

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013  
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

**Pat Pollok-Morris** (PPM)  
**Jean Cook** (JC)  
**Gordon King** (GK)  
**Fiona Baker** (FB)  
**Brian Fleming** (BF)  
**Linda Duncan** (LD)  
**Jim Duncan** (JD)  
**Olivia Birch** (OB)  
**Tim Lamb** (TL)

Guests/Public:

**Cllr George Freeman** (GF)  
**Cllr Robert MacIntyre** (RM)  
**Cdr James Leatherby** (JL)  
**Sgt Alan Dickson** (AD)  
**Audrey Butler** (TL)  
**Peter Knox** (PK)

Apologies:

**Jack Rudram**  
**Ronald Sandeman**  
**Jayne Burnett**  
**Andrew Nicholson**  
**Margaret Barman**

**Cllr Maurice Corry**  
**Edna Muir**

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
1. Apologies:	1. Apologies as indicated above.	
2. Minutes of meeting held 9 October 2013	2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2013 were considered.	The minutes were approved ( <b>LD &amp; JD</b> ).
3. Matters Arising	<p><b>3c. Scout hut.</b> Oily brown water still evident at Scout Hut.</p> <p><b>3e. Japanese Knotweed.</b> Nothing further to report.</p> <p><b>3g. Rhu Bowling Club.</b> EM has been trying to obtain documents to confirm provenance of the land.</p> <p><b>5a. Rhu Marina Masterplan and GSS planning application.</b> TCE informed the council that there is nothing to report.</p> <p><b>5c iv. Helensburgh wind farm.</b> An archaeological survey will need to be carried out as it is believed that the area contains a 'Sir John Shaw designed landscape' which should be preserved and not destroyed by the building of wind turbines. FB has submitted a letter expressing concerns and will disseminate any feedback.</p> <p>Designed landscape for Schaw of</p>	<p>RM asked to pursue</p> <p>Ongoing .</p> <p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Greenock by Boutcher 1730s. No letters sent about HB wind farm as no planning application in yet.

Corlic Hill wind turbines objection letter sent to Inverclyde Council.

**7. Coup Road Rhu Access.** The land on which the car stands appears to be DIO (MOD) property. The situation is now in the hands of the MOD police who are endeavouring to get the vehicle moved.

GF monitoring situation.

**8b. Internet Broadband.** It is believed that internet broadband suffers from low data rates in North Shandon because of the distance from the exchange and the fluctuations in voltage of the mains. The upgrade of the electricity main may help to improve the service. In addition BT have been seen working in Rhu installing the new cabling for BT infinity. Improvement in internet access is one of the Scottish Government's priorities.

#### 4. Guest Speakers

**4a.** AD gave a presentation about the proposed restructuring of resources. The changes are at Chief Inspector and Inspector level and will not affect the other ranks. The restructuring will merge Rothesay with Helensburgh by removing the Inspector from Rothesay and the duties transferred to Inspector Millar of Helensburgh who will be supported by the Inspector at Dunoon. Any comments should be directed to Chief Superintendent McEwan.

AD did not have any information that would normally be provided by the Community Police Officer and would ask for details of criminal and Police activity to be forwarded.

**4b. Cdr James Leatherby:** JL advised that he had little to report, other than the following:

- Armed Forces Community Covenant (AFCC). This work has developed so well that it should probably be treated as "normal business" now. However, R&SCC might wish to note that there is a published programme for bids to be made to the local AFCC Grants Committee and thereonafter within the process. Cllr Corry or JL can provide if required.
- McKenzie Estate (aka Smugglers Way) Service Family Accommodation. Currently at its highest occupancy in 15 years, Phase 1 of the building works project (re-roofing, renewed over-cladding,

replacement fencing and other external improvement) has begun on 27 properties. That is due to complete by 31 Mar 14. This work is similar to that undertaken in Churchill Estate over the last year, which is also due to complete in early 14. There is also a Phase 2 for Smugglers but that is yet to be programmed.

- Post Meeting Note (1) – Faslane Single Living Accommodation. The Phase II SLA project to provide an additional 600 beds begins in earnest in Jan 14 with occupancy due 2015/16 when the next 1100 bed project should be embarked upon. Local impacts may include noticeable additional heavy construction traffic and will include the use of the Woodlea Crescent site.
- Visiting Ships. On being asked the identity of the major warship that has been operating in the local area recently, JL was able to confirm that she is HMS DEFENDER, the 5<sup>th</sup> in the 6-strong Class of Type 45 destroyers
- Post Meeting Note (2) - The 'breakwater' in the vicinity of the Rhu Radar Tower: JL has been able to confirm that it has been surveyed, it has been dilapidated for many, many years. Currently, on one hand, work is in place to establish the ownership of the sea wall (it is very close to the MOD's inboard boundary) and, on the other, access to a more specialist survey is being sought.
- On leaving the meeting, JL wished everybody a very Safe and Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!
- Post Meeting Note (3) – Nuclear Emergency Response Organisation. A formally assessed NERO exercise was undertaken successfully in Faslane on Wed 11 Dec 13.

#### **5. Planning Matters.**

**5a. SPP Consultation.** A submission has been sent on the SPP (Planning Policy) and a response is expected by 13 Dec.

#### **6. Access Issue.**

**6. Coup Road access.** See para 3.7 above.

#### **7. Peace Camp.**

**7. Peace Camp Structure.** There still seems to be a lack of openness with regard to the planning application and construction of the structure at the peace camp. GF

explained that this had been discussed in private and information had been embargoed. Charles Reppke has issued a 'non-confidential' report. GF added that the Council has received a number of complaints about the structure and are looking at options to deal with the issues. It is debatable whether there is any building activity currently ongoing on the structure but a building warrant application has been submitted retrospectively. Building control officers have not yet made any decisions on the warrant. It is recommended that CC members monitor for related items going onto the council's agenda.

**8. H&LCPG**

**8. H&LCPG.** A meeting of the H&LCPG was held on 10 Dec, unfortunately R&SCC was not represented at the meeting.

**9. Opportunity for members of public to speak.**

**9.** There were no comments from the members of the public.

**10. Treasurers Report**

**10.** LD briefed the meeting that the account stood at £1325.26. There are outstanding bills for Hall rent (£100) and website (£30). This leaves a balance of £1195.26. £250 has been ring fenced for conservation area appraisal expenses.

FB reminded the CC that the council administration grant is to be used for the running of the Community Council and not to be passed on to other worthy causes.

**11. Correspondence**

**11.** Correspondence has been circulated as and when it is received.

**12. Website and Related Issues**

**12.** The Website will be renewed and continue to operate.

**13. Member's Reports**

**13a.** FB. Commented that there was an increasing number and severity of pot holes on Pier Road. These should be reported through the system using the contact number on the websites.

Post meeting note – FB has reported pot holes in Pier Road to Council on 12 Dec 13. Ref no is R1313832

The last Rhu Gala was a huge success and the committee is in need of some new members to ensure that the event will be as good next year. Next year's Gala will be held on 14 June. The gala is aimed at entertaining the children and keeping the costs down for families so avoid charging an entrance fee. Volunteers are also needed for running the activities, such as the 'tea tent' on the day.

FB is also keen that the Local History project is taken forward.

**13b.** Reported that the street light (R41A) at the bus stop is not working. This matter has been reported many times and recorded in the CC meeting minutes. The light is working but has a timing issue.

**14. AOB**

**14a. Amenity Service Cuts.** JC has circulated correspondence listing the cuts for the next few years. This will have an impact on the flower beds and grass cutting in the area. GF said that the council is trying to maintain land owned by the council but is also ending up maintaining privately owned land which needs to be addressed. Budget cuts are needed across the board but will hit amenities proportionately harder as it is more difficult to make cuts in the bigger areas such as health and education.

**14b.** The Community Councils are encouraged to engage with the younger members of the community. Other areas are using Facebook to achieve this aim. It was considered that if a Facebook account was set up it would have to be monitored. Facebook could be a useful tool to disseminate information quickly and should be used in conjunction with the website.

OB, JB and JC to meet and discuss separately.

**14c.** JC suggested purchase of a data projector. It was thought that it may be of limited use and other options could be considered at, borrow, hire rather than buy.

JC to find out cost of purchase.

**15. Housekeeping**

**15. Community Councillors** - areas of responsibility.

Convenor – JR  
Deputy Convenor – PPM  
Secretary – JC  
Treasurer – LD  
as appointed at inaugural meeting 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Minutes Sec – GK  
Planning – JR, Co-opting as required.  
Conservation Charter – JD, FB, TL, & LD.  
Licensing – AN  
Website and Publicity – JC, JD, LD & JB.

Agreed.

**14. DONM**

**14a.** The next ordinary meeting will take place at 7:30 pm 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in the Community Hall.

**14b.** The AGM will be held during the April meeting.