

## **Minutes of Meeting of South Cowal Community Council Held in Innellan Village Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

**Present**        **Dr C Valentine (Chairman)**  
                     **Dr F Pearson (Vice Chairman)**  
                     **Mr R McGilvray (Treasurer)**  
                     **Mrs I Pratt**

**Attending**    **Mrs A Gabriel**  
                     **Mr J Bamber**  
                     **Mr A MacAlister**  
                     **Mr M Jones**  
                     **Mr J Wates**  
                     **Mr J Wilson**  
                     **Mr R N Taylor**  
                     **Mr G Ross**

The meeting opened at 7.05.

The Chairman welcomed the people present and it was nice to see so many.

1) **Apologies** Mrs Little sent her apologies due to illness.

### **2) Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read.

### **3) Matters Arising**

There appears to be a problem with our Web Site as several people present had difficulty getting on line. Dr Pearson will speak to Mrs Forsyth about this.

Mrs Gabriel said that Dunoon Community Council had quite a few problems arranging the date of their Bye-Election due to the change of ward boundaries. South Cowal should not have this problem.

Mr Bamber has not as yet found out who owns the lighthouse at Toward and this item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Mrs Pratt contacted Mr Irvine, at the Council Planning Dept, and was told that Estate agents have 28 days to remove For Sale signs after the missives have been signed. She will write to Remax and Stewart Properties to remind them of this.

It was requested that future dates for our meetings be posted in the Lido window and the Village Hall notice board in good time. Minutes of the meetings to be on the website but we are having problems as there is no secretary at present.

The minutes were approved and signed.

### **4) Wind Farms**

Mr Taylor, Bullwood Residents Association, said that examination of the documents showed that South Cowal would not be greatly affected by the noise.

However the level of sound quoted is in dispute. Mr Bamber visited a wind farm and he said that the swooshing noise was no worse than the sound of waves.

Dr Pearson said that on a recent visit to the Island of Muck he noted that they had Older turbines that were quite noisy.

Access for the construction of wind farms could be via either Sandbank or Ardyne

Mr Jones said that objections should be along the lines that tourism would be affected as Dunoon was the gateway to the National Park and this might have more impact with the Planning Dept. Also Golden eagles have been seen at Blackcraigs. Of the two sites Blackcraigs would be less obtrusive to the people on Cowal. Mrs Pratt will try to get copies of letters of objections already submitted to see what other residents have said about wind farms. Dr valentine asked if anyone could put together some questions to put on the website to canvass local opinion and he will approach the local paper to put in an article asking people to look at our website and invite their comments. We will try to get more people to come to our next meeting to give their views. The last date for submission of comments is as yet not known. We discussed the possibility of asking West Coast Energy and Scottish Water for another public meeting to take questions from the floor but the opinion was they would not agree. As we would not normally have an August meeting if we call an extraordinary meeting it should only be on one subject, which one? Collarach Hill. Dr Valentine will write to West Coast Energy to invite them to attend. Sandbank and Dunoon Community Councils are objecting to the proposed new road at Heronlea for the forestry being used for the construction of the wind farms because of the congestion it would cause.

#### **5) Sewage Works**

Dr Valentine thanked the Bullwood Residents for attending and asked them how we could help them at the Inquiry. They asked if Dr Pearson, who is going to speak on behalf of South Cowal C.C. at the Inquiry, would react to an aggressive barrister as they are sure that Scottish Water will employ one. He is prepared for that. They feel that the subject of bacteria should be mentioned and that there has been no scientific study done on the effect of fumes and possible disease such as legionnaires. Dr Pearson said that as there is no cooling tower involved that should not be a problem however it was pointed out that the odour filter would be crushed sea shells and water used to cleanse it could be a problem.

The disruption to local people will be immense as the road would be closed during blasting. They would also suffer the smells that would almost certainly be emitted. Scottish Water commissioned a report by Prof. Matheson who said that the excavation would take up to 3 years. The residents of South Cowal would suffer all this and not even have their sewage disposed of at the plant.

Mrs Gabriel of Dunoon Community Council said that we should speak to Dunoon C.C. to get their concerns.

Dr Pearson will attend the Inquiry on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at Innellan Village Hall to represent South Cowal Community Council.

#### **6) Ardyne**

Dr Pearson has read through the plans and feels that they are not a particularly good Outline Plan. They show sewage from the buildings going into the bay near the mouth of Ardyne burn. Access would be along Shore Road but it would be better if access were also available from the Port Lamont side. The developer should be made to upgrade the road and there must be a way to deter fast drivers from racing along it. The survey that was conducted with regard to volume of traffic to Ardyne was only done as far as Stewarts garage.

The opening of the gravel pit at Toward has increased the traffic in the area and if The ferry to Bute was started there would be even more traffic. Dr Pearson is fairly certain that there is no water supply there. However, in principal the Community

Council feel it could be a good thing but with many provisions.

**1) Planning Applications**

There was nothing of any significance in the planning applications but we noted that an illuminated Police sign was applied for at Innellan.

**2) Local residents letter**

Dr Valentine has had a letter from a local resident raising certain concerns.

Why are the street lights sometimes on during the day? Cllr MacAlistair explained that this could be due to a switch being jammed but they do try to correct it as soon as possible.

No TV or radio signals in some areas. Mr McGilwray has already taken this up with Alan Reid MP and nothing can be done.

Cannot renew TV licence at Post Office, however documentation states it can be done at Spar Garage at Wemyss Bay! Nothing we can do.

Telephone directory is for Lomond and Argyll and not Greenock. Nothing we can do he should take it up with BT.

Post Box not big enough. Again not our remit.

Transport re ferry and train not always joined up. Several organisations have taken this up to no avail New terminal at Gourock may help.

Availability of plans at Post Offices. Again nothing we can do.

Protective barrier at the seaward side of bus stop opposite Miller Avenue Cllr.

MacAlistair will look into this.

There should be two teams to cut grass verges, one each side. Nothing we can do.

Dog fouling. We have taken this up with the council already and they have provided more bins.

Dr Valentine will reply.

**3) Agenda for next year**

**October 17   November 14   December 12   February 13   March 12  
April 9   May 14   June 11   July 9   August 13**

**10) Any Other Business**

Notice of meetings to be put in Lido, Post Office, window.

Speed limit at Toward School to be kept on our agenda.

Antonelli's Garage as the deceased owner owed the Council money perhaps they could take it over. WASPS a rural studio initiative would put it to good use.

Cllr MacAlistair will look into this.

For the present all correspondence will go to Mrs Pratt, she has advised the Planning dept of this already

Dr Valentine will see if he can get the Observer to put in an article about the many local concerns and try to encourage more residents to attend our meetings and put up for the forthcoming bye-elections.

Mrs Forsyth will be asked to keep the website up to date

The meeting closed at 9pm.

