

Minutes of a Meeting of the Rhu and Shandon Community Council

**Wednesday 12th June 2019
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Jim Duncan Chairman	(JD)
Fiona Baker	(FB)
Olivia Birch	(OB)
Linda Black	(LB)
John Clark	(JCI)
Jean Cook	(JC)
Linda Duncan	(LD)
Ken Glen	(KG)
Andrew Nicholson	(AN)
Kevin Johnstone	(KJ)
Patrick Johnstone	(PJ)
Peter Knox	(PK)
Tim Lamb	(TL)

Councillors/Guests/Public:

Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Cllr Barbara Morgan	(BM)
PC Ian Mustarde (MDP)	(IM)
PC Craig Brown	(CB)
PC Gary Davidson	(CD)
Cdr Mark Fitzsimmons	(MF)
Alastair Moore	(AM)
John McGall	(JM)
George Wilson	(GW)

Topic	Minute	Decision/ Action
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1. Apologies:	Apologies were received from: Derek Hall, Cllr Iain Shonny Paterson	
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2. Declaration of Interest	None.	
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3. Guest speakers:

3a. Police Scotland.

The police report was tabled and presented by CB. It was updated later in include the period from the last meeting

CB noted that house breakers always choose the easy option so burglar alarms and CCTV are beneficial in protecting property. With regard to the latter it was emphasised that its coverage should be restricted to the owner's property. If not, a sign is required..

3b. HMNB Clyde Police Update PC Ian Mustarde (MOP)

The report has been circulated as Appendix 3. He noted that the entry to the HMNB Clyde Fun Day on 6th July is a donation to the Food Bank. The information on drones will be publicised on the website and in the next Newsletter.

Action JC

HMNB Cdr Mark Fitzsimmons, Base Executive Officer. Clyde:

The report prepared by MF, Appendix 2 was circulated before the meeting.

MF highlighted the resurfacing of the southern approach road. The South Gate will be open for in musters and out musters and overnight as usual. Work will start on Monday 17th June is expected to be finished by Friday 28th July, but should certainly be completed by Wednesday 3rd July. This is bound to affect the speed of traffic on the

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	<p>A814.</p> <p>He confirmed that the demolition phase of the Mackenzie Estate is expected to start towards the end of July and will be completed in 30 weeks. It was confirmed after the meeting from the Planning Application, that after completion, the site will be levelled and grassed over.</p> <p>The fiftieth anniversary of UK's Continuous at Sea Deterrent (CASD) takes place in the base on 5th July. This will be a major event with the attendance of Ministers and senior VIPs. No routine business will be taking place that day at the base and only personnel directly involved will be on site. The guests will be bussed in and out from Hermitage. The external impact on the community is expected to be minimal.</p> <p>Captain Gibbons, will replace Captain Means on July 16th.</p> <p>MF reported at the monthly meeting with A&B that the increased engagement with Community Councils has been well received. JD agreed and asked MF to pass on to Captain Mearns our appreciation for his part in this, and our best wishes to him for the future.</p> <p>The report, provided by the Community Council on Japanese Knotweed in Shandon is in the hands of the Environmental Inspection Team..MF will ask if they will liaise directly with the CC in confirming the extent of MOD estate land in Rhu and Shandon and the outbreaks of knotweed on that land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Meeting Note: Mrs Nyree Stalker has volunteered to take on the role of Naval Base representative to the CC. Nyree is a resident of Rhu and a civil servant who works within the 'Infrastructure' area. She will join us for our August meeting. 	Action MF
4. Minutes of meeting held 10th April 2019:	The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed FB, seconded LB	
5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:	<p>Post Meeting Note.</p> <p>5a: Item 8</p> <p>The results of the survey sent to neighbours of the Bowling Club has been distributed to those who completed it and to the Community Council. We are now aware of the wishes of the residents who will be most affected by any activity on the site. For the record, the preferred use is for allotments.</p>	
6. Planning Matters	<p>6a: 19/00943/PACSCR. Developments at RNCYC and the Marina</p> <p>This is a request by the applicant to establish if the Council considers to be a local or major application.. AM informed the meeting that it has been declared a local Application. This has not been confirmed</p> <p>6b: 19/00847/PP 19/00846/LIB Invergare House</p> <p>Another planning application has been lodged since the agenda was</p>	

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circulated, namely, 19/00543/LIB. H&L Planning Department have not replied to a question as to whether a change of use application is needed for this development. A letter on behalf of the owners in the last Planning Application states that they are only intending to let the property for 90 days or less per year. Residents have reported excessive noise from the sound system and are advised to report antisocial behaviour to the police and complaints to Environmental Services at Argyll and Bute. The important thing is to have the complaints logged. The CC will inform the neighbours of this. If neighbours wish to object to the development, they will have to object to each planning application.

Action JC

.6c: Multi story car park at Faslane

This item was considered earlier before MF left the meeting. JC and LB attended a meeting in Gibson Hall on 21st May. All that was available were two diagrams of the footprint of the building in different scales. There will be no permanent lighting or fencing. Some of the land off Woodlea Crescent will be used as a temporary car park whilst the multi story is being constructed. There will be no permanent lighting or fencing. When reconfigured it will provide space for 170 cars. MF informed the meeting that Woodlea would be used during the resurfacing of the southern approach road to replace the small car parks on Maidstone Road which will be used for construction vehicles during the road works..

7. Other Matters: 7a Harvesting Timber

Safety arches were repaired within the week of the letter sent by FB, but there is no intention to restoring the dry stone walls. No further information on the community leaflet or definite information on when the current phase of extraction will be completed or when the replanting will take place. It was agreed that FB would write to Matt Richards, the Forest Commission archeologist on the destruction of the historical landscape. The significance of the historic road was highlighted in the first meeting that Barry Harper in 2016 and reiterated in a letter in March 2017. It appears that no Environmental impact assessment was undertaken before the project started.

Action FB

After a reminder Jim Smith replied to the letter from the Community Council. He informed us that no traffic or pedestrian survey was undertaken before the project started because there was no requirement to do so. He also said that officers considered the road was suitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles. This reply was only received a couple of hours before the meeting. It is considered unsatisfactory. The Community Council will consider how to proceed. It was noted that the Community Council cannot go to the Ombudsman.

The residents, JM, AM and LF arranged a meeting with Jim Smith to examine safety issues concerning the roads and verges on 31st May.

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Two Councillors, GF and IP, two Community Councillors PK and JC and one Police Officer, Dougie MacLeod were present, along with the residents. . Fortunately it was raining very hard and JS could see for himself the river coming down Pier Road due to the number of blocked drains.

Pedestrian lanes employed at the bottom of Pier Road are inherently dangerous as are the verges previously deemed a safe route, and JS could not deny that there was risk involved with walking this road. He agreed that a pavement would mitigate the risk . He agreed to arrange for a formal assessment to see what improvements he could make and his response is pending. It was noted at the meeting that money is available for forest roads for the transportation of timber lorries but not for village roads to ensure the safety of residents.

The police traffic officer present said that solutions lie with A&B Council. He noted the lack of adequate signage and road marking, poor sight lines at junctions, as well as the pedestrian lanes at the bottom of Pier Road. He also noted that congestion on the roads could compromising the safety of pedestrians. He has sent his observations to Argyll and Bute Council. GF will pursue this with JS.

Action GF

The main issue is Road Safety on this road. This is important since the use of this road is scheduled to be used for timber transport in perpetuity.

7b. Update on Heath Related Matters.

There is good news on the recent investments in the Vale of Leven Hospital in the form of a new mammography unit and a new CT scanner.

Workshops on Hospital Visiting have been arranged. The information arrived too late for us to take advantage of this.

Strategy on Living Well documents have been circulated from the Health and Social Care Partnership. These are too large to post on the website. Linda will respond as an individual.

A recycling initiative on toothbrushes etc will be publicised in the next newsletter and on the website.

Links to Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Highland and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde are already on the website. Each has a Newsletter which individuals can sign up to. These will be highlighted in the next Newsletter

7c. Knotweed

All large landowners with knotweed on their land have been contacted. This year the weed seems more virulent than ever. It is not obvious that A&B the MOD or NR have sprayed all the outbreaks as yet.

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	<p>Post meeting note: KJ agreed to replace PK as the reporting officer for Rhu.</p>	
	<p>7d: Community Growing Spaces The Community Empowerment Act Scotland requires each local authority to provide a food growing strategy for its area. A&B have asked for information about our area. We have no food growing spaces currently. JC will complete the form on behalf of the CC</p>	Action JC
8.Consultations	<p>Details of all of the following are on our website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helensburgh Town Centre Conservation area. Closed on 12/6 • Walking and Cycling in Argyll and Bute. <p>LD and JC attended the meeting run by Jacobs Consulting. The latter were aware of the unsatisfactory state of the cycle path from Rhu to the south Gate JC submitted a feedback form on behalf of the CC reiterating this fact. Jacobs are expected to report on their findings at the end of June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helensburgh Coastal Flooding The plans for flood control for Rhu have been circulated and initial view recorded. The consultants will report on their finding by the end of June. • How Good is your Place. Open until 30th September • LVSA: study of taxi and private hire services in our area. Closing date 12th July. The Community Council will not respond. . 	
9. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:	NONE	
10. Treasurer's report:	The Closing Balance in the accounts is £2898.82.	
11. Correspondence:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Forces day in Lochgilphead on Saturday 15th June. • Public consultation event. Coastal Flooding Civic The short list of options will be presented on Tuesday 25th June in the Annex Room 1, Templeton Building at Helensburgh Civic Centre on Tuesday 25 June 2019. There will be a drop in session from 2pm until 8pm, with a short presentation at 6.30pm • Play Park. Cllr Paterson has forwarded the final decision from his casebook. <p>"A&B are undertaking their scheduled tasks and will add a drainage investigation to the list when resources allow.</p> <p>They are awaiting materials for repair of the surface in the play area and this will be done in due course when resources allow. They have no further budget available for the enhancement of this football area."</p> <p>There is no point in repairing the surface until something is done about the drainage; currently there is a bog in the middle of the</p>	

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	<p>football pitch and both goals have puddles most of the time. The CC will pursue this.</p>	
	<p>There is an agreement between the CC and the Council to ensure, inspect and maintain the play park. The council would appear to be failing in its duty to honour its agreement. A copy of the original agreement will be acquired.. It was also noted that there is a safety issue involved.</p>	Action JC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willie Lavery has some funds for all weather signs for Rural Watch areas and is looking for advice on the location of this signs. <p>The CC were reminded that if they have not done so they should sign up for the Alerts which are produced, The details on how to do this will be in the next Newsletter.</p>	Action JC
12. Website and related issues:	Two Newsletters have been sent out since the last meeting	
13. Councillors' Reports:	None	
14 Members' Reports:	<p>.PK: PK, AM and JC, met with Alan Dundas and his contractor to agree the outbreaks of Japanese knotweed around Rhu Bay that RMD would treat.</p> <p>FB: Commodore Donald Doull opened the very successful Rhu Gala held last Saturday.</p> <p>JC. There have been two recent instances of fly-tipping by the gates of St Andrew's House and one of a year's standing on the verge. All have now been removed.</p> <p>JC. Rhu PO. The PO equipment is still onsite but the Lottery equipment may have been moved. Two options are still under investigation; the Local Model as is operating in Helensburgh or an Outreach model, but so far no other branch has agreed to help out with the latter. It is therefore unlikely that the PO will reopen.</p>	
16. AOB:	None.	
17. DONM:	The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday August 14th 2019 at 7.30pm.	