Emergency but was a Community Casualty Unit. Signage would be changed shortly to reflect this but did not represent a diminution of service.

13. Any Other Business

13.1. Pier Committee

Dr Pearson proposed that he contact Western Ferries in order to encourage them to consider operating a ferry from Innellan to Wemyss Bay. This in turn would provide financing for a new pier. It was **agreed** that he should proceed with this.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm

Signed **Chairman**

Date