

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 10th December 2014
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

Jack Rudram (JR)
Pat Pollok-Morris (PPM)
Jean Cook (JC)
Gordon King (GK)
Olivia Birch (OB)
Tim Lamb (TL)
Brian Fleming (BF)
Fiona Baker (FB)
Andrew Nicholson (AN)
Linda Duncan (LD)
Jim Duncan (JD)
Angelina Wassell (AW)
Maggie McCowan (MM)

Cllr George Freeman (GF)
Cllr Robert MacIntyre (RM)
Cllr Maurice Corry (MC)
Cdr James Leatherby RN (JL)
Alastair Moore (AM)
Peter Knox (PK)
George Wilson (GW)
Alan Hatton (AH)
Alison Sheen (AS)
Louisa MacBeath (LM)
Edna Muir (EM)

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
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1. Apologies:

1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Jayne Burnett, Andy Crawford, Chris Lee, Ronald Sandeman, Alan Dundas and Audrey Butler.

2. Declaration of interest:

2. There was a declaration of interest from Andrew Nicholson for any items in the meeting regarding Letrualt Farm.

3. Guest speakers:

3a. Constable Andy Crawford (by email). Crimes reported:

- Theft of mooring cables from Rhu Marina.
- Attempted break-in to the Ardencaple Hotel cellar.
- Break-in to a storage container on Lineside Walk.

There have also been 3 break-ins to properties on Loch Lomondside during the weekend 6/7 Dec. Residents are reminded to check their own properties, remain vigilant and report anything suspicious to the Police.

JC Reported that there had been a road traffic accident at the junction between Hall Road and Shore Road (A819). The accident was attended by the emergency services but omitted from the report from Police Scotland. In view of the road safety concerns raised at the October meeting JC was asked to contact PC Crawford to obtain details.

JC to Contact AC for information

3b. Cdr James Leatherby (JL): JL provided the following report:

- **Japanese Knotweed.** MOD has confirmed that it will address the problem where this invasive plant species lies within its area of ownership, with a view to achieving its eventual eradication. This includes the areas previously agreed in the vicinity of the Southern Approach Road to HMNB Clyde's South Gate and at the end of Rhu Spit.
- **Armed Forces Community Covenant.** As previously advertised, all new bids had to be lodged formally by Mon 1 Dec 14, ahead of the next sitting of the Regional Board in early Jan 15. JL is assisting with one local charitable bid for support.
- **HMNB Clyde's Continued Involvement with the Local Community.** While this has particular relevance to the meeting in respect of the annual Rhu Gala, the Base Executive Officer (Cdr Ian Riches) has written to local stakeholders in an attempt to improve the coordination, and deconfliction, of what looks to be a very busy 2015.
- **HMNB Clyde's Grass Pitch in Rhu - Ardenconnel Field.** While the Base still aspires to transform it into a third generation (3G) artificial turf facility, the Gala Committee are being advised that they should proceed on the basis that the pitch will still be available for their use (on traditional terms) in June 2015.
- **HMS Neptune Volunteer Band Concert held in the Tower - Sat 29 Nov 14.** An apparent success story. Queues to get into this free event and £1,500 made for the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC).
- **HMNB Clyde – Scrap Trident Protest – Sun 30**

Nov 14. The planned “Scrap Trident” demonstration took place in the afternoon. Police Scotland estimated that there were @1,400 people taking part. There were no undue incidents, no injuries and no arrests arising from this media-witnessed protest event. However, there was an inevitable impact upon traffic management locally.

- **New Faces in the Base.** Captain James Hayes has relieved Captain Willis as Captain HMS NEPTUNE and Captain of the Base in mid-November. This is expected to be the final change in the line-up of the senior management for a little while.

3c. Alan Hatton (AH), Sub-Postmaster Rhu Post Office:

AH is now the Sub-Postmaster at Rhu Post Office and he has some very clear ideas for maintaining the current services and improving the range of products available in the shop. The intention is that there will be an information board with space available for local community notices. The Community Council applauded Alan’s initiative and urges the community to support the venture.

PPM and JC to update website and issue press release.

4. Minutes of meeting held 8th October 2014:

4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th October 2014 were considered.

The minutes were approved (**OB & PPM**).

5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:

5a. Peace Camp Structure: GF commented on various communications and meetings within the council and confirmed that discussions were ongoing. He had highlighted his serious concerns to the Chief Executive about the delay in moving this forward. Following his recent email to the Chief Executive, officers were now trying to arrange a meeting with the appropriate councillors to agree a way forward.

There appears to be little progress with the issue of what is believed to be a structure that has been erected without consent. MC said that it was top of his agenda and that there is a drive to clear the site.

5b. By-Election: As a result of the by-election on
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27 November the Community Council has 2 new members. JR welcomed Angelina Wassell and Maggie McCowan onto the team.

5c. Bus Stop Near South Gate HMNB Clyde.

Campbell Divertie is developing a design for a full sized bus shelter at the bus stop on the northbound side of the A819 near the base's South gate. There is an assurance that the design will include lighting.

RM will continue to monitor progress

5d. Exercise Long Sermon. PPM attended this tabletop exercise which examined the Psychological effects and the support required in the community in the aftermath of a nuclear emergency. It was considered to be an interesting and useful event.

5e. Road Junction Safety Concerns. JC has received correspondence from Campbell Divertie rejecting the request for road markings at the junction between Hall Road and Shore Road (A814). The refusal was based on the lack of evidence of incidents. This should be reviewed in light of recent accident, see 3a above.

Additionally AS pointed out that the street light at the junction obscured vision, particularly of cyclists, when emerging from Hall Road.

JC to pursue.

5f. Gala Committee: FB reported that the Gala had recruited the core of a new Committee with one member under the age of 30. FB will remain the point of contact for the Gala Committee until January. JC has written a letter to Cdre Mark Adams, care of Ian Riches with a specific plea for help at the Gala and confirmation that the field will be available. A reply from the latter has been received, explaining the Base will always help when it can, but made a plea that community groups coordinate their requests to him so that he can begin discussions both within the Base and with Naval Regional Command. This view was reiterated by JL.

5g. Rosslea Hotel Fireworks. AS commented that

the frequency of fireworks at the Rosslea Hotel is excessive. It is acknowledged that a number of people are receiving the emails notifying the public of the events which is a step in the right direction. JD thinks that there is little more that the CC can do and GF commented that the hotel is operating within the law and complying with the legislation. BF thinks that the Rosslea are not being responsible neighbours as there is often broken glass and rubbish along the road after events. AS asked if this was a licensing issue.

6. Planning Matters:

6a. Corlic Hill Wind Farm. The plan for the Corlic hill wind farm has been submitted to Inverclyde Council but there is a recommendation for it to be rejected.

6b. Helensburgh Wind Farm. GF said that this would not be on December's agenda of the PPLC He advised the CC to be wary of believing all the information they read in the press such as 'The planners are minded to reject the proposal' as the report on this application had not yet been completed.

In early November the Developers were informed that it is unlikely that Officers will be able to support the application due mainly to impacts on NP but also for other reasons including impact on the inner Clyde and lack of information on ornithological details. (Doc 21096693). The Developers replied (Doc 21103872), but the view of the planning sub group was that they had not properly addressed the issues raised. It was agreed that planning subgroup should object to the application on these grounds. The deadline for an objection is December 18th.

JD draft Objection

6c. LDP. The Reporters have completed their examination into the unresolved issues raised in representations to LDP and the report has been submitted to the Argyll and Bute Council. The Reporter has partially supported the R&S CC request in that he has ruled that housing at the marina be reduced from "High Density" to "Not Applicable". The Reporter rejected the R&S CC request that the land to the north-east of the railway line be retained as Green belt and changed its allocation to "Countryside". The Reporter

partially supported the R&S CC case for fewer houses at Blairvadach reducing the allocation for H3006 from 60 to 48 but had retained the allocation for H-AL3/6 at 64. However he had removed the obstacle course area from the housing allocation and returned it to Greenbelt. It is expected that A& BC will now issue the Reporter's recommendations as the Approved LDP. Full details can be found on the Community Councils website.

<http://www.rhuandshandoncommunity.org/>

6d. Nuclear Hub. Application has been made for new radioactive material processing facility at the Naval Base. This to update the base infrastructure by replacing the existing facility and to upgrade it in line with modern standards. JR asked the CC if we wished to comment on the plans. The main fear is that material could be brought in from other sites. Current correspondence indicated that the facility would receive waste from just Faslane and Coulport. GF pointed out that this proposal had been on the go for about 10 years. The CC discussed whether it should make a representation on this application. The proposal that a letter of support be sent (PPM and GK) was rejected. A proposal that the CC should do nothing (AN and JC) was carried.

7. Local Recurring Issues:

7a. Broadband. Information has been received that the Rhu Exchange will be updated for Superfast Broadband in early 2015. With feeds from Arrochar and Alexandria all area around the peninsula will be done in 2015. AM has reservations that this could be achieved and suggests that 2016 would be more realistic. Generally there is optimism as the programme is moving forward.

7b. Japanese Knotweed. Landowners are taking the problem of Japanese Knotweed seriously and will treat the weed in the spring. JC continues to map the extent of outbreaks and would like volunteers to act as wardens and monitor regrowth next year. RM thinks that the lochside has been sprayed but JC does not agree. Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam are other invasive species that could be troublesome but

JC to write end of year report on knotweed in Rhu and Shandon.

thought not to have the same destructive power as JKW. Volunteers are still needed to monitor outbreaks. JC offered to write an end of year report.

7c. Control of Vegetation Along the Lochside.

Roads informed RM that some people with property along the shore had objected in the past because rubbish was being blown off the loch into gardens. The general view, based on a survey of North Shandon residents and the actions of residents in Rhu and south Shandon who have started to cut back the vegetation, is that most of the residents want rid of the vegetation. The CC support this viewpoint and wish A&B Council to continue to control the growth along the shore. As it stands the vegetation is damaging the sea wall and is will cause damage to the road if it is not treated

RM will continue to pursue

7d. Roads and lighting. A814: most of the nine malfunctioning street lights reported together been repaired, including the one by Rhu Loos which has been a persistent problem. The rest will be reported

Action J Cook

Road Issues.

- Water at the junction between Cumberland Road and School Road is still flowing and has the potential to become a serious hazard when it freezes. Scottish Water report that it is on their list and the Roads Department are looking into it. MC said that action will be taken in the next 5-10 days.
- Caldwell Place. There is a large puddle on Caldwell Place with a traffic cone in the middle. The problem is that the surface of the road is lower at that point and there is no drain.
- Pier Road has been resurfaced and FB is delighted.

RM to follow up with Roads Department

RM asked residents to report road defects, including individual lighting faults, directly to the Council on 01546 605514 or on A&B's website. <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/road-faults>

8. Other Matters:

8a. Act Alfresco – Coast and Countryside Trust: A grant of £100 towards a replacement bench for the end of Ferry Road has been awarded. Pledges for donations total £310 some of which has been received. The bench has been ordered.

8b. Bowling Club: Neighbours of the Bowling Club have discussed a proposal to use the land for a tennis club; there was broad support with no objections. LM thinks that, with the rising popularity of the sport, this is the way ahead and the proposal would need to be agreed with Malcolm Colquhoun. Alan MacBeath has set up the tennis club in Cardross and could do the same in Rhu. The Scottish Lawn Tennis Association (SLTA) could be approached for funds and a number of volunteers would be needed to assist running the club. GF has acquired notes on ownership and usage of the site, he said that any funding would need assurance that the venture would be enduring. A motion to support the TC (TL) was carried. MC thought that the tennis club was a good idea.

9. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:

9. Nil

10. Treasurer's report:

10. Treasurer's Report: LD briefed the state of accounts:

Opening Balance	£ 780.11
Income	£ 659.50
Expenditure	£ 23.98
Closing Balance	£ 1,415.63
Fund for seat	£ 100.00
Cash in Bank	£ 1,515.63

The administration grant has now been received and the expenditure was for the Ballot Boxes and Calico Mailboxes. The donations for the seat are included.

11. Correspondence: 11. Correspondence had been circulated as and when it was received. Some items of interest:

- Community Action Planning Training Opportunities – not considered useful to CC
- Handout on Broadband Internet.
- Consultation on Land Reform – Dated 2 Dec, comments required by 10 Feb 2015.
- Health and Social care partnership -Integrated Scheme Consultation.

This arrived on 9th December with the consultation deadline of 23rd December. The 67 pages of governance describe a partnership between A&B and Highland regions. Four sites are trialling 2014 health act. MM has briefly examined the Integrated Health & Social Care consultation document describing the proposed partnership between A&B council, NHS Highland and an Integrated Health Board. MM and PPM will comment on behalf of the committee.

Action MM and PPM

12. Website and related issues:

12. Website. JC has asked for constructive feedback and material for the website.

13. Members' Reports:

13a. AN. Informed the CC that Rhu Church is still without a Minister. Ian Millar, David Clarke and John Christie are all filling in and the Watchnight Services will go ahead.

13b. JC. Beach Clean: Rosslea Hall Hotel are arranging a beach clean on December 16th. Meet at Rosslea at 9am. A&B Council will provide bin bags, gloves and a skip. Volunteers are needed. Light refreshments will be provided at the end of the clean. Contact Lynn Graham, Hotel Administrator : 01436 439955

14. AOB:

14a. GF. Stated that there is a press release from Police Scotland announcing that K and L Divisions (Renfrew and Dumbarton) will be merged which raises concern over police services within the area and the future of the Police HQ in Dumbarton.

15. DONM:

15. The next ordinary meeting will take place at 1930 on 11th February 2015 in the Community Hall.