

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 9th August 2017
Held in Rhu Community Centre**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Jack Rudram (JR)
Pat Pollok-Morris (PPM)
Jean Cook (JC)
Olivia Birch (OB)
Maggie McCowan (MMc)
Peter Knox (PK)
Fiona Baker (FB)
Andrew Nicholson (AN)
Tim Lamb (TL)

Guests/Public:

Cllr Barbara Morgan (BM)
Cllr George Freeman (GF)
PC Willie Lavery MOD (WL)
CDR James Leatherby RN (JL)

Topic	Minute	Decision/ Action
1. Apologies:	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Gordon King, Linda Duncan, Jim Duncan, and Jayne Burnett and Cllr Iain Patterson.	
2. Declarations of interest:	2. OB planning application for 1 Manse Place, Rhu.	
3. Guest Speakers	<p>3a. There was no representative of Police Scotland present. The Police Report expected for the June meeting did not arrive, but Appendix 1, lists the Crimes and Incidents which have occurred in Rhu and Shandon since the beginning of April. This was submitted before the meeting.</p> <p>3b:Cdr James Leatherby: Presented the brief for the Naval Base and the report can be found at Appendix 2 to the Agenda.</p> <p>JL was asked if a decision had been made about the future of the derelict maisonettes on the Mackenzie Estate. JL reported there was no formal decision at the present time and it was being discussed and he would look into it further.</p> <p>Noted that Defence Estates own the maisonettes, not HMNB Clyde.</p> <p>Noted the A&B Council officer dealing with the MacKenzie Estate has retired. GF offered to make enquiries at the Council.</p> <p>JL advised that the matter of cyclists had been discussed with the Commander of the Base and GF reported he had had a response from the Base and considers the matter closed.</p>	Action GF

<p>4. Minutes of previous meeting</p>	<p>4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th June 2017 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed OB and Seconded PK. The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
<p>5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:</p>	<p>5a: Telephone Box (5b) The telephone box now has a appropriate sign stating it is card only and the drainage problem seems to have been resolved. No further action is needed.</p> <p>5b: Tree felling (5c) No further information is available on the plans for the extraction of the timber from Highlandman's Wood. Follow up emails have been sent to Scottish Woodlands and A&B C with no response. GF suggests contacting Jim Smith at A&B C if no response from Gerry O'Hare</p> <p>5c: RNCYC (5e) – no planning application has been submitted. It is understood the Club would wish to build in the grounds of the Club before starting to build the proposed new Clubhouse at Rhu Marina.</p> <p>5d: Cycle Path Markings Reported in Correspondence, item 12.</p> <p>5e: Car in Quarryknowe (5f) GF reported that he had been advised that the car will be removed within a month. A check will be made on 01/09/2017</p> <p>5f: Defibrillators.(5g) It was reported that the local defibrillator fund will benefit from being included as one of the Waitrose Charities this month. The donation form Rhu and Shandon Gala (£750) has been received, there is a shortfall in the money required. JR suggested R&SCC might consider making up the shortfall. The issue of the siting of extra defibrillators in our area is still unresolved.</p> <p>5g: Structures on the Peace Camp (5h). GF reported that the information on this matter was "restricted"</p> <p>5h: Siting of Metal Storage container(retrospective) 15/03082/PP (6a) To date the applicant has not appealed the decision taken in June that this application should be refused.</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Ongoing Action FB / PK</p> <p>Action GF</p> <p>Ongoing JR</p> <p>Ongoing GF</p>

	<p>5i: Laigh Balernock Turbines 16/02662/PP (6b) The Hearing held on 27th June approved this application. It was suggested at the Hearing that this decision could set a precedent for other applications for Turbines in this area. This was denied emphatically by Howard Young</p> <p>It was noted that community benefit is not a material consideration in the planning process and this matter should not have been discussed pre-determination. At present, only Route 81 in Garelochhead has been considered to receive community benefit based on the recommendations of the Community Wind Farm Development Trust Fund. (Centre 81 is the building and Project 81 is the overall charity). Whilst R&SCC support the activities of Route 81, which GF pointed out serves all the Hermitage Academy catchment area, as one of the two turbines and much of the infrastructure is in Rhu and Shandon, it was felt that the principle that all communities affected should benefit should be established. It was agreed that this point should be made in a letter to the farmer, Mr Hamilton.</p> <p>5j: Key Environmental Features(8a). JR, FB and JD will meet with Mark Lodge on 17/08/2017 to discuss this matter.</p> <p>5k: Village Orderly (14b). A letter was written to Stuart McCracken expressing our appreciation of the work done around the village by the village orderly.</p> <p>5l: Out of Hours GP service at The Vale of Leven.(14c)</p> <p>The letter was sent to the Health Minister and a standard reply was received. A very well attended meetings was held in Helensburgh, but there is no resolution so far.</p> <p>5m Spoils from the development of Rhu Lodge (14d)</p> <p>No response has been received from A&B C on this matter. JL noted Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the Queen's Harbourmaster have been advised of this matter.</p>	<p>Action JR</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>JC to follow up with A&B C</p>
<p>6. Planning Matters:</p>	<p>6a. Persimmon Housing Development 17/0662/PP. No further information</p> <p>6b: There were no other significant planning applications</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>7. Consultations.</p>	<p>7a: A & B Area Community Action Plans. Submissions to be made online by 30/08/2017.</p> <p>7b: Scottish Government Consultation on Climate Change Bill: Submissions online by 22/09/2017</p>	

	<p>There are more details and links to the online forms on both of these consultations on the Rhu and Shandon Community Council Website. The Community Council will not make a submission on either.</p>	
8. Other Matters:	<p>8a. Conservation Area Appraisal.</p> <p>No significant progress has been made. The second firm of architects asked to quote for the work have failed to respond.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>8b Christmas Lighting: The CC was contacted by Mark Calder about Christmas Lighting in Rhu. The tree on the green has always been provided by A&B. At the August 2016 meeting of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee it was agreed that the £300k allocated at the Council budget meeting in February 2016 be used to deliver the historic festive features for 2016/17 and that transitional arrangements commence during early 2017 to enable festive lighting to be transferred to communities by no later than 2019/20. It was agreed that the Community Council does not have the resources, funds or expertise to deal with the Christmas lights in Rhu and we are of the view that provision of a Christmas tree and lights is the responsibility of A&B C. A motion, (proposed AN, seconded OB) that the CC write to A&B C expressing our view was passed unanimously and a letter will be sent to Mark Calder to this effect.</p>	Action JC

8c. Air Pollution along roads at Rhu.

A kit has arrived from Friends of the Earth. It will be placed near the school for the required 2 weeks. It may be necessary to repeat the test later in the year because of the traffic queues due to the road works. JC and PPM will liaise with the school.

Action JC & PPM

8d. Knotweed update

The identity of the absentee owner of the field beyond the railway line and his local tenant has been established and the latter has indicated that she will start treatment of the weed.

All landowners have been sent an updated report of the status and location of knotweed in Rhu and Shandon.

JC and PK had a meeting with Luss Estates who said that they will treat all knotweed on their land in the coming months and report back on any outbreaks incorrectly assigned to them. Luss Estates were represented by The Head of Estate Maintenance and the Head Gardener.

There is some uncertainty on the ownership of knotweed on the shore of the Gareloch and this will be pursued.

The Knotweed Task force will provide updates as the outbreaks they monitor are treated or not as the case may be. Information is being collated by PK for Rhu and JC for Shandon.

**Action
Knotweed
Task force**

JR thanked JC and PK for all their hard work on knotweed.

**9. H&L Area
Committee**

9. An initiative from HLAC to hold meetings in local areas was discussed. The purpose of these meetings was unclear and it was agreed to ask for further clarification.

Action JC

GF and BM advised that Area Committee meetings would only now be held quarterly instead of every two months. These meetings will continue to be minuted. The same would apply to Area Business Day meetings although the Council had decided that these meetings, which would not be decision making meetings, would not be minuted. Without minutes, GF considered that this would lead to many arguments over what was or was not said. Under the new arrangements, officers would not normally attend Business Day meetings. It was confirmed that decisions would be taken by officers under delegated powers or at formal Area Committee meetings..

<p>10: Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak.</p>	<p>10. There were no members of the public present</p>	
<p>11. Treasurer's report:</p>	<p>11. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report is at Appendix 3.</p>	
	<p>12. Correspondence: Correspondence is circulated as and when it is received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters have been exchanged with Callum Robertson (A&B C Roads Performance Manager) on the state of old Shore Road/cycle path in Shandon. It was pointed that this is the major access road for almost all the properties in Shandon. There are two issues, The overall state of the road and the markings on the cycle path, particularly at the north end. It was felt that Jet patching would not provide a satisfactory solution unless and until the drainage is improved. BM reported that white lines had been repainted on 9 August 2017. It was noted that the repainted lines require bicycles to stop at every driveway. A proposal (Proposed PK, seconded FB) that a further letter noting the old A814 is a full access road in need of improvement and the white line design needs reviewed. JC will continue this correspondence. 	<p>Action JC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the Councils Insurance Policy have been received. • Draft documents have been received for the Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. The first phase of the consultation ends on 19th October. • A letter was received from Brian Black asking if R&SCC would support a wind farm application at Stuckenduff following approval of the Laigh Balernock turbines. R&SCC responded that it is not R&SCC's remit to decide on such matters and the CC would evaluate all planning applications on their merits before making any comments. • The Action Planning Workshop requires registration by 6 September. 	
13. Website and related issues:	13. Nothing to report	
14. Councillors' reports	14a.GF. Nothing further to report.	
	14b. BM. Reported that she was delighted and honoured to be elected as the Armed Forces Champion. She also reported that she had logged onto their systems(Casebook) for the cycle path to be checked and repaired if and where required as it is forcing cyclists to use the road.	
15. Members' Reports:	<p>15: OB – No word for the Culture Committee has been received.</p> <p>FB – The water pumping station at High Acre on Station Road, Rhu is broken and very noisy. This was reported 2 July 2017 and it is hoped repair (replacement of pumps has been promised) is imminent. Scottish Water's Area Manager for Rhu and Shandon has this in hand.</p> <p>JR – Fibre has been installed in Cabinet 3 in Shandon.</p>	
16. AOB:	16. None	
17. DONM:	17. The next ordinary meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 11 th October 2017, in the Community Hall.	