

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 8th June 2016  
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)  
Brian Fleming (BF)  
Jayne Burnett (JB)  
Tim Lamb (TL)  
Fiona Baker (FB)  
Maggie McCowan (MM)  
Peter Knox (PK)  
Jayne Burnett (JB)

Cllr George Freeman (GF)  
Cllr Robert MacIntyre (RM)  
Cllr Maurice Corry (MC)  
Alastair Macbeth (AMc)

Topic	Minute	Decision/ Action
<b>1. Apologies:</b>	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Andrew Nicholson, Linda Duncan, Jim Duncan Olivia Birch, Audrey Butler, Cdr James Leatherby RN, Police Scotland and Edna Muir.	
<b>2. Declarations of interest:</b>	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3. Guest speakers:</b>	<p><b>3a. Representative from Police Scotland:</b> There was no representative of Police Scotland present at the meeting but a brief of reported crime in the area was submitted and is at Appendix 1 to the Agenda for this meeting.</p> <p><b>3b. Cdr James Leatherby:</b> Provided a written report prior to the meeting which can be found at Appendix 2 to the Agenda.</p> <p>JB drew attention to the grounds of St Andrews School being used by unauthorised persons, there have been loose dogs, graffiti and tents. It is also believed that the building is being vandalised. It is felt that this area is not being policed adequately by the MOD.</p> <p>JB said that a rope rail, provided by a resident, to aid walkers, had been taken from the burn by the waterfall. This has since been renewed, again by a local resident.</p>	
<b>4. Minutes of meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016:</b>	4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 were accepted and signed by JR as a true record of the meeting.	

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

**5a.** It was noted that the Police Scotland Website had still not been updated with respect to the local Police information; this was first raised at the meeting in February. Police Scotland are requested to address this issue and update their website.

JC to draw Police Scotland's attention to this note.

**5e. Defibrillators.** Two sessions will be taking place for training volunteers in the use of the defibrillators located in Rhu. The dates are yet to be confirmed but it is expected that there will be 20 places available on each session and the training would take place in the Village Hall. Details will be publicised when known.

Action JC

**5f. Road Surface in Rhu.** The plan to resurface the A814 in Rhu has been extended and now stretches from Pier Road to Hall Road. JC had contacted Jim Smith with regard to guarantees for road surfacing. The response was 2 yrs for repairs up to 1 metre in depth and 3 years for those greater than 1 metre. The road between Helensburgh and Cardross was dug up by Network Gas within 18 months of the road being fully resurfaced. GF pointed out that the utility companies are contacted before road surfacing is carried out to allow them the opportunity to conduct repairs and avoid damaging the surface subsequently. Cars parking near to the junction of Hall Road and the A814 is still seen as a problem, it would be too difficult to get permission to paint yellow lines. The correct white road markings may discourage people from unlawfully parking too close to the junction.

**5g. Correction to previous minutes Para 12.** The funding that was available for repairs and renovation of the Shandon War Memorial was £850 not £150 as stated in the minutes of the April meeting.

**6. Planning Matters:**

**6a. Ardenconnel Sports Pitch: 15/02729/PP.** New drawings have been submitted and some conditions have been attached. GF was not happy to approve the planning application at the Hearing and had supported the views of R&SCC by proposing an amendment. Unfortunately this did not find a seconder and GF had his dissent to the decision to approve the application recorded in the minutes. MOD are talking to the school and Rhu Amateurs football club regarding use. There has been a meeting with some local residents with respect to the lighting and fencing. The MOD will have to comply with the revised plans and conditions. There are no plans to upgrade the changing rooms or pavilion. FB expressed her concerns that this flat area would not be accessible to all in future. She suggested that we should ask the Navy to upgrade the Rhu Amateurs field by levelling and improving drainage making it accessible for the community. Any spoils that were being removed from Ardenconnel could be deposited at the football pitch. This would create a decent football pitch and a suitable site for the Rhu Gala. GF suggested that early advice should be sought from Planning Officers and SEPA as earth works often require planning permission and SEPA may consider that the spoils may be classed as waste. JC pointed out that there may be implications for

properties downhill from the Rhu Amateurs' pitch. The Rhu Gala is at the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club this year but the future of the club is uncertain and there are problems accessing the site. MC has asked for a cost of drainage and levelling. It is understood that Luss Estates own the land and any changes would need their approval. The proposals for the Rhu Amateurs pitch were generally supported by the CC.

**6b. Siting of Metal Storage Container (retrospective):**

**15/03082/PP.** There has been no movement on this issue and this is still not a formal Enforcement Case.

**6c. Sea Lochs Trail; Rhu Plinth: 15/01757/PP.** The plinth has been constructed and now awaiting the associated installation. It was noted that we have not been consulted about the wording. As an aside, a similar plinth at Whistlefield has been stolen.

*PMN The planning application reference number for this item has been corrected.*

**6d. Persimmon House Proposals: Glenoran Road.** R&SCC are supporting the Helensburgh CC on this subject. There is to be a meeting on 15 Jun with the development planner, Residents Groups, HCC and R&SCC to address concerns about road access, potential flooding and loss of amenity. JR will be attending. It is felt that this application is contrary to the LDP and could be setting a bad precedence. Infrastructure issues, such as school places, are considered as normal business in the planning applications of large developments.

**7. Other Matters:**

**7a. Update of Broadband.** Brenden O'Hara has still not responded to JC's request for information. GF said that he was trying to get Open Reach to provide timescales but most available information is unreliable.

JC to pursue  
Brenden  
O'Hara

**7b. Horticulture/Open Public Spaces (Rose Bed and Barge Memorial Garden).** The Barge Trustees have handed over the garden to Argyll and Bute Council for maintenance. MC has spoken to Stuart McCracken and has gained assurance that the Barge Memorial Garden will be maintained once per year. It is not known whether any other work would be carried out. MC will contact Alastair Hope to establish whether any additional funding may be available for further work. It was suggested that Andrew Nicholson would take a specific proposal forward in the form of a list of jobs or a refurbishment of the space. PPM and FB volunteered to provide an assessment to AN.

**Rose beds.** A number of residents from Rhu Ellen Court flats have offered to assist in looking after the rose beds. This initiative should be encouraged. It was suggested that the money left over from the seat could be used for such a project. The decision taken by the CC to plant bulbs and grass over the rose beds still stands if no other action is taken.

**7c. Beach Clean.** A beach clean was conducted from Rhu Hangars to the Post Office. It was a highly successful event with 25-30 people taking part. The clean was organised by Audrey Baird from A&B with PK representing the Community Council. It is hoped that this could be a regular occurrence with another clean being conducted later in the summer.

**7d. Advertising Banners.** A large number of residents have raised concerns were raised over the number of advertising banners that were being put up in the area. It was recognised that advertising local events was acceptable but 'commercial' adverts such as 'Kids Eat for Free' were not. That particular banner had been removed prior to the meeting. It is understood that advertising may require planning permission.

**8. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:**

**8.** Alastair Macbeth attended the meeting on behalf of the Friends of Duchess Wood. He explained that there were 72 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) in Scotland but only 2 in Argyll and Bute. LNRs are areas of special natural value and beauty protected for wildlife conservation, public access, informal recreation and education. Duchess Wood is part of Luss Estates and is managed by Argyll and Bute. AMc handed out leaflets with information on things to see in the wood and how to join the Friends of Duchess Wood. Membership is by household at £10 per year and there are currently 85 members. The Friends are keen to increase membership as this will help any funding applications. Rhu Primary is the closest primary school to the wood and the children use it frequently.

AMc asked the CC if they could pass on any comments to him. His contact details are contained within the leaflets.

**9. Treasurer's report:**

**9. Treasurer's Report:** There have been no transactions in Community Council Account since the last meeting. LD gained consent from the donors to use the remaining £100 for the seat fund towards an alternative cause.

**10. Correspondence:**

**10. Correspondence** had been circulated as and when it was received. Of note there is a move to change the time of the Area Local Liaison Committee, The next meeting is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

**11. Website and related issues:**

**11. Website:** Nothing significant to report.

**12. Councillors' reports**

**12a. MC.** Thanked the community for their support for the Battle of Jutland commemorations and that the exhibition in the library is a great success.

He reminded that the Gala was in the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club this year, the yacht club have been most helpful. He said that the road would be marshalled for crossing. There would be many attractions including a Gin and Pimms bar.

**12b. RM.** Reported that the vegetation cutting alongside the A814 has stopped because money is tight. He suggested that the Queen's Harbour Master could maintain the sea wall and verges as they are on the lochside. He added that the community payback scheme could not do the work for which the council is responsible.

MC to take up with the base.

**12c. GF.** The concerns with the boundary change proposals in the Helensburgh & Lomond Area had been addressed. GF has submitted his comments to the Scottish Government and stressed that it was up to individuals and groups to submit theirs before the 7 July deadline. It was felt that the boundaries are set for the good of the communities rather than the convenience of the Councillors. MC suggested that R&SCC should make their views known and reiterate the support for the current boundaries of Lomond North.

The proposals to alter the school holiday dates that have angered many Parent Councils in the Helensburgh & Lomond area were discussed at the recent Community Services Committee meeting. GF had tabled an amendment to support the local Parent Councils and schools. This issue will now be re-visited at the Committee meeting in September following further consultation with Parent Councils and Head Teachers. GF was hopeful that this issue would now be resolved to the satisfaction of local parent councils and schools.

**13. Members' Reports:**

**13a. PPM.** The final account for the playpark has been submitted and all actions are complete.

**13b. JB.** Reminded that the school will be finishing shortly and there are no change to the holidays.

**14. AOB:**

**14. AOB.** JC brought attention to the library hours consultation which closes on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**15. DONM:**

**15.** The next ordinary meeting of the R&SCC will take at 1930 on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016 in the Community Hall.