

Rhu and Shandon Community Council Ordinary Meeting

Held on 13th June 2012

At Rhu Community Hall

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:			Guests/Public:	
Jack Rudram	Convenor	(JR)	Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Pat Pollok-Morris	Deputy Convenor	(PPM)	Cllr Robert MacIntyre	(RM)
Jean Cook	Secretary	(JC)	Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Colin Caskie	Treasurer	(CC)		
Gordon King	Minute Secretary	(GK)	PC John Wylie	(JW)
Fiona Baker		(FB)	PC David Shaw	(DS)
Jayne Burnett		(JB)	Edna Muir	(EM)
Andrew Nicholson		(AN)	Audrey Butler	(AB)
Linda Duncan		(LD)		
Jim Duncan		(JD)		
Martin Ritch				

Meeting was opened by JR at 1930.

The Convener welcomed those present to the meeting.

1. Apologies:

Cllr Maurice Corry
Morven Boyle
Scott Weir
Ronald Sandeman

2. Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting:

The minutes of the Meeting held on 8 Feb 2012 were accepted. (PPM) & (JD).

3. Matters Arising:

- Chord Project – JC has received correspondence from the project and GF informed the Community Council that the Council have agreed to carry out a review and there is an informal consultation being carried out. It appears that 3 options will be presented and individuals will have the opportunity to vote for their favoured choice. The vote on the available options will be held in the Victoria Halls 0800 – 2000 on 23rd June. JR encourages members of the village to attend and cast their vote.
- Speed Limits and Signs on A814 – JC has written to Jim Smith enquiring about a review of speed restrictions on A814 but has not yet received a response.
- Pier Leisure Centre – Sandy McTaggart has replied to JC's letter and has agreed to keep the Community Council informed of progress.
- Argyll and Countryside Trust – JR attended and explained that the aims are to work together to sustain the countryside for the benefit of visitors and residents. This sort of initiative has been successful in Perth and Fife. JR and JC filled in a questionnaire but feels that there has been little explanation of the problem to be solved. It seems that this is an exercise in obtaining extra sources

of funding for various projects. Our questionnaire responses emphasised that it should be limited to a minimal number of staff and concentrate on helping existing organisations with funding project organisation.

- Orwell Lodge hole in the wall – PPM and GF are investigating the history of this problem. The issue is that part of the boundary wall has collapsed leaving a deep drop from the road, Caldwell Place, into the property. The proximity to the playpark raises additional concerns for the safety of children. This issue has been ongoing for a considerable time and the householder has, so far, failed to respond to any correspondence.

4. Guest Speakers:

Guest Speaker 1 – PC John Wylie for Police Community Officer:

- PC Wylie gave a summary of incidents in Rhu and Shandon from 11 April to date. There were 59 reported incidents out of which were 10 recorded crimes. The incidents included an instance of house breaking, breach of the peace, breach of bail conditions, assault at the children's home, a case of theft at the marina, speeding and aggressive driving. The Parish Church was broken into and the organ pipes were stolen. The pipes have great historical significance and were valued at £18-25k. It is not clear whether the pipes can be reinstated but there was considerable damage to the church caused by the theft. A man has been arrested and is helping police with their enquiries. CC commended the police for their efforts in this matter.
- Local police contact details: The local Police Community Officer is Constable Andy Crawford L145. He can be contacted on 01436 633600 or at Andrew.crawford@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk

Guest Speaker 2 – HMNB Clyde – Cdr James Leatherby

Cdr Leatherby opened by stating that he had little new to raise, other than to update previously offered items, namely that:

- Work is still in hand to provide Dr Alastair Macbeth of the Helensburgh Study Group with the information that he is seeking.
- It is hoped that the Bi-centenary of Henry Bell's Comet celebrations will be able to be supported by the Base as has been requested.
- The Minutes of the Clyde Local Liaison Committee meeting held in the Clyde Off-site Centre (COSC) in Rhu at the end of March are yet to be published. When they are, he will then ensure that a copy is passed to JC for PPM.
- HMS Ambush (the 2nd Astute Class submarine) will arrive on the Clyde later this summer.
- The Grade A Nuclear Emergency Response Exercise, Ex SHORT SERMON 2012, will take place on Wed 5 Sep 12. Aside from the actions that will be taken within the Base, there will be increased activity in the vicinity of the COSC in Rhu as external agencies (Council, Police, Fire, Ambulance, etc, etc) will be conducting much of their related business from there.
- The signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant by the Naval Base Commander (Commodore Wareham) and the Leader of the Council, an event which was postponed from the end of April because of its proximity to the Local Elections, will now take place in Lochgilphead on Thu 28 Jun 12;

He added one new item:

- That the Base is currently subject to heightened interest from anti-nuclear demonstrators under the banner of the "Faslane 30" initiative (30 days of protests and non-violent direct action to mark the 30th anniversary of the Faslane Peace Camp running from 9 Jun – 9 Jul 12);

and then concluded with a question to the effect:

"Can anything be done to improve the coordination of diaries for local events in order to try and reduce the number of conflicting activities?"

5. Planning Matters:

- Rhu Marina Masterplan – JR has telephoned Howard Young and it appears that Crown Estates (CE) and Rhu Marina Developments (RMD) have not yet reached an agreement regarding the masterplan. Effectively there has been no public progress in the last 4 months. GF confirmed that there had been no movement on this issue.
- No comments on the email that was distributed with regard to planning reform proposals. JC will forward to Community Council members for any comments to meet a closing date of 22 June.
- Argyll and Bute Wind Capacity Study – This study has been undertaken into where to site wind farms and turbines. JR understood there would be no structures higher than 130m in our area, there was small possibility that turbines between 35 and 50m could be erected and that those between 20 and 35m were the height that would be most suitable. There are plans to build wind farms at Cove and Kilcreggan and in Helensburgh near the reservoirs. There are no plans to build in Rhu and Shandon. This is at the consultation stage and we ought to keep a 'weather eye' on the situation. GF said that this has been proposed in the past from information gathered at Coulport. Letters have been circulated inviting the public to a workshop at Inverary. JL pointed out that wind farms are being built offshore and it was thought that there will be one south of Aran and Tiree which will have no impact on us.

6. Members of the Public:

- EM neighbour of Rhu Bowling Club – Reported the demise of Rhu Bowling Club due to lack of members and money. It is believed that the land was donated to the residents of Rhu for the bowling and leisure facilities just over 100 years ago. There is a question as to the future of the area and difficult to get any information. Some suggestions have been made to turn it into a tennis courts, used by Rhu school or as a children's park. It may revert to the original owners or might be used for sheltered housing. There is a meeting sometime on 15th or 18th June between the Bowling club and Luss Estates to determine the future of the land. GF pointed out that Luss Estates generates income and re-invests it in the local community. JD proposed that we support retaining the space for leisure activities; this had the support of the Community Council. JL suggested that we should get involved in order to register an interest.
- RM Raised the issue that the new shop had a sign that was not in keeping with the conservation area and asked how the planning application had been approved. Other members of the Community Council had received comments about the sign. GK said that the shop front may not be to everyone's taste but it is better than the empty shop and we should allow the area to develop. JC and GF will check that the planning is in order and it was the majority view of those present that the shop is a welcome addition to the village.
- Councillor MacIntyre introduced himself as Deputy Lead Councillor for Roads. GK will liaise with him.

7. Treasurers Report:

- MR confirmed that he had taken over the accounts. The £400 grant from Argyll and Bute Council had been claimed and there was a balance of £1187 in the books. The signatories for cheques need to be changed so that MR, JC and JR are able to write cheques. JC has applied for a supplementary grant which should amount to a further £150 in the coffers.

8. Correspondence:

- JC had written a letter of congratulations to Helensburgh Rugby Club regarding their recent success.
- FB made an application for financial assistance to the running of the gala requesting £200 to cover the cost of the events license and presentation medals. This application had been approved in

principle at the last meeting, AN proposed that this was a worthy cause and should be funded. A cheque for £200 was passed to FB for the Gala fund. Although numbers were down this year the gala the high standard of the event was maintained. R&SCC gave a vote of congratulation to the Gala Committee.

- An email had been received regarding the procurement of a new air ambulance, this will be circulated.
- A blog was received from the network of community councils. JC thought it unwise to circulate it, until its provenance was known. Investigations ascertained that it was sent by a Community Councillor Jenny MacKenzie, who had got contact information from Argyll and Bute Council. GF pointed out that the Community Councillor's details are in the public domain by virtue that we hold a public office. The blog will be circulated.
- Final consultation on Argyll and Bute Core Paths Plans. We have been asked to comment because there has been an objection to the finalised draft, involving the extension to Highlandman's Road, referred to as the Drumfad Wood short-cut. It is currently designated as an Aspirational Path. The objection to have it re-designated as a Core Path comes from Alastair Macbeth, secretary of the Friends of Duchess Wood. The official standpoint is that due to its current condition and the alternative path it should remain Aspirational. If Helensburgh and District Access Trust wish to improve the path within the next 2 years the Council could consider it as a Core Path. Comment is required by 25th June. Copies of the report can be downloaded or can be obtained by contacting David Garner on 01546 604119. The Council unanimously agreed that the path should be designated as a Core path and this information would be communicated to Argyll and Bute.
- A thank you note was received from Billie Petrie and circulated around those present.

9. Members Reports:

- JB reported that the school had had another good year. There was participation in the Jubilee celebrations with a march to the marina and back to the village green where the children sang songs and had an afternoon of games. Children were selected for the Gala King, Queen, Prince and Princess. The school sports day will be held on 21st June at 1300 and the Summer Service will be held in the Church on 26th June at 1300 and all are welcome. The school holidays are from 29th June until 15th August.
- FB reported that the gala was good; the Rugby club did a lap of honour. She pointed out that the gala was understaffed and overstretched and that any assistance would be welcomed in future years. PPM and JC manned a table in the Village Hall but foot fall in the hall was much lower than expected and little publicity was gained to highlight the presence of R&SCC. Despite best efforts of advertising the craft fair stall holders in the hall were disappointed by the turnout. This was a new idea that was tried and unfortunately didn't live up to expectations and unlikely to be repeated.
- JC highlighted the problems of Japanese knot weed and EM stated that weed in and around Ardenconnel Woods is making it difficult to sell properties. RM is aware of the problem but there is limited area that can be treated by the roads department.

10. AOB.

- Newsletters – The production of a newsletter was brought up at last meeting and held over until the current meeting. PPM had examples of past newsletters but production was funded by the community council and would need advertising in order to maintain production. Information can be added to existing publications such as the Helensburgh Advertiser, the Community Advertiser and the quarterly Church newsletter. JD suggested advertising and updating the Community Council Website. LD, JC and JB were happy to work on improving the profile in the available media. JC suggested that the group would benefit from having the contributions of a man, but there were no willing volunteers.
- JC and GF attended the local area planning meeting. Captain Jack Tarr gave a lengthy presentation about the Maritime Change Programme expecting the estimated 17% of naval staff

who live off base to increase dramatically by 2018. The development will increase the volume of service accommodation on site and build new sporting facilities off the current site. There would be additional car parking around the old St Andrews School. The area at Woodlea Crescent would be used by building contractors.

- JC reminded everyone that the A814 between Helensburgh and Dumbarton would be closed in sections from Monday to Friday during July.

11. DONM. 8th August at 1930 in the Community Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2145.