

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community
Council
Wednesday 9th October 2019
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Jim Duncan Chairman	JD
Linda Black	LB
John Clark	JCI
Jean Cook	JC
Linda Duncan	LD
Ken Glen	KG
Derek Hall	DH
Olivia Birch	OB
Kate Williams	KW
Tim Lamb	TL
Fiona Baker	FB
Andrew Nicholson	AB

Councillors/Guests/Public:

PC Jeanette Speirs	JS
Alastair Moore	AM
John McGall	JMc

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The Chairman welcomed Kate Williams, our newly co-opted member. This was followed by each person present introducing themselves.

Members of the public were invited to make their comments at the time of discussion, rather than wait for item 9.

The Chairman reminded everyone that the minute was recorded.

1. Apologies:	Apologies were received from: Cllr George Freeman, Cdr Mark Fitzsimmons, Nyree Stalker.	
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2. Declaration of Interest	None	
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3. Guest speakers:	3a. Police Scotland. No report was provided for the meeting	
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3b. HMNB Clyde

Police Update PC Jeanette Speirs (MOP)

- Drumfork Club are holding an open day on Saturday 26th October, open to all members of the community
- JS repeated the plea to the public to report drones if they are seen in the restricted area.
<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/clyde>
- The other items in JC's report are covered in the report provided by MF

HMNB Cdr Mark Fitzsimmons, Base Executive Officer. Clyde:

The report, which was sent ahead of the meeting, is Appendix 2

The Power Point Presentation which was used by Amey to provide information for residents was sent to the secretary. This has been

Action JC

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	circulated to members, but it is too large to post on the website. Relevant data will be extracted and posted.	
4. Minutes of meeting held 21st August:	The Minutes still have an unidentified road noted. The formal acceptance of the minute will be carried over to the December meeting.	
5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:	6c. This item will be carried over to the next meeting 15. The identification of the road is still outstanding.	Action KJ
6. Planning Matters	<p data-bbox="367 638 1061 683">6a: 19/01573/PP Invergare House See Appendix 3</p> <p data-bbox="391 683 1300 907">DH reported that the neighbours are very frustrated. They feel that they have been let down by the system; the police do not take the matter seriously and the reply from Fergus Murray was a disgrace., They find it hard to understand how the latter cannot consider the scale of the operation being undertaken at Invergare as anything but commercial.</p> <p data-bbox="391 940 1300 1164">It was emphasized again that when the police are called it is essential that an incident number and/or the name of the officers attending should be obtained. In addition after each incident, a report should also be made to the local Environmental Health Officer. By having all the incidents logged, the case for action by the Local Authority can be built. .</p> <p data-bbox="391 1198 1300 1467">It was suggested that the neighbours should ask the Police Chief whether it was appropriate for an antisocial behavior order to be lodged against the owner, since the perpetrators of the disturbance are transient and it is usual police practice to issue a warning in the first instance of an offence. The only common theme is that the owner is behaving in an antisocial manner by not regulating the behaviour of his guests.</p> <p data-bbox="391 1500 1300 1680">Following the disturbance at the wedding party for 40 people last weekend, a letter describing the unsuccessful attempts to get the owner, who was at his home in Glasgow to intervene, has been sent by a neighbour; to the Planning Officer in charge of the case and forwarded to Mary Watt Environmental Health Officer.</p> <p data-bbox="391 1691 1300 1915">Letters have been sent from The Community Council to the Head of Development and Economic Growth, The Environment Health Officer for Argyll and Bute, The Fire Department, The Police Chief and Building Control. Pertinent extracts from their replies are in Appendix 3. All except the first were helpful. The Chairman announced that we were still considering a response to this.</p> <p data-bbox="391 1948 1300 2051">A post meeting email from Fergus Murray included the following Further to my last communication to the community council, I understand that further investigation is being undertaken.”</p>	Action Residents

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7. Other Matters:	7a Harvesting Timber see Appendix 3	
	<p>FB said that she felt that we are really making progress and the key to that was contacting SEPA.</p>	
	<p>A summary of the communications which have taken place is in Appendix 3</p>	
	<p>Ridings Sawmill have the operating licence (FWM) and the responsibility for all facets of the extraction.</p>	
	<p>Since the Appendix was produced, an email has been received from Tom Davies, recapping on the meeting on October 2nd. He will contact Kirsty Robb to discuss the UK Forestry Standards Breaches Protocol. The investigation could lead to a range of outcomes including outlining what remedial actions should be undertaken. He has also contacted Ian Catterwell about breaches in the TTMP, The residents group is asked to provide FB with a catalogue of all breaches. The excuse for the most recent breach was that the driver stopped to take a phone call.</p>	Action Residents
	<p>Everyone was asked to hold off on communication with Tom Davies whilst the investigation goes ahead and a profitable channel of communication has been opened with FB on behalf of the CC.</p>	
	<p>Alternate means of transporting the timber were also discussed with SF. Barry Harper who had inside information said that the use of the railway was a non-starter, and discussions about an alternative route are ongoing, but expected to be difficult.</p>	
	<p>AM said that he felt that A&B have the ultimate responsibility since they agreed the route. The lack of communication by the Roads Department is not only with the Community Council, the residents and GF. BH said that since Campbell Divertie left he has had no communication with the Council.</p>	
	<p>JM pointed out that Road Safety was the main concern of the residents and this is the responsibility of Argyll and Bute. GF is still pursuing the construction of a proper pavement along Pier Road. As this will probably involve compulsory purchase it could be a long fight, considering the 15 year negotiations for the Helensburgh to Cardross cycle way.</p>	
	<p>JM commented that If there had been a proper pavement in Pier Road, instead of the pedestrian lanes then he felt that the route would not have been allowed.</p>	
	<p>FB informed the meeting that the next phase of felling is three years away, when the newly planted trees reach 2m high. This is to allow succession felling the future.</p>	

7b. Update on Heath Related Matters. See Appendix 3**Extra information on the items in the report**

- Reminder that all residents **at risk** are encouraged to contact their local surgery to arrange for a free flu vaccine. Other residents can purchase the vaccine through a pharmacist.
- Planning for the Health and Well Being Partnership festival in January is underway. Many local groups will showcase their activities. It will be held in Helensburgh Parish Church. LB has volunteered to help out on the day and would be delighted if other CC members would to join her.
- TL reported that Garelochhead had had a disturbed summer with five police cars in the village on Friday October 4th. It is likely to be caused by a small group of disturbed youngsters, Those from Centre 81 were are not involved.

7c Rhu Christmas Tree

Argyll and Bute Council will not provide lighted Christmas trees for any CC area in Lomond North, but as a one off, will provide £676 towards the cost of having a lighted tree in Rhu. The MoD will provide and erect the tree, and will be responsible for removing it. The lights could be supplied by the Council. Unaccounted for is the installation of the lights, connecting to the power supply and removal of same on Twelve Night. The electrician would require to be G39 certified

In the past A&B have offered to provide training for suitable qualified individuals, but there is no guarantee that the trained individuals would be still around in November 2020.

Concern was expressed that if we do manage to organise a tree this year, we will be committed to continuing into the future. Politically if there is no tree this year, Argyll and Bute will be considered responsible, although they will uncountable say that they provided adequate finances and fair warning to R&SCC to undertake the task. However, if there is a tree this year and there is no tree next year, we will be blamed for letting the community down.

The lights in Helensburgh have been organised since 2010 by a group of volunteers constituted as a charity now called the Helensburgh Festive Lighting Charitable Trust, (HFLCT-SC034029). This group has received financial support annually from Argyll and Bute. The key individual in Tony Dance. Previously the latter agree to consider providing lights for Rhu and Shandon.

JD reported on the meeting held with other Lomond North Community Council representatives and Mark Calder.

After a long discussions discussion, during which AM offered an 80ft Norwegian spruce, it was agreed that

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- The Community Council is not a service provider and any moves in that direction should be resisted.
- Insurance is critical. The CC would require written confirmation that they have no liability in this endeavor. JD received assurance that if the installation was done under the umbrella of the CC, it would be covered by the insurance held by the CC and provided by A&B.
- It would make good sense for all CC except Helensburgh to work together.
- George Freeman is meeting with Tony Dance on Thursday 10th October and will report back to JD, who will inform the CC.
- Following a quote from TD, should one be forthcoming, other local companies could be approached.
- It should be clarified whether A&B would be willing to place the money directly with any contractor, or whether it would have to go through the CC.
- Given the lateness of the hour it was agreed that decision would have to be made without another meeting and the two members of the public present would act as representatives of the Community in any decision reached.

7d: Bowling Club Site

Since the site was abandoned as a Bowling Club, it has been the subject of a planning bid by Luss Estates for houses. This was rejected on the grounds that it is an OSPA. The site is derelict and subject to vandalism.

It has been confirmed that two former Trustees of the Club, Leonard Prow and Joseph Carr and the legal owners of the site.

The CC have surveyed the occupants of the properties which surround the site, to ascertain what they feel would be a suitable use of the site, and the majority view was allotments. This survey was conducted so that it would be informed in the case of a future planning application

Over the past four or five years, the Trustees/ Owners have been unwilling to engage with the CC on the future of this site or indeed in matters of concern over its maintenance.

Because the land is mainly neglected and is causing harm to the environmental wellbeing of the community, it could be subject to Community Right to Buy, Should this be granted, and the CC could not raise the money for its purchase, the owners would not be allowed to sell the site to anyone else for 5 years.

It was agreed that no further action should be taken at this time.

For information Community Councils can hold assets.

<http://www.communitycouncils.scot/community-asset-transfer-and-ownership-and-the-role-of-community-councils.html>

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	<p>7e. Knotweed Landowners Network Rail and Rhu Marina Developments and Luss Estates have treated the week as agreed. Argyll and Bute and the MOD have been less assiduous in their treatment. It is too late to spray now this year. Final reports for Rhu and Shandon separately will be circulated to the landowners, Community Council members and the Knotweed Task Force</p>	Action JC
	<p>7f: Community Council Notice Board Since the Post Office has closed there is now no longer a place to physically display notices for the community. It was agreed in principle that we should acquire a Notice Board, and that the wall beside the shop would be an ideal place, Linda investigate a suitable location and the cost</p>	Action LD
8.Consultations	<p>Details of all of the following are on our website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Crown Estates Corporate Plan: Closes 28th November. TL agreed to investigate whether the CC should make a response. • How Good is your Place. Open until 30th October date 	Action TL
9. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:	<p>Comments were made in earlier items.</p>	
10. Treasurer's report:	<p>One expense since the last meeting for travel to Edinburgh for the Non Native Species Conference leaves the balance in the accounts at, £3538 37.</p>	
11 Correspondence:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulated as received • AN who is our Licencing Officer has received an Application for Major Variation to the Licencing of the Rosslea Hall Hotel. <p>Since we did not have to hand the current licence it was difficult to assess the variation</p> <p>The application will be scanned and circulated to the CC.TLwill seek the views of those most impacted by this</p> <p>The wider community should have the option of commenting, so the application form will be posted on our website.</p> <p>The deadline for comments is 29th October</p> <p>Post meeting note. There is personal data on this form, so posting it in its entirety is not an option. Advice sought from CLO.</p>	Action TL, JC
12. Website and related issues:	<p>Three Newsletters have been sent out since the last meeting The Planning, Consultation and News pages are updated regularly</p>	

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13. Councillors' Reports:	None	
14 Members' Reports:	<p>AN. Rhu Church is at a critical state in its history. For the last 10 years it has shown a deficit, although it has the benefit the funds in savings from the sale of Shandon Church. The Church of Scotland is analysing its structure and will reduce the number of presbyteries from 46 to about 7. They will close churches deemed not to be fulfilling their objectives. The Kirk session decided at its last meeting that they would like to have a meeting with the new Head Teacher of the School and the Community Council to discuss the situation. AN will arrange a suitable time. Rhu Church has several points in its favour; it is one of the oldest in the area, John McLeod Campbell preached here and the Church is surrounded by a graveyard owned by the Council.</p> <p>LD. LD is concerned about the state of the shops in the village. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>OB. There are still many empty plinths in the square. OB and FB are on the committee which assesses applications and the last two meeting have been cancelled due to lack of business. Organisations which are interested are reminded that funds are available covering up to half the cost of the Art work.</p> <p>KW. The last two Rhu Beach Cleans have had to be cancelled due to the weather. A very successful clean was held around the Kidson Park are with a large turnout from the HMNB Clyde including the Royal Navy, Babcock and ABL as well as residents. After the event hand pickers and hoops were donated to Kate for use in future cleans. . The next Rhu Beach Clean will be at 10.00 on Sunday 27th at 10.00</p> <p>FB. Scottish water are making progress with the new pumping station on Station Road</p> <p>JC. LB and JC represented the CC at a Health and Well Being funded event at Rhu Hall in September . We displayed a map of the Community Council area,, distributed knotweed leaflets and gave advice about Himalayan balsam. LB successfully signed up 10 residents to receive our Newsletter</p>	
15. AOB:	None.	
16. DONM:	The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday December 11th 2019 at 7.30pm.	