

Minutes of Meeting of South Cowal Community Council Held in Innellan Village Hall on 13 September 2006

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

Attending:
Mr R J Marshall
Mr I Gamage
Ms A Gabriel
Mr E Malcolm
Mr J Law
Mr R Fairlie

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm.

1. Apologies were noted from Mr R McGilvray and Councillor Dick Walsh.
2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 12 July 2006**

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

3. **Matters Arising**

3.1 **Community Council Website**

Mrs Forsyth noted that she had not yet been informed if a page was required on the Website for the Matheson Garden project. She confirmed that she had emailed Ms Linda Syeed of Argyll and Bute Council with a view to linking the Council's Website to the Community Council's site.

4. **Nomination of Co-opted Members**

Nominations for co-opted membership had been received from Mrs S Gamage and Mr M Jones. These were **approved**.

5. **Wind Farms**

The attendees reviewed the results, compiled by Dr Valentine, of the recent survey conducted amongst South Cowal residents. Mrs Pratt advised that 3 students from Dunoon Grammar School had participated in gathering the information and that some results still had to be handed in. The final total would be 100 questionnaires. It was **agreed** that the findings would be published on the Community Council's Website. It was also **agreed** that thank you letters and book tokens would be issued to the students who took part.

After some discussion, representatives of CARES were invited to put forward a proposal for the Community Council's consideration concerning Argyll Wind Farm's plans for a wind turbine development at Black Craig.

Mrs Forsyth noted that an acknowledgement had been received from the Head of Planning Services at Inverclyde Council in relation to the objection lodged by the Community Council to the plan for a wind turbine development at Leapmoor, Inverkip. This objection had been submitted after it became evident from residents' survey that significant opposition existed to Leapmoor. Mr Gamage confirmed that over 100 objections had been submitted by residents of South Cowal to this development.

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The attendees considered the information received from Land Use Consultants in relation to the questions raised at the meeting held on 15 June 2006. It was **agreed** that no further response was necessary.

Mr Gamage provided the meeting with details of all the planned turbine developments within view of South Cowal, and within South Cowal itself. Dr Valentine suggested that an Ordnance Survey map be purchased to display this information.

Mrs Forsyth advised the meeting of her conversation with Mr F McCulloch of West Coast Energy in relation to the proposed Corlarach Hill development, and the attendees noted the content of his recent email.

The attendees also noted the content of the document that had been received from Ms Shirley MacLeod of Argyll and Bute Council in relation to Community Trust Funds. Dr Pearson reminded the meeting that any funds proposed as a result of a development going ahead represented a refund to the community, which had essentially funded the government subsidies enjoyed by the developer.

Mr Law noted the recent Scottish Executive decision to refuse planning permission for a wind farm at Crieff as a result of the harm that would be done to the natural beauty of the area. Mr Fairlie referred to the increasing problem of peat slides in relation to wind farm developments.

6. Matheson Garden Project

The meeting was informed by Dr Pearson that outline plans for the garden could be seen in Innellan Church.

7. Planning

Mrs Pratt noted that she had not been receiving notices or minutes of the local Area Committee Meeting. Mrs Forsyth had, instead, been receiving these and would forward them to Mrs Pratt until such time as Argyll and Bute Council had been requested to send them directly to Mrs Pratt.

Mrs Pratt reported that no significant planning proposals had been noted in recent weeks.

8. Community Council Website

Mrs Forsyth noted that the Website had received 471 unique visits since its inception, 213 of which had been in July. She felt that these numbers would be improved upon linkage from Argyll and Bute Council's Website.

9. Matheson Lane

It was **agreed** that, subsequent to the email response received from the Forestry Commission, guidance on how to proceed would be sought from Councillor Walsh upon his return from holiday.

10. Innellan Pier

It was agreed that a sub-committee would be formed comprising the individuals who had previously volunteered to participate. The terms of reference would be:

"To prepare a feasibility study concerning the development of a pier for Innellan, to contact the relevant individuals and to report back to the South Cowal Community Council."

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It was **agreed** that an update would be provided by Dr Pearson in 3 months' time.

It was also **agreed** that a first meeting of the sub-committee should be proposed for 30 September 2006.

11. Housing Development in South Cowal

It was **agreed** that Mr Jones should be requested to provide a briefing document concerning his original proposals in relation to housing development in South Cowal.

12. Ardyne Point Proposal

It was **agreed** that Mr MacAuley of Turley Associates, who had written to the Community Council representing the developers and requesting a meeting to discuss the Ardyne Point proposal, should be invited to the November 2006 meeting.

13. Community Council Role

The question was raised as to correct procedure in the event of a decision being required from the Community Council within a timeframe that precluded discussion at a regular meeting. This scenario had arisen in relation to the Leapmoor wind farm planning application and had been exacerbated by the fact that no Community Council meeting had been held in August. Mrs Forsyth elaborated that clarification was also needed as to when a decision could be taken by the Community Council when it was not feasible to consult the community.

Ms Gabriel advised that Dunoon Community Council, whom she represented, allowed their 3 office bearers to decide in such circumstances. She also encouraged South Cowal to refer to other community councils' procedures. She referred to a meeting of the Association of Argyll and Bute Community Councils on 10 October. No notification of this had been received by Mrs Forsyth.

Dr Valentine proposed that executive procedures were required for South Cowal Community Council.

Mr Law left the meeting at this point (8.45 pm).

14. Report from Argyll and Bute PPF Meeting of 23 August 2006

Mrs Pratt and Mrs Little had both attended the PPF meeting in Inverary. Mrs Pratt reported that the intention was to give the public a say in how the health service was developed. She stated that the Chairman of the PPF took any concerns raised at the meeting to the Community Health Partnership who in turn referred them to NHS Highland. Mrs Pratt encouraged individuals to attend any local PPF meetings. She noted that emphasis was being placed on keeping Inverclyde Royal Hospital open and that blanket funding had been granted this year, whereas next year council areas would be buying services.

Ms Gabriel advised that Dunoon Community Council had established communication with the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and she proposed to keep South Cowal informed in that regard.

Mrs Pratt indicated that she was willing to represent South Cowal Community Council at health service related meetings whenever necessary. She went on to inform attendees about the current status of the ambulance service in Cowal, noting that it remained a major concern. Ms Gabriel added that Police officers had now been trained in the use of defibrillators. Mrs Pratt encouraged people requiring an ambulance to call 999.

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10.1 Any Other Business

10.1.1 National Gaelic Language Plan

Dr Valentine referred to correspondence that he had received concerning a consultation period for the the National Gaelic Language Plan, which would end on 11 November 2006. He sought anyone with an interest in Gaelic who might like to review this. Mrs Pratt stated that she had a neighbour who might be willing and would pass the documentation to them.

10.1.2 Development of Streetscene

Mrs Forsyth read out a letter that she had received from Argyll and Bute Council which sought a representative from the Cowal area to participate in this project. It was described as a customer focused way of delivering roads and amenity services. It would also allow the Council to gain information on what they could be doing better, eg litter control, open spaces etc.

10.1.3 Better Neighbourhoods Award Scheme

Ms Gabriel had details on this scheme, which Innellan had won in 2005. She indicated that she would pass information on to Mrs Pratt.

10.1.4 Mr Malcolm drew the Community Council's attention to the vacant piece of land between the Police building and Mr K Adams' house on Shore Road, Innellan, indicating that it had become an eyesore. It was advised that petrol tanks lay underneath. It was **agreed** that Councillor Walsh would be informed.

10.1.5 Finalised Draft Local Plan, Argyll and Bute

Mr Gamage drew the meeting's attention to a form that was available for commending or objecting to alterations to the Draft Local Plan. He encouraged the Community Council to support the amendment of the Plan to include a "constrained area" (versus "preferred area") in relation to wind farm development. It was **agreed** that this would be done.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

Signed Chairman

Date