

Wednesday 8th March 2017

7.30 – 9.30pm

Innellan Village Hall ante room

1. Present – Eleanor Stevenson Joyce McEwan Helen Campbell Gill Judd Alan Chapman Kyle Armstrong Cathy Morrison Dot Braham Mary Lamb Constable Andrew Taylor plus several members of the public who left after the road safety issues had been discussed.
Kevin McIntosh – Network Performance Officer A&B Council

2. Apologies – Ann Narraway Sophie Gillen Vicki Walkingshaw Iain Cairns Councillors Michael Breslin and Dick Walsh

3. Declaration of interest – read out as usual

4. Minutes of last meeting – Proposed – Joyce Seconded – Richard

5. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on agenda) – a) trim trail – still awaiting details of lease/rental agreement. Staff shortages causing delay.

b) Old school – has been surveyed and being looked at by a council dept.

c) youth engagement programme – on-going

6. Police report – 7 incidents reported of which two were subject of crime reports – housebreaking (nothing stolen, yale forced and damaged) and sexual offence (no threat to public, isolated opportunistic offence). Two road traffic incidents, 2 assisting members of the public and one concern for person (all in order).

7. Road Safety Issues – Kevin McIntosh Network Performance Officer answered questions and explained issues as they arose.

a) high kerbs at various points in South Cowal make it difficult for mobility scooters and push chairs – has been looked at and work should be carried out in next financial year

b) parking changes at old shops in Innellan – will make for less parking spaces because of angle cars parked – hopefully make for safer parking but still having to reverse on to main road.

c) Castle Toward/Sailing Club area – to be monitored 60mph speed limit seen by public as too high- an accident waiting to happen. A mirror opposite Old Smiddy might help – advice available as to siting. This will be followed up by SCCC is no action is forthcoming in near future. Paul Farrel (Roads) will be speaking to local residents about issues.

d) Innellan village from Hall to Osborne – little which can be done in this congested area. Lack of parking spaces in a busy part of the village causes congestion but doubtful if road calming measures etc would help. Motorists usually use common sense but there have been two serious accidents caused by speeding in this area in the last two years. Issue will be raised again if necessary.

e) congestion at Toward Primary School – parked cars and bend in road leading to quite serious problems when children being picked up and dropped off at school. Car park is too small for volume of traffic and bus uses it sometimes to reverse. Situation to be monitored to ascertain if anything can be done.

f) There are areas in South Cowal without adequate pavements eg Mathieson Lane, Sandy Beach/Newton Park area. Finance is not available for this sort of work. Issue will be raised again to encourage Council to look more carefully at this issue.

g) Bus stop at Newton Road – this was the scene of a fatal accident last year. Has been looked at by West Coast Motors area manager, Bobby Good and health and safety manager, Thomas Elliot who judged the positioning of the bus stop to be satisfactory for various reasons – sufficient visibility, speed limit satisfactory, adequate street lighting, good road conditions. Even if bus stop moved north or south children would still have to cross the road

Suggestions included erection of bus stop signage, children staying on bus until return journey so that they can get off without having to cross the road, hard standing being introduced.

Road safety issues are shared by schools, parents and council's road safety team. West Coast Motors say they are keen to work with first year pupils when they begin Secondary school education to inform of risks and to educate them in looking after themselves.

Throughout the evening, councillors and visitors were interactive with Mr McIntosh who did his best to address their concerns. One of the main problems, as always, was a lack of money to address the issues such as widening roads and putting in new pavements. Road improvements will be necessary in the future if areas such as Ardyne are opened up to heavier traffic but this money will have to come from developers as well as council. Some new safety equipment which will help to decide when new safety features are necessary has been bought by the Council but it is currently only at the testing stage and there is a waiting list for prioritised areas. Mr McIntosh will monitor situations such as that at Toward School and Castle Toward/Sailing Club area and see what measures could be taken to ease situation.

The issue of the bus stop was hotly debated with no one accepting the report by West Coast Motors. This will be followed up by SCCC and various members of the public who dispute the recommendation that the bus stop remains as it was.

SCCC thanks Mr McIntosh for his help but the outcome of the meeting really emphasises the need for more road safety measures to be put in place in South Cowal and money needs to be found for some of the smaller issues at least.

8. Planning – three planning applications have been received with regard to Castle Toward and no objections were forthcoming. Discussion took place regarding the lack of planning applications for re-routing the controversial right of way but if no new building of a bridge is necessary then presumably no planning permission is required. It is known that path clearing and drainage is in progress and Mr and Mrs Punler will be invited to speak to SCCC

in the near future to update us on how work is progressing. Some community councillors were given a tour of the house recently and saw the evidence of a great deal of work being undertaken.

9. Treasurer's report – Registration for Data Protection was renewed and some cheques cashed leaving a balance of £5866 which includes money for the trim trail and £500 to be put into the Credit Union.

It was agreed to set aside £150 to give to the two local schools and nursery for practical road safety issues eg bus rides into Dunoon to practice getting on and off safely and crossing roads using zebra crossings etc. Particular attention to be given to children going to secondary school soon.

AGM will be in M ay and Joyce will prepare accounts for then.

10. Convenor's report – South Cowal Community Festival – preliminary planning going well and draft programme should be available for April meeting. Pine martens are being cut by the Men's Shed, bike ride is being organised, new gardens will be available for viewing and pottery sessions organised as well as the usual fun events.

11. SCCDC – Forthcoming AGM was discussed with members being encouraged to attend or give details to directors so that a proxy vote can be arranged. Following a request to discuss the possibility of investing some SCCC finance into the development company to help with the rejuvenating process it was decided that this would be best left until after the AGM when the situation re directors and future plans was clearer. Members are welcome to give donations if they feel this would help.

12. AOCB – About two years ago, it was suggested that the shore railings could be repainted by Community Pay Back participants if paint could be supplied by Council. Following another email request for an update on this it has been found that no progress has been made.

Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 13th April 2017

Innellan Village Hall

7.30pm