

## **Minutes of Meeting of South Cowal Community Council Held in Innellan Village Hall on 14 February 2007**

**Present:**  
**Dr C Valentine (Chair)**  
**Mrs P Forsyth (Secretary)**  
**Mr R McGilvray (Treasurer)**  
**Mrs I Pratt**  
**Mrs M Little**

**Attending:**  
**Mr A Reid MP**  
**Cllr J R Walsh**  
**Ms A Gabriel**  
**Mr A McAlister**  
**Mr G Ross**  
**Mr R Taylor**  
**Mr S Ireland**  
**Mr J Law**

1. Dr Valentine opened the meeting at 7.10 pm.

**2. Mr Alan Reid MP**

Mr Reid described his role to the meeting, noting that, post devolution, it largely related to foreign affairs, defence, trade and industry, pensions, taxation, benefits and the Child Support Agency. He indicated that most of the complaints that he received from constituents concerned benefits, eg tax credits.

He highlighted 2 issues in particular that he was dealing with: the closure of rural post offices and the switch over to digital television in 2010. Concerning the former, he believed that Innellan's post office would be safe. Mr Reid was actively campaigning to ensure that as many people as possible would be switched over to digital TV and he noted that there would be a scheme to assist the vulnerable elderly in this regard.

Dr Valentine then invited Community Council members and those attending to put questions to Mr Reid.

Mr McGilvray asked if there was any prospect of South Cowal obtaining digital radio. Mr Reid replied that the technology for this was limited and, as there was no transmitter in the area, he believed that there was no prospect. Mr McGilvray also commented on the pro-English slant in BBC News coverage and Mr Reid indicated that he would remind the BBC accordingly.

Mrs Pratt raised the issue of inadequate ambulance coverage in Cowal and the lack of response from the various bodies that she had approached, particularly the ambulance service. Mr Reid requested to be kept informed on this matter and asked for a copy of the related correspondence.

Councillor Walsh joined the meeting at this point.

Mr McAlister stated that the centralised call centre for the Police was not working effectively and that the situation was worsening, largely due to lack of local knowledge at the call centre.

Mr Law related his experience during the previous weekend when the Western Ferries linkspan had broken down and questioned why the linkspan at Dunoon Pier could not have been used. Councillor Walsh responded that the issue was Caledonian MacBrayne's management's interpretation of the undertaking for their service, a meeting about which had been held the

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previous week. Mrs Pratt suggested that one of the gantries on the M8, before the Erskine Bridge, could be used to alert drivers to ferry delays or stoppages.

Dr Valentine summarised by suggesting that there was a perception that residents of rural communities were the "poor partners" and that, despite paying the same taxes as elsewhere in the country, the level of compromise for living in such an area seemed excessive. He encouraged Mr Reid to therefore advocate on behalf of rural areas.

3. Apologies were noted from Dr S F Pearson and Mr M Jones. The resignation of Mrs S Gamage, who had moved out of the area, was also noted.

### **4. Minutes of Meeting held on 10 January 2006**

4.1. The minutes were **approved**.

### **5. Bullwood Quarry**

Mr Ross and Mr Taylor indicated that they were representing the residents of Bullwood in relation to opposition to the sewerage facility proposed by Scottish Water at the site of the former quarry. Mr Ross outlined the issues that he saw arising as a result of Scottish Water's proposal. These included bad odour, blasting, dust, noise, the movement of 500 to 1,000 vehicles per month, as well as CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. He requested the Community Council's assistance in opposing the proposal during the forthcoming public local inquiry process.

Mr Ross indicated that he had had difficulty in publicising details of the local public inquiry and it was **agreed** that information would be posted on the Community Council's Website. Dr Valentine reminded the meeting that the Community Council must recognise everyone's views, but agreed that it was appropriate to be involved with this issue. It was **agreed** that Mrs Forsyth would notify the Scottish Executive Reporter that the Community Council wished to present evidence in person. It was also **agreed** that Dr Valentine would arrange a meeting with Messrs Ross and Taylor to discuss this further.

### **6. Argyll and Bute NHS Public Partnership Forum**

Mrs Pratt advised that an attempt was being made to establish a PPF in Cowal and Ms Gabriel confirmed that this was now in place.

### **7. Wind Farms**

The meeting considered the letter that had been received from Architectural Services concerning the community benefit relating to the Black Craig Wind Farm proposal. Councillor Walsh stated that a Planning hearing would be held which would involve statutory consultees including the Community Council.

### **8. Matheson Garden Project**

Mr McGilvray stated that 3 new members had been added to the project and that a meeting would be held with Argyll and Bute Council's Planning Department shortly.

### **9. Planning Applications**

Mrs Pratt advised that the planning applications for January 2007 were:

- a) Erection of extension, Mrs I Pratt, Caol Na Mara, 3 The Meadows, Toward.

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- b) Erection of extension, Mr Wilton, Burnfoot Cottage, Glen Striven Estate.

Mrs Pratt noted that the rock armour sea wall that was now being constructed by Scottish Water represented an amendment to a planning application that had previously been approved and had not been an application in itself (as previously reported). Councillor Walsh stated that there were compliance issues with the work being done which the Council Planning Department was pursuing.

### **10. Community Council Website**

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

- December – 337
- January – 326
- February (to date) – 100

### **11. Matheson Lane**

The meeting with the land agent, at which the Community Council would be represented was still to be scheduled.

### **12. Housing Development and Conservation in South Cowal**

The meeting was informed by Mrs Forsyth that Persimmon Homes had lodged an objection to the Argyll and Bute Modified Finalised Draft Local Plan. Their objection related to the removal of the housing allocations (totalling 48 houses) that had been previously designated for the fields adjacent to Wyndham Road. Councillor Walsh expressed surprise at this response from Persimmon as, subsequent to their initial involvement in the Local Plan process, there had been no contact from them. He indicated that the Scottish Executive was presently communicating with objectors as to how they wished to present and it was anticipated that a hearing or inquiry would be held around May 2007. A final decision would not be made by the Scottish Executive until mid 2008.

Mrs Forsyth voiced concern that the objections to the housing allocations that had been made by local residents had now been withdrawn, therefore denying residents the opportunity of presenting their case at this stage. Councillor Walsh indicated that it was appropriate for the Community Council to contact the Planning Officer to ensure that these objections were taken into consideration during the defence of the allocations' removal.

### **13. Dog Fouling**

A significant improvement in facilities for the disposal of waste was noted and the Environmental Warden had been seen patrolling the area. It was felt that it should be made clearer that the new bins were for dog waste as well as litter.

### **14. Innellan Pier**

Mrs Forsyth advised that Dr Pearson had not yet received a response from Western Ferries to his letter suggesting a link between Innellan and Wemyss Bay.

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### 15. Secretary/Chairman's Report

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

Date	From	Subject
19 January 2007	Ms N Debnam, Argyll and Bute Council Development Services	Development of a Local Transport Strategy for Argyll and Bute
23 January 2007	Mr J G MacKinnon, Chief Planner, Scottish Executive	National Planning Framework Seminar Series: February 2007
23 January 2007	Ms C Champion, NHS Highland	Argyll and Bute PPF Meeting Notes – 30 November 2006
29 January 2007	Ms J Pollard, Argyll and Bute Council Planning Services	Council Consultations in Dunoon
8 February 2007	Mr B Brackenridge, Chair, Argyll and Bute CHP	Argyll and Bute CHP Public Engagement Workshop – Friday 16 February 2007
12 February 2007	Mrs J Pearson	Innellan Public Hall

### 16. Any Other Business

#### 16.1. Innellan Public Hall

Mrs Forsyth referred to the letter from Mrs Pearson requesting representation from the Community Council to assist with raising funds to repair the Village Hall's roof. Mrs Pratt **agreed** to contact Mrs Pearson.

#### 16.2. Treasurer's Report

Mr McGilvray reported that the Community Council's bank balance was presently £2,943.99.

**16.3.** Mrs Pratt had learned that Toward Primary School had twice requested that the speed limit in the vicinity of the school be lowered to 20 mph. Councillor Walsh **agreed** to look into this.

**16.4.** Mrs Pratt also advised that the Scottish Healthy Communities Collaborative had contacted Strathclyde Passenger Transport to request that the Glasgow train connecting with the ferry from Dunoon at Gourrock station should stop at the near-side platform. Councillor Walsh responded that a meeting had been held the previous week wherein this had been agreed by SPT.

**16.5.** Mrs Forsyth referred to the traffic monitoring that had occurred recently in Innellan and Councillor Walsh stated that this had been the work of the Scottish Executive. He stated that he would try to find out more about it.

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**16.6.** Mr McGilvray reported that the Gourrock interchange had been approved and therefore the train station would be moving to where the Caledonian MacBrayne office was presently located.

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

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

**Date** .....