

**Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community
Council
Wednesday 11th December 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
Derek Hall	DH
Olivia Birch	OB
Kate Williams	KW
Tim Lamb	TL
Fiona Baker	FB
Andrew Nicholson	AN

Councillors/Guests/Public:

Cllr George Freeman	GF
Cllr Iain Shonny Paterson	IP
PC Ian Mustarde	IM
Nyree Stalker	NS
Alastair Moore	AM
John McGall	JMc
Laura Freeland	LF
Norma Clark	NC
Albert Barclay	AB
Norman Quirk	NQ
Jane Griffith	JG
Russell Burke	RB
Jim Crawford	JCr
Peter Eastwood	PE
Anita Jane	AJ
Mike Jane	MJ
Emma Jane	EJ

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The Chairman welcomed our new representative from HMNB Clyde, Nyree Stalker and everyone else to the meeting. Each person present introduced themselves.

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

The Secretary reminded everyone that the minute was recorded.

1. Apologies:	Apologies were received from: Ken Glen	
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2. Declaration of Interest	Item 6b: AN is a member of RNCYC	
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3. Guest speakers:	<p>3a. Police Scotland.</p> <p>Police Scotland was unable to be present for operational reasons. The report was presented by IM for the period from August 21st. It is Appendix 2. Only two crimes were reported</p> <p>Over 100 incidents were reported, many were for noise complaints. It is policy not to identify the location of the noise offence. IM said this would need to be taken up with Chief Roddy MacNeil. The contact details of the latter will be sent to DH</p> <p>LB asked how she should deal with shooting which are taking place regularly at weekends behind her house. She is concerned about the many neighbours who walk dogs in this area. She was advised to report it by phoning 101.</p>	Action JC
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3b. HMNB Clyde

Police Update PC Ian Mustarde (MOP)

Points for meeting from MDP Chief Inspector Des Kennedy (DSPO) at HMNB Clyde

- Two fatal RTC's in this area over the period 2 and 3rd Dec. (Tragic incidents).
- Please ask people to Drive carefully and to watch their speed in and around the establishment
- Remind everyone of the importance of reporting Drone incidents to the Police
- Thank everyone involved with the Rhu and Shandon CC for their support over the year and the vital role the community in general plays in helping and supporting the Base and the MDP.
- Wish everyone a safe and happy Xmas period.

HMNB Cdr Nyree Stalker

Nyree is a civil servant and the Head of the Infrastructure Strategy and Planning Department. Her actual title is Assistant Head Infrastructure and her responsibilities include the development of the Establishment Development Plan (EDP)

Her report sent before the meeting is in Appendix 2 and covers the following:points

- Mackenzie Estate-Maisonette Demolition
- Future Accommodation Model (FAM)
- Clyde Accommodation Project (CAP)
- Future of Mackenzie Estate and St Andrew's Sites
- Traffic Management
- Rhu Christmas Tree

No demolition work will be taking place on the Mackenzie Estate over Christmas. NS will send on-call details for this period and these will be posted on our website and added as a post meeting note

Action NS

Action JC

Post Meeting Note:

11 blocks have now been demolished so far (Blocks Nos 43, 41, 39, 35, 37, 33, 31, 29, 32, 34 & 36).

A mini-programme for the hand demolition will soon be available.

The site will be closed between the 20th of December 2019 until 6th of January 2020.

On Call Personnel over the Festive break are:

- Richard Bennie : 07900-742594
- Jim Higney : 07968-289441

In response to a pre-meeting query about the Temporary Car Park in Woodlea Crescent.(19/00412/PP) it was reported that work will start on this once the funding for the Multi Story Car Park behind the wire (19/01374/PP)has been secured. This is expected to be in 2020

GF questions why the MoD had spent so much money on cutting down trees and partially fencing the wooded ground between Maidstone Road, the steps by Maxine's Cottage and the A814. Traffic management was in place for several weeks. NR will check

Acton NS

IM left the meeting at this point

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4. Minutes of previous meetings	<p>October Minute. FB asked for three changes; in 7a, para 6 Barry Harper, not Barry Blackwood., and the last two paragraphs should be attributed to JM and FB respectively. With these three changes, the minutes were approved, Proposer Linda Duncan, Seconder AN.</p> <p>August Minute. With the identification of the road, the Minutes of the August meeting were formally accepted.</p>	
5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:	<p>5a: Item 3b The Power Point was too large to put on the website but the important details were extracted and posted on the website under MOD Issues.</p> <p>5b:Item 6c Regarding the Maintenance of the Play Park. KJ had agreed to approach parents of children who use the park to encourage them to use the complaints procedure on the A&B website to try and get some action on this long standing issue. We have no report on the progress of this.</p> <p>5c Item:7a No more action has been taken on knotweed</p> <p>5d. Item 8a. TL No action needed to be taken by the CC.</p> <p>5e: Item 11.AN as the Licencing Officer collated views and made a response to the Major Variation to the Licencing of the Rosslea Hall Hotel. The Licencing Committee decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is to be a terminal hour for the external areas of 10.00pm for adults and 8.00pm for children and young persons. • The patio area can be used throughout the year but the lawned area is not to be used during the winter months from 1st November to 1st March. <p>The Hotel reported fireworks have been removed from all of their wedding packages... It was ^{no}ted that this ^{do}es not ^mean that Hotel ^will not use fireworks on other occasions</p>	Action KJ
6. Planning Matters	<p>5f: Item 14.It was noted the item concerning the state of properties in the village will be added to the agenda of the February meeting.</p> <p>6a: 19/01573/PP Invergare House</p> <p>JD reported that we are now dealing with Fergus Murray, Head of Development and Economic Growth. who initially claimed that the problems at Invergare were not Planning Matters. Evidence was presented regarding a similar case in West Linton and appears to have been taken on board by Mr. Murray. The owners of Invergare are required to respond to the Planning Contravention Notice by December 13th. If a response is not received, Mr. Murray will seek legal opinion to see if there are sufficient grounds to justify proceeding with a formal enforcement action. This may require advice to be commissioned from a planning law specialist which will involve further delay and expense. However it was noted that this is the most positive response so far from A&B.</p> <p>The six neighbours who attended the meeting could all contribute</p>	Action JC Action Residents

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instances of anti-social behaviour.

DH reported that the situation has got much worse. "The police have been alerted and incident numbers noted. The outside sound system seems to have been re-introduced; the sounds clearly audible within properties at 2am 150yds away from the source. The antisocial behaviour extends to the climbing of parapets on the property, singing sectarian songs and the tossing of empty Buckfast bottles onto the lawns, all unsupervised as the owners spend quiet evenings at home in Thortonhall. Their response to the complaints is that the guests will lose their deposit which makes the enterprise even more profitable". It was noted that there are many other large houses in the area which could be used for the same purpose so it is in everyone's interest to have this problem dealt with adequately.

Two approaches were agreed

- DH would collate evidence for Chief of Police Roddy McNeil and
- GF agreed to contact Fergus Murray and the Antisocial Behaviour Officer and possibly the legal team with a view to setting up a meeting with residents.

Action DH
and GF

The residents have produced a comprehensive document which graphically indicates the properties affected and the source of the problems.

Post Meeting Note.

The owners of Invergare provided A&B Council with the required information within the deadline demanded by the Council who are now formally investigating Invergare's change of use.

At this point, DH, AB, NQ, AJ, MJ, EJ left the meeting

6b: RNCYC Pre-Application Consultation. 19/02392/PAN

There is a 12 week Community Consultation, but we only have a location plan and a broad statement of what is intended,.

A question was raised as to whether "consultation" is the correct word for this process.

Two meetings have been arranged:

- 22nd January: Meeting with Community Council
- 29th January Meeting with Community at RNCYC

The Planning Application cannot be lodged before February 7th - 12 weeks after the PAC was lodged.

6c: Extra item added at meeting

Three residents attended the meeting to seek advice on the following Planning Application

19/02162/PP: Erection of 2 dwelling houses and garages.

Land Between Lagarie Lodge and Lagarie House, Torwoodhill Road.

PE pointed that there is a history to applications on this site.

In 1983 an application for the conversion of the house into four flats and development on the northern and western sides for five houses.

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was approved...

In 1989 there was an application to build between Lagarie Lodge and Lagarie House and this was refused. It went to appeal. The Reporter rejected the appeal and said that no development should ever be allowed on the eastern side which is where the current plan is proposed.

In 2011, another application was made to build a large construction of 5 flats and garages on this site. This was withdrawn because the Planning Department was going to refuse the application for exactly the same reasons as those given by the Reporter in the 1989 case. This new application is for two modern houses and garages on this site, Those neighbours present claim that this proposal is out of keeping with the area and with the B listed Lagarie House. It was also pointed out that access is questionable.

FB pointed out that the Special Report posted on the Planning site would carry more weight if it were not anonymous and since Historic Environment Scotland only comment on A-listed Building, the proximity to the Ardencaple Hotel should be noted.

The residents detailed PE as the contact for the neighbours and the Planning subcommittee of the CC will liaise with him in considering this application. It will then make a recommendation as to whether the CC should raise an objection to the application. GF assured the residents that the Planning Officers consider all previous history when reaching a decision.

At this point, PE, JCr and RB left the meeting

7. Other Matters: 7a Provision of a footpath on Pier Road.

JD said he recognized and agreed with the residents that a pavement is essential to ensure the safety of pedestrians in the lower part of Pier Road. The question was how this could be achieved. We are looking for commitment from the A&B that this is a project which should be taken forward. The two local Councillors, GF and IP, are both supportive of this, and attended the meeting with Jim Smith and Police Scotland on May 31st when the road was "walked". After this Jim Smith gave an undertaking to investigate funding. Barbara Morgan, our third local Councillors, and Vice Chairman of the Area Committee has so far been unwilling to commit herself.

GF suggested that the Area committee should be asked to support this project. The next meeting is on Thursday December 19th. There are 4 parcels of land that would require compulsory purchase and this will be difficult, even though one person has offered to donate her land.

It was suggested that the graphic photographs showing Timber Trucks jockeying for position on the road with domestic vehicles, which were supplied by the residents and sent to members of the Community Council and the Local Councillors should be sent to Jim Smith and Pippa Milne.

Action

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Residents

The residents agreed to attend the Area meeting.

7b Forestry Update

FB reported that Tom Davies from Scottish Forestry accepted that the number of Timber Transport Incidents appeared to be significant and it would be appropriate to see that they were recognized as such by those who oversaw the operation. He said that the response from Ridings Sawmill does not satisfactorily answer the questions raised.

Barry Harper provided an update on the ongoing work.

- Highlandman's is currently manned in preparation for the next phase which runs from 2020 - 2024, but it is likely to be two to three years before the next felling, The first phase took 13 months and extracted 28000 tons; the second phase is expected to extract 20,000 tons so will take 9 months,, probably starting in early 2022.
- Scottish Woodlands have taken on board the issues concerning water course, silt traps, dry stone walls, rights of way and path access. They have admitted their mistakes and are rectifying any problems.

No response from SEPA but the water pollution issues seem to have been resolved.

The proposals for Letrault and Stuckenduff are ongoing.

- There has been no discussion regarding the Scottish Timber Transport's Strategy funding.
- Barry Harper re-iterated that using the rail network to transport the timber was a non-starter.
- Archeology, Bird, Vegetation and Peat Surveys have been carried out. JCI has provided feedback on the Bird Surveys .
- Barry Blackwood from Scottish Forestry stated that a large part of the land is considered sensitive to forestry development.
- Part of the Community Council's response was that we would not support the use of Station and Pier Roads to extract the timber and would consider any proposal for an alternative route. Scottish Forestry are aware of this.

In the discussion that followed, it was recommended that efforts should be concentrated at this time in getting A&B to support the Pier Road safety project rather than divide our efforts with seeking funding for an alternative extraction route.

LF reminded CC that in February 2017 she had attended a CC following rumours that the extraction route for the timber being felled would be via Station Road and Pier Road. She was concerned as there is no pass through on Station Road and the large timber truck would damage the road surface. At that meeting, the CC assured her that there would be a consultation with the community before any

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extraction took place. This did not happen. Now, after 13 months of dangerous incidents, many linked to no pass through on Station Road, operations have ceased.

Post Meeting note: The CC were assured that consultation with the community would take place. This was requested in emails many times and at a meeting in September 2017 held with Barry Harper, the Convener and Secretary of CC, PK and FB. In October Campbell Divertie published the first TTMP and extraction followed. It is accepted by the CC that no pass through on Station Road is an important aspect of the safety of the extraction route used

It was noted that IP has been assured that the relining on Pier and Station road will be done by the end of January 2020!

IP and NS left the meeting at this point

7c. Update on Health Related Matters

- An application for £850 to hold Health Evenings for residents has been submitted to the Supporting Communities fund.
- The Community Council has nominated LB for the Locality Planning Group of the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Consultaion out on Integration Scheme between A&B and NHS Highland. The information is on the Consultations Page of our website. Comments to LB . Closing date 17th January.
- Living Well Fest on 11th January from 11am -3pm. This is going to be a large event and there will lots going on, and comes highly recommended.

The Chairman thanked LB for volunteering for the Locality Planning group and for spearheading the application to the Supporting Communities Fund

7d: Bowling Club Site

We have been approached by Men's Sheds on the use of this site.. There are ongoing commercial discussions with the current owners of the site.

In this era of gender neutrality, GF questioned whether the organization ought to seek another name!

7e: Community Council Notice Board

Following a pre-application LD has been informed that a planning application is not required to put a notice on the Brae Shop Wall. The location beside the Brae Shop has not been permitted so the CC agreed to pursue the board going on to the toilet block wall. The management of information on the Board will be considered once the board is in place.

Action LD

8.Consultations

- Council Budget 2020-2022: Closes 16.12.2019

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	<p>The Community Council will not submit a response on this, but individuals can contribute if they wish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Scotland Community Survey: Closes 31 12. 2019 <p>We recommend individual responses for this survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDP2: Closes 23.1.2020 <p>JD and LD had a productive meeting with ML at the Consultation session on December 10th. The CC will be submitting a response and comments are to be made to JD by 15th January.</p>	
9. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:	<p>Comments were made in earlier items.</p>	
10. Treasurer's report:	<p>The current balance in the accounts at, £3538 37.</p> <p>There are two outstanding cheques for website and SSL certification and the Christmas tree money from A&B has not yet been deposited.</p>	
11 Correspondence:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Power for People, a not-for-profit organisation, campaigning for the UK to rapidly transition to 100% clean energy and for local communities to benefit from this, asks for our support for a Local Electricity Bill. This would establish a statutory right for communities and businesses to purchase electricity from a "local supplier". <p>There was no support for the Community Council to support this but individuals can do so by following the link http://www.powerforpeople.org.uk/sign-up</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Community Council has received a Christmas card from Jackie Baillie 	
12. Website and related issues:	<p>Three Newsletters have been sent out since the last meeting Our Domain Name provider, Calico, have offered us SSL certification for an annual fee of £24 +VAT. It was agreed to accept this which brings our fees for the website to approximately £80 pa.</p>	
13. Councillors' Reports:	<p>None</p>	
14 Members' Reports:	<p>AN. Rhu Church is having a service on Sunday morning at 10.30 which was not advertised but will now take place. There will also be a watch night Service at 11.30 on New Year's Eve.</p> <p>JC. I have had an appeal from a resident about the path from Manse Brae to Quarry Knowe. After some investigation it appears that when houses were built at Quarry Knowe and Lineside Walk by Dumbarton Council, an existing woodland path through Ardenconnel Woods was upgraded to provide a safe route from the lower part of Rhu to the new houses. Without it the alternate route is via Station Road, which</p>	

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	<p>is hazardous, even without Timber Lorries. The path is now in a dangerous state and parents with children and push chairs are not able to use it. It never was very satisfactory for push chairs since there are several sets of steps. I have written to A&B to ask for advice on how to progress this matter. Luss Estates have been approached and this should be considered an ongoing item.</p> <p>JC A Health evening has been set up for Thursday 30th January. Starting with a half hour Bowel Awareness session at 7pm, followed by a 2 hour Heartstart session separated by refreshments provided by Rhu Hall.. It was agreed, in order to get some idea of numbers, we should encourage people to sign up, but make it clear that they could just come along.</p> <p>JC. A resident of Station Road has once again approached us about the state of the contractor's compound in Woodlea Crescent. Mark Fitzsimmons was contacted and NS covered this in item 3b For the record, Woodlea Crescent is actually in the Garelochhead Community Council District, although the lower part of Station Road is in Rhu and Shandon. The border at this point follows the West Burn.</p> <p>JD The Christmas Tree exercise has been very frustrating Thanks go to GF for his persistence in negotiations with Argyll and Bute, the Marines for supplying and erecting the tree and FuseBox for connecting up the lights. Volunteers are needed to help with the dismantling. Names to JD please.</p>	
15. AOB:	<p>KW confirmed that will be a Rhu Beach Clean on Sunday 26th January</p>	
16. DONM:	<p>The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday February 12th 2019 at 7.30pm.</p>	