

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 14th February 2018
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)
Derek Hall (DH)
Peter Knox (PK)
Tim Lamb (TL)
Olivia Birch (OB)
Jayne Burnett (JB)

Guests/Public:

Cllr Barbara Morgan (BM)
Cllr George Freeman (GF)
Cllr Iain Paterson (IP)
Cdr James Leatherby RN (JL)
Sgt Sandy Johnston (SJ)
PC Jeanette Speirs (MDP) (JS)

Topic	Minute	Decision/ Action
1. Apologies:	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Jack Rudram, Jim Duncan, Linda Duncan, Maggie McCowan, and Andrew Nicholson.	
2. Declarations of interest:	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Guest speakers:	<p>3a. Police Scotland. SJ presented the updated police report and the main concerns raised were connected to the 3 car traffic accident in North Shandon. The issue of speeding on the A814 was highlighted and GF confirmed that there have been complaints on the subject. SJ said that the local police officers are trained in using speed detection equipment for use in 30 mph zones but the higher speed roads are policed by the traffic division. GF said that national surveys of speed limits on roads across Scotland are carried out every few years and his experience has been that very few changes are recommended. He confirmed that, following complaints, electronic speed surveys had been carried out on the A814 in the Shandon area in the past and confirmed that there was not a specific problem. JC commented that she was worried that there will have to be a death before anything happens. JB noted that enforcement of the current speed limits seems to be a problem. The updated police report can be found at Appendix 1 on the website.</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. He added that the piling at the North end would be complete in the next couple of weeks. JL was asked for details regarding the work being undertaken on the perimeter fence.</p> <p><u>Post Meeting Note.</u> <i>JL has confirmed that HM Naval Base Clyde is currently undertaking a major programme of capital</i></p>	

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	<p><i>investment which involves work on the Base's perimeter fences. Although the MOD will not comment on the specifics of site security, additional measures will be in place during the duration of the work (work which will take place over many months). The MOD has also confirmed both that the system will carry an electrical current designed to deter intruders and that the fence meets British Safety Standards. Indeed, the fence is similar to those already in use at other defence and civil nuclear sites.</i></p>	
	<p>3c. PC Jeanette Speirs MDP. Reported that the MDP were running campaigns on internet safety and that there was a cycling safety initiative currently going on in the base. JS handed leaflets for the initiative to JC. JS asked for the timescales for the completion of roadworks in Rhu. Work is planned to complete in late July/early August.</p>	
<p>4. Minutes of meeting held 13th December 2017:</p>	<p>4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th December 2017 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed PK and Seconded JB. 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. (5b) Defibrillators. JR has spoken to Keith Shipman with regard to siting the defibrillator and Blairvadach has been proposed as the likely place. It was suggested that a road sign should be erected to alert the public of the location of the device. The total cost of the defibrillator is £1500 and it was proposed that the CC should contribute £500 towards the cost. This was proposed by PPM and seconded by JB, the vote was carried unanimously.</p>	<p>Clarification will be sought by the Convener.</p>
	<p>Post meeting Note. The Treasurer, who was not present at the meeting, has pointed out that this contribution does not fall within the list of expenses for which the Grant may be used.</p> <p>5b. (5c) Structures on the Peace Camp. JC has circulated correspondence from the planners on the subject. GF confirmed that although the local Enforcement Officers post is vacant, enforcement is still being carried out by Planning Officers. He highlighted the difficulties in pursuing legal action as the Procurator Fiscal's office appeared to consider this to be low priority as very seldom were such cases taken to court. GF has put in an FOI request regarding the peace camp. Although he had obtained some information, a copy of which was passed to the Secretary, some of the information had been redacted. He was unhappy with this and had submitted a request for a review of that decision. He had also been informed that it would cost £680 to provide him with copies of all the other correspondence he had requested. Jack Rudram had asked how the services, electricity, water, sewage and drains are paid for and if the ground rent was being collected. JB said that it was frustrating that the peace campers seem to be getting away with anything that they want to do and if it was residents that were behaving in a similar manner they would be dealt with by the legal system. GF agreed with JB's comments. BM said that the peace campers don't recognize the law and will take it up with the council.</p>	

Action BM

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	<p>5c. (5e) Laigh Balerno Turbines 16/02662/PP. Prior to the October meeting JR wrote to Robert Hamilton regarding community benefit from the project and suggested that it should be shared out among the affected communities. There still has been no response and should be pursued.</p>	Action JR
	<p>5d. (14d) Spoils on Footpath between Armadale Road and Torwoodhill Road. It has not been possible to ascertain who is responsible for the path; it would appear that the land does not belong to A&B Council.</p>	PK to talk to JD
	<p>5d. (14e) GK reiterated the report from the last meeting about the condition of the road surface, road markings, footpath and lighting at Upper Torwoodhill Road. DH confirmed that the residents had paid for the road being brought up to standard prior to adoption by the council. IP agreed to look into the matter.</p>	IP to pursue
6. Planning Matters:	<p>6a. Helensburgh Waterfront Development. It was reported that Community Councils in Helensburgh and Lomond were invited to a Focus group with Architects, Argyll and Bute staff and Live Argyll. Only Helensburgh and Rhu and Shandon Community Councils were represented. The location of the cafe within the site, the space for spectators at swimming galas and the arrangement for bus parking were issues of concern voiced at the Focus Group. Two public meetings will be held in March.</p> <p>The matter of bus parking on the pier was further discussed at the Community Council meeting. FB said that she had heard on the grapevine that it was being suggested parking for tourist coaches would be at Craigendoran (park and ride). Councillors IP and BM said they did not think this was the case and there would be two drop off spaces at the new leisure centre but there seemed to be no real details about proposed tourist bus parking. GF advised that buses park in the pier car park and no one can stop them doing that. FB noted that in other places (eg Lomond Shores) tourist bus drivers are provided with on site facilities. FB's view was that asking the drivers to park at Craigendoran, if this is actually what is proposed, with no facilities on offer was probably not conducive to attracting tourism bus companies to Helensburgh.</p>	Action JR
	<p>6b. New Submarine Training Facility. This development in the Base will be in the Garelochhead CC boundary. PPM and PK attended the Public Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) and the former expressed the view that the building will not be too intrusive. Another PAC will be held for representatives of Community Councils in Tuesday 27th February and JR has volunteered to attend.</p>	Action JR
7. Consultations.	<p>7a. Housing Market Survey. There is a survey in progress. No-one on the CC has been contacted so far.</p>	

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8. Other Matters:	<p>8a. Rhu Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA). FB has had a meeting with Kirsty Moyes, and is trying to negotiate that the time period on the grant may be extended if we can deliver a draft Appraisal by the end of March, and set up the date of a community engagement event. The CC members will need to deliver the community engagement aspect, Rhu Gala was suggested as a time and place to do it or at an event in Rhu Hall.</p>	FB to pursue
	<p>8b. Joint Meeting With Other H&L Community Councils. This is an initiative by Helensburgh CC which has been approved in principle but no date has yet been fixed for a meeting.</p>	
	<p>8c. Sewage Works in Rhu. Once the work has completed there will be no above ground panels etc at Rhu Marina. Work is planned to complete in late July/early August and is currently on schedule.</p>	
	<p>8d. Timber Harvesting. Some preparatory work has been carried out. An area of hard standing is being established and hard core has been trucked in and spread on the lower part of the access track. Concerns were raised about drainage and potential for mud on the road. PK was asked to contact Campbell Divertie.</p>	Action PK
	<p>8e. Beach Clean. PK announced the next beach clean will take place on 4th March at 2pm meeting at the Rhu Loos. Craig Callaghan will be providing bags and equipment. The clean will go ahead unless precluded by the weather. Post Meeting Note. Due to the state of the tide, the beach clean will start at 11am.</p>	
	<p>8f. Cycle Route and Access Road from The Briars to Queens Point. Callum Robertson has finally replied on 6th February to the letter sent on 23rd November, resent with further information provided by a commuting cyclist on 2nd February. CR refers to the old A814 as the Rhu-Shandon Low road and points out that it is classified an Urban Link Road , which is unfortunately the lowest level in the roads hierarchy. He has promised to arrange for further treatments to deal with the suspected blocked culverts and to carry out minor surfacing repairs within the works programme. This is unlikely to solve the problems and all users of the road, whether motorists, cyclists or pedestrians are encouraged to submit complaints. GF has submitted complaints in the past to address flooding on stretches of the route and encourages individuals to do likewise.</p>	

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	<p>8g. Forthcoming Community Council Elections. Community Council Members are reminded that, if the Council approves the details within the report on the elections on 22 February 2018, the election will be running on a 16+franchise and election day will be Thursday 26 April. Nominations can be lodged from March 6th until 4.00 pm on Thursday 22nd March. There will be an article in the Community Advertiser.</p>	
<p>9. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:</p>	<p>9a. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak. There were no members of the public present.</p>	
<p>10. Treasurer's report:</p>	<p>10. Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report can be found at Appendix 3 on the website.</p>	
<p>11. Correspondence:</p>	<p>11. Correspondence: Correspondence is circulated as and when it is received.</p> <p>11a. Housing Market Survey, ongoing.</p> <p>11b. Housing Information Day at Victoria Halls on Thursday 15th February</p> <p>11c. Scottish Water Research. JC was interviewed by Turquoise Talking Ltd who were conducting a survey on behalf of Scottish Water. As a result, bathing water quality and river water quality were both as recategorised from low to high priority for our area. The interviewer was unable to answer questions about tide flexes and untreated outfalls, but promised that someone from SW would be in touch on these matters.</p>	
<p>12. Website and related issues:</p>	<p>12. Website: JC commented that the usage for the past two months was slightly up on the previous two months. Three Newsletters have been sent out.</p>	
<p>13. Councillors' reports</p>	<p>13a. BM. Reported that the public toilets at Rhu were under review of closure due to budget constraints but would not happen this year. PK objected strongly to this proposal and his views were supported by the CC. GK said that they were well used particularly by people using the sea front for recreational purposes and should not be shut down. This is in addition to the funding withdrawal for the Christmas tree and lights in Rhu, Cove and Kilcreggan. Alternative options for provision of trees and lights are being explored.</p> <p>13b. IP. Reported that some drains and lights have been sorted at Lineside Walk but there is more to do. JC said that there were approximately 10 lights out at the peace camp.</p>	

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14. Members' Reports:	<p>13c. GF. Continues to pursue issues relating to the Supporting Communities Fund. He believes that the voting system will discriminate against smaller rural communities as no weighting factor was being applied to take account of the size of individual communities. This was likely to benefit the larger towns such as Helensburgh. He had requested the evidence that officers say they have that this will not discriminate against smaller communities but officers are refusing to provide that information. He is continuing to pursue this issue.</p>	
	<p>14a. FB. Sculpture Grant, FB said it was interesting, would not want to do a TV show and she could imagine a herd of cattle coming up from Rhu Spit.</p>	
	<p>FB also reported that there was a disused caravan at the garages near Quarry Knowe. The van is falling apart and thought that it should be removed.</p>	
	<p>14b. JB A Public Notice appeared in the Helensburgh Advertiser concerning a TPO for Blairvadach. JB will investigate this on behalf of the CC. There is also a meeting planned for the Scottish Government's Strategy on Social isolation and Loneliness, JB will attend.</p>	
	<p>14c. OB commented on the press release issued by Ross Greer MP who has secured up to £2m to reopen a number of Railway Stations closed in 1984. Rhu and Shandon Stations were mentioned in the press release. OB felt that access and parking would present problems in Rhu. There was no support in the meeting for the reopening of either Rhu or Shandon stations.</p>	
	<p>14d. JC asked if they know of any resident who had had problems when upgrading their broadband. One member said that the cost seemed to be increasing with no noticeable improvement of service. JC said that 2 people on the Community Council upgraded before Christmas; one took 12 weeks to get a satisfactory service and the other is still waiting. JC thought that this may be down to old infrastructure, although it would be quite a coincidence if the only two residents suffering from problems with upgrading were members of the Community Council. GF said that he was receiving high speed broadband as it had recently been introduced at Garelochhead. He had received no complaints on this issue.</p>	
15. AOB:	15a. Nil.	
16. DONM:	16. The next ordinary meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 11 April 2018 in the Community Hall.	