

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 10th August 2016
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

Jack Rudram	(JR)	Cllr Maurice Corry	(MC)
Pat Pollok-Morris	(PPM)	Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Jean Cook	(JC)	Craig Borland (Press)	(CB)
Gordon King	(GK)	PC D Armstrong	(PCA)
Brian Fleming	(BF)	PC McCreery	(PCM)
Linda Duncan	(LD)		
Jim Duncan	(JD)		
Olivia Birch	(OB)		
Tim Lamb	(TL)		
Fiona Baker	(FB)		

Topic	Minute	Decision/ Action
1. Apologies:	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Andrew Nicholson, Jayne Burnett, Maggie McCowan, Audrey Butler, Peter Knox, Cllr George Freeman and Cllr Robert MacIntyre.	
2. Declarations of interest:	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Guest speakers:	<p>3a. Representative from Police Scotland: There were 2 Police Officers at the meeting. PC McCreery presented a brief of reported crime which can be seen at Appendix 1 for this meeting. Additionally members of the Community Council are aware that there were 2 attempted burglaries in Rhu in the past 2 months which were not included in the brief. It was agreed that from the point of view of community awareness, it would be useful to have the complete list of reported crimes.</p> <p>3b. Cdr James Leatherby: Presented the brief for the Naval Base and the report can be found at Appendix 2.</p>	JC to contact Insp Wylie
4. Minutes of meeting held 8th June 2016:	4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 th June 2016 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed FB, Seconded PPM.	
5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:	5a. Police Scotland Website. The website has now been updated with respect to the local Police information.	

5e. Defibrillators. A session for training volunteers took place in the Village Hall on 1st July but was not well attended. There is a possibility of another session in September if there is sufficient interest. Suitable locations are still sought for the placement of defibrillators particularly around Upper Shandon. There needs to be an electrical supply available to maintain the units fully charged. JC was thanked for her efforts.

5f. Road Surface in Rhu. MC said that the road through Rhu will receive a more complete resurfacing than that seen at other parts of the area recently. A 'hot spot' gully cleaning plan has been produced by Council Officers but was 'a bit feeble'. Councillors have rejected the plan and have asked Officers to come back with a proper plan for the Autumn and Winter. A current problem for the gully cleaning team is the amount of 'dog poo' bags put into the drains. There are only 2 cleaning lorries in Argyll and Bute and these are in constant demand.

12b. Vegetation Along Lochside. There is no council money available for the task of clearing vegetation from the lochside. The vegetation is compromising the sea wall and it is feared that previous cutting back, without spraying, has encouraged growth.

6. Planning Matters:

6a. Ardenconnel Sports Pitch: 15/02729/PP. The source of funding for the MoD to develop the sports pitch has failed to materialise and the money is being sought elsewhere. FB suggested that the all-weather pitch in Garelochhead is in need of renovation and closer to the base. The MoD could consider this as an alternative option. JL will let the Captain of the Base (CoB) know and find out if there is any appetite to renovate an existing pitch. This has the potential for an application to the Forces Covenant Fund and MC will take proposal to the CoB. FB asked about the levelling of the Rhu Amateurs pitch using the spoils from the Ardenconnel development – MC has spoken to the CoB and there will not be enough material to complete the job. Rhu Amateur FC have talked to Cdr John Livesay with regard to upgrading the pavilion and sharing the facility.

MC to Liaise with CoB.

6b. Siting of Metal Storage Container (retrospective): 15/03082/PP. There has been no movement on this issue since March.

6d. Persimmon House Proposals: Glenoran Road. Although this is technically not in the Rhu and Shandon area it is considered that it could have an impact on the Local Development Plan. Helensburgh CC have had a meeting and did not believe that proper consultation had been carried out. HCC have met with Planning Officers to them up to date with the public feeling. Letters have been sent to Persimmon as it seems that Scottish Government Policy may not be being followed. The issue, as far as R&SCC is concerned, is that this development is setting a dangerous precedent with respect to the LDP. Their last communication was 28th Jun; the CC is maintaining a watching brief.

6e. Other Planning Applications. There was nothing of significance for the meeting. There is a planning application for one dwelling house in Ferry Road and the original plan was for a traditional design but the owner would like something more contemporary.

The Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club will be holding a member's meeting on 21 Sep for alternative options for the future of the club to be discussed.

7. Other Matters:

7a. Update of Broadband. Brendan O'Hara has not responded to either of JC's letters. Alastair Moore had reported that we should have the superfast broadband by late summer, but that could change. JC would like a statement to declare when the 3 broadband cabinets in Rhu and Shandon are going to be updated. MC was asked to speak directly to Brendan O'Hara. JC was commended for her persistence.

MC to pursue
Brendan
O'Hara

7b. Horticulture/Open Public Spaces (Rose Bed and Barge Memorial Garden). There has been no progress, Rhu Ellen residents have gone quiet over the rose bed. PPM and FB have looked at the Barge Memorial Garden and Stuart McCracken has agreed to help out once per year. As this is not the remit of A&B Council it could be an appropriate use of the Community Payback Scheme.

FB and PPM to
speak to Stuart
McCracken

7c. Beach Clean. Following the successful beach clean conducted earlier in the year, Audrey Baird, the Community Development Officer, is organising a meeting to discuss "Taking Action on Marine and Land-based Litter". Peter Knox will represent the Community Council, but other interested people are invited to attend. Details on how to sign up are on our website.

It is hoped that another beach clean will be conducted later in the summer. Further details will be posted on the website in due course.

Peter Knox to
attend meeting

7d. Conservation Related Matters. The question of a Conservation Area Appraisal document was raised some time ago but put to one side after the Scottish Civic Trust representative resigned and the A&BC Conservation Officer reported that Rhu & Shandon were a low priority because of the wealth in the village! It is a requirement of the Council to produce a CAA but the timing is at their discretion. JD & TL offered to draft a letter to Charles Reppke enquiring as to the Council's obligations and whether or not the CC can take action themselves.

JD & TL to draft
letter to
Charles Reppke

On the question of Development Briefs for key sites in the CC area there was little optimism that the Council would prepare these although they could demand them from a Developer. JR to write to Angus Gilmour of A&BC suggesting they take appropriate action. The CC can prepare a list of Key Environmental Features which, once adopted, become a material consideration in Planning applications. It was felt that this was probably within the scope of the CC to produce KEF, and FB and JR agreed to work up a draft.

JR to write to
Angus Gilmour

FB & JR to
produce a draft
KEF document

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

8. CB, Helensburgh Advertiser. CB, new to the area was aware that Audrey Baird has organised several beach cleans and is interested in putting an article together. He attended the meeting to gather information as he has experienced difficulties getting accurate, up-to-date information from the A&B Press Office.

9. Treasurer's report:

9. Treasurer's Report: LD presented the Treasurer's report a copy of which can be found at Appendix 3.

10. Correspondence:

10. Correspondence: Formal consultation on Police Priorities Report'16 has been received. Details were posted on the website.

JR has received information from AB&C for the forthcoming Community Council by elections. We should be encouraging members of the community to stand in order to fill vacancies on the CC. Someone to represent the younger members of the community would be most welcome. The deadline for submission of election papers for the October by election is 2nd October.

11. Website and related issues:

11. Website: There is a new favicon. The image of the Lighthouse was provided by local resident Alastair Moore.

Favicons are small 16x16 icon files that are displayed next to the URL of your site in a browser's address bar. Additionally they're often displayed next to the name of your site in a user's list of open tabs and bookmark listings making it easier for the user to quickly identify amongst other sites.

In Short - If you have created a bookmark for the website there is a new little picture on the tab.

12. Councillors' Reports

12a. MC. Stated that he will follow up the points raised at the meeting. He will be meeting with Navy and FB. Officers have been sent back to rethink the proposals for the new school dates. AB&C has made objections to the Boundaries Commission's ideas on boundary changes and proposed that the status quo be maintained. The Boundaries Commission has agreed and is now the remit of ministers and subject to parliamentary vote.

13. Members' Reports:

13a. FB. Reported that the Rhu Gala was a great success and was hopeful that the Gala would be held at the Royal Northern Yacht Club again next year.

13b. BF. Pointed out that the properties on the front in Rhu are looking 'a bit shabby'. David Maclachlan, Argyll & Bute Council's Building Standards Surveyor should be contacted if the buildings are thought to be unsafe. A report has been made and will be followed up.

Action JC

13c. OB. Branches from trees, growing on the land adjacent to her property in Manse Place, are encroaching on her roof. The branches need to be cut away to avoid damaging the roof. OB has been trying, for 5 months without success, to find out who is

MC and OB
Discuss post
meeting.

responsible for the trees. MC to discuss matter with OB and Stuart McCracken to be contacted.

13d. JC. Bushes and trees between A814 and the cycle path, just south of Shandon Church are obscuring sightlines along the road. This affects the traffic travelling south; a warning sign showing the Ardchapel turn off is totally obscured. A local resident contacted A&B because an approaching bus cannot be seen from the bus stop near the church. When no action was taken, she contacted JC, who followed the standard procedure, obtained an incident number and was told that action would be taken in 5 to 10 days. After 10 days JC phoned again as was put through to Andrew Markie who reluctantly agreed to look at the problem the next day 5th August. On Monday and Tuesday 8th & 9th August, hopes were raised when the strimmers were cutting overhanging branches from bushes in the Care Home and the Royal Northern; but the reported bushes still remain.

JC to contact
Stuart
McCracken

13d. LD asked when the 3 weekly household waste collection was due to start. MC replied that this was not imminent as there were still things to be sorted out.

14. AOB:

14. AOB. BF reported that there were drainage problems on the spit and produced photographs of water emanating from what was thought to be the drainage from the Rosslea Hall Hotel. Scottish Water have attended the site but have not taken any action. It was thought that there raw sewage may be present, and if this was suspected, the resident should contact SEPA.

15. DONM:

15. The next ordinary meeting of the R&SCC will take on 19th October 2016 in the Community Hall.