

Minutes of Meeting of South Cowal Community Council Held in Innellan Village Hall on 12 July 2006

Present: Dr C Valentine (Chair)
Mr R McGilvray
Dr S F Pearson (Vice Chair)
Mrs P Forsyth (Secretary)

Attending: Councillor J R Walsh
Mr Martin Jones

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm.

1. Apologies were noted from Mrs Irene Pratt and Mrs Margaret Little.
2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 15 June 2006**

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

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Wind Farms

Mrs Forsyth advised that she had received no further contact from Land Use Consultants subsequent to their presentation at the last meeting. It was **agreed** that they should be contacted to obtain answers to the questions concerning spare capacity for equipment deliveries on the ferries, and the energy consumption requirements of the Dunoon area versus the provision forecasts of the proposed installation.

3.2 Planning Applications

It was reported that Scottish Water's planning application for the installation of portakabins at Sandy Beach had been refused by the Council's Area Committee, although Scottish Water had the right of appeal.

3.3 Community Council Website

Mrs Forsyth reported that Mr Bill Jardine would be referring to the minutes for newspaper updates on the Community Council's activities.

3.4 Committee Membership

No interest had been expressed in membership subsequent to recent publicity given in the local newspaper. Mr Martin Jones, however, indicated his interest during the meeting.

3.5 Developing a Public Partnership Forum in the Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership

Mrs Forsyth indicated that she had confirmed with NHS Highland the inclusion of the Community Council in the Public Involvement Network. Dr Valentine **agreed** to respond to their discussion paper by the revised deadline of 14 July 2006.

It was noted that concern still existed in relation to the allocation of funding to service delivery in the local area. Councillor Walsh advised that the Scottish Executive was looking at this.

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4. Wind Farms

Dr Valentine **agreed** to supply his revisions to the questionnaire (that would be issued locally by Dunoon Grammar School students) to Dr Pearson. The respondees would consist of a representative sample of the community.

Councillor Walsh confirmed the revised "constrained area" designation in relation to the Final Draft Local Plan. He stated that this would not prohibit applications but would introduce greater checks and balances with a presumption in favour of the landscape. This re-designation had been opposed by the Council's Planning Department and the revised Plan would now go to a Public Local Enquiry when Councillor Walsh and the Council's legal department would defend it.

It was **agreed** that the other 2 energy companies who had proposed developments in South Cowal should be approached in order that they might also present to the community.

Dr Pearson proposed that a small gift of a book token be offered to the school students undertaking the questionnaire. This was **agreed**.

It was also **agreed** that in view of the formation of the local advocacy group, CARES, it was no longer necessary for South Cowal Community Council to form a sub committee to address this subject.

5. Matheson Garden Project

Mr McGilvray advised that £200 had been donated by the Community Council to this project, and that the church had added £1,300 to this. It was also understood that further funds would be available against invoice.

The committee had decided on the outline preliminary plan. It was thought that Matheson Lane would be useful for plant and machinery and that the public entrance would be from the church (near the bell). A first impression would be shown to the public at the church on 19/20 August 2006 to coincide with the Matheson celebrations.

Councillor Walsh reported that Argyll and Bute Council had contributed £1,000 and that their funding officers would be working with the church.

6. Planning

Councillor Walsh indicated that 8 objections had been received to the proposed Drimsynie development at The Meadows in Toward. The Council was not able to reject this application as outline planning permission had previously been given. Detailed conditions would, however, require to be met in relation to boundaries and landscaping.

Councillor Walsh also reported that, in relation to Scottish Water's Bullwood Quarry application, he had requested that Scottish Water produce a substantial quantity of further information, including a 3 dimensional photomontage incorporating the impact of a 8m high chimney as well as lighting, dust, noise and odour management plans, details of land contamination, a geology report including vibration controls, and more. The Community Council would receive a copy of this documentation and would be involved in the forthcoming hearing. Dr Valentine affirmed that, as a statutory consultee, the Community Council should prepare questions for this hearing and should be represented by 2 people.

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The question remained as to why Innellan and Toward could not be included in the Bullwood facility.

7. Community Council Website

Mrs Forsyth **agreed** to contact Ms Lynda Syed of Argyll and Bute Council in order to have the Council's Website linked to the Community Council's site.

Mr McGilvray **agreed** to determine if the Matheson Garden Project desired a dedicated page on the Community Council's Website.

8. Matheson Lane

The letter to the Forestry Commission drafted by Mrs Forsyth was reviewed and **approved** by the Community Council.

9. Innellan Pier

A great deal of interest had been received as a result of recent publicity about this proposal. It was **agreed** that efforts would be made to form a sub-committee of interested parties. Mrs Forsyth would email those individuals who had contacted the Community Council to see if they wished to participate.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Treasurer's Report

Mr McGilvray indicated that he would report on the Community Council's bank account balance on a monthly basis. He also advised that the 2005 and 2006 accounts had been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council and it was hoped that the annual administration grant would be available shortly.

10.2 Correspondence

Mrs Forsyth reviewed recent correspondence that she had received:

10.2.1 It was **agreed** that the Website should be updated to include notice of the meeting to be held in Greenock in relation to forthcoming changes in children's services in Inverclyde.

10.2.2 It was also **agreed** that the document received from the SNP seeking comment on their policy ideas should be circulated to all members.

10.3 Mr Jones reported that he wished to join the Community Council and it was proposed that, in view of the costs involved in holding an election, he should be co-opted in. This would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Mr Jones raised the suggestion that Innellan be considered for the status of conservation area in order to recognise its special nature. He stated that this would afford access to funding and prevent unwarranted development. Councillor Walsh responded that this required debate within the community particularly in view of the restrictions involved in conservation areas. In conjunction with this, it was **agreed** that the subject of housing development in South Cowal should be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.43 pm

Signed Chairman

Date