

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
held in Rhu Village Hall**

**Present:**

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Jack Rudram	Convenor	(JR)
Pat Pollok-Morris	Deputy	(PPM)
Jean Cook	Secretary	(JC)
Martin Ritch	Treasurer	(MR)
Gordon King	Minutes	(GK)
Fiona Baker		(FB)
Andrew Nicholson		(AN)
Linda Duncan		(LD)
Jim Duncan		(JD)
Scott Weir		(SW)
Ronald Sandeman		(RS)

Guests/Public:

Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Cllr Robert MacIntyre	(RM)
Cllr Maurice Corry	(MC)
Cdr James Leatherby	(JL)
PC Andy Crawford	(AC)
Edna Muir	(EM)
George Wilson	(GW)

**1. Apologies:** Jayne Burnett

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Decision / Action</b>
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**2. Minutes of meeting held August 8<sup>th</sup> 2012**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012 were considered. Proposed as accurate Andrew Nicholson seconded Scott Weir.

The minutes were **approved**.

**3. Matters Arising**

**3a Orwell Lodge:  
Hole in boundary wall**

Letter should be sent (recorded delivery) to the householder regarding H&S concerns. Community Police Officer to look in if appropriate. HSE should be consulted if still no resolution.

**AC** pay householder a visit if appropriate having taken advice.  
**JC** Draft letter of concern.  
**RM** contact HSE for further advice.

**3b Speeds and signs on A814.**

Police traffic management are looking at the 50 mph zone. Local Officers can police the 30 mph zone but Traffic Police are needed for 50mph. There is a case to obtain statistics on numbers of vehicles, highest and lowest speeds.

**3c Rhu Village ShopSmart Sign**

A retrospective planning application for the sign has been submitted (12/01515/ADV). JR suggests the individuals should submit comments directly. There were concerns that the application does not reflect what is actually in place.

**3d Helensburgh Magnet**

Helensburgh CC called meetings and various people were present to support local issues.

JR briefed the content of the minutes from meeting on 22 Aug but had no notes from the meeting held 19 Sep. MC explained that the intention is to improve the profile of Helensburgh and encourage tourism. One target area is the cruise liners that come into Greenock but there has to be attractions. One thought was the possibility of an Oberon Class submarine at the pier which seem appropriate as the area is the going to be the home of the UK's Submarine force.

### **3f Other Matters Arising**

#### **Rhu Bowling Club**

We are waiting for further correspondence. A resurrection of the club would be possible but only if a committee could be formed and supported by a membership. Simon Millar and Leonard Prow are connected with the ground and we are waiting for feedback on the way ahead. In the meantime residents with adjoining properties have paid to have the trees tidied up but the site has deteriorated such that it would be costly to bring it back up to standard.

**JC** to write to Leonard Prow with respect to the future of the bowling club.

## **4. Guest Speakers**

### **4a Community Police Officer**

**AC** reported the recent statistics for Beat 17 which included Rhu and Shandon. Out of 238 calls to the police 65 were from R&S.

There were 10 crimes including:

- Dangerous dog
- Speeding on A814 local man @ 80 mph in 50mph zone.
- Male arrested in Rhu for attempted lead theft.
- Vandalism of car in Guthrie Place.
- Assault at children's home.
- Road accident in Station Road – 22 year old man charged.
- 81 year old man speeding 51 mph in 30 zone
- Other 52 mph in 30 zone.

### **4b Cdr James Leatherby HMNB Clyde**

JL updated the Council on a number of items which had been covered in previous meetings and provided a brief on some new ones, as follows:

- Confirmed that all business arising from the publication of the Minutes of the Clyde Local Liaison Committee, held in Rhu on 29 Mar 12 was complete.
- Confirmed that the Grade A Nuclear Emergency Response Exercise, Ex SHORT SERMON 2012 held on Wed 5 Sep 12 was deemed by the Nuclear Regulatory Authority assessors overall to have been a success.
- Advised that anti-nuclear demonstrators had distributed a circular by hand to houses in the local area a few days before Ex SHORT SERMON. Although it purported to come from MOD authorities, it had not. Furthermore, it contained inaccuracies and other misleading information. This matter is currently in the hands of Strathclyde Police, while the Base is considering the options available to best counter and correct the misinformation - and to prevent any effective recurrence.
- Advised that HMS AMBUSH (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Astute Class submarine) arrived on the Clyde from build in Barrow-in-Furness on 19 Sep 12. She has now started her sea trials (and is recognisable because she flies a Blue Ensign).

- Advised that, following the signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant at the end of June, much good work continues to be taken forward (frequently involving Cllr Maurice Corry – ABC’s appointed Armed Forces Champion). The next major meeting will take place in Faslane between the Base, ABC and WDC officials on Tue 6 Nov 12.
- Ex JOINT WARRIOR, the second and final such exercise in 2012, concludes at the end of the week. All the ships returning to the Clyde for the weekend of Fri 12 Oct 12 are bound for berths in Glasgow.
- Advised that an unidentified species of whale had been sighted on several occasions in different areas of the Gareloch recently, although it had not been seen for the last 8 days. Expert advice had been sought and appropriate measures had been put in place to ensure its safety. It is suspected that it might have been the same Northern Bottlenose Whale that had been positively identified in Loch Long during late September.
- Advised that he had been approached with an informal Request for Information regarding the Naval Population of Rhu & Shandon. FB then joined the discussion and explained the background to what had been her request (raised with aim of providing collateral evidence in support of a bid she intended to make for a Community Covenant Grant for the R&S Gala 2013). JL concluded that he had obtained some statistics but wished to talk them through with FB Out of Committee, to ensure that they were understood as fully as possible and in their context. FB agreed so to do.
- Advised that there had been a number of concerns raised by residents of Station Road, Shandon in respect of the condition and management of some of the large trees standing on MOD’s adjoining land. The issues are being properly addressed.
- Advised that “Brian Taylor’s Big Debate” was taking place in Victoria Halls from 1200 to 1300 on Fri 12 Oct 12 – a BBC Radio Scotland live show and he felt it was unlikely not to refer to the Base, its activities and its future.
- Finally, JL confirmed that Commander Derek Blount had recently attended his first meeting of the Garelochhead CC in a parallel role to his own.

## 5. Planning matters

### 5a Rhu Marina

Papers had been circulated on 13 Aug by JR and 19 & 29 Sep by GF. CE and RMD have been discussing a Masterplan. The temporary development for Portakabins and pontoons has received objections as it at odds with the Masterplan. CE and RMD are not yet in a position to talk to R&SCC and it is likely to be some time in November before a slimmed down Masterplan is produced. If involved parties are willing then it is proposed that an extraordinary meeting be held and inviting the public to a ‘Pre-formal application discussion’ open meeting, date to be decided.

**JR** to continue to liaise with AD/TCE in order to set up extraordinary meeting of R&SCC.

## 6. Members of the Public

EM thanked R&SCC for their interest and support in the situation with the Bowling Green and reiterated that the club suffered lack of members and money and the site was in a poor state of repair.

## 7. Treasurers Report

Balance of Account stands at £1,143.26. There is an outstanding Bill for £100 for the Hall charges 2012/2013. The New Business Application form had been processed. Account signatories had been sorted out and now MR, JR and JC can sign cheques.

## 8. Correspondence

### Items of correspondence were highlighted.

- Waitrose Dig. FB is heavily involved in the archaeological dig of the Waitrose Development site which was formerly the town dump. It is proposed that the site is excavated carefully and a large number of artefacts retrieved. It is believed that there is a large number of glass bottles and porcelain which could be saved, cleaned and displayed in the area. Assistance is needed.
- Argyll Voluntary Action. JR had letter looking for Community Councils to be developing an Emergency Plan for the area. It was not considered appropriate for R&SCC members.
- A letter of congratulations was sent to Luke Patience.
- Letter was sent to Nigel Barge about the Memorial. In the light of the reply, it was agreed that advice should be sort from Alistair Hope.

Volunteers are asked to contact FB [fiona@scottish-archaeology.com](mailto:fiona@scottish-archaeology.com)

## 9. Website Progress

JD reported that there had been significant progress on the website thanks to good communications and ideas. The group JC, JD LD, and JB have designed a new layout and structure. The actual redevelopment of the site has been done by JC. The home page has been updated and people are visiting the site. It will cost £25 per year operate the website without unwanted advertising material. At this stage in its development the purpose of the website is to:

- Inform the Community.
- Encourage feedback
- Publish Draft Minutes within 2 weeks of meeting (formal approval of minutes being at each subsequent meeting.)
- Include a 'Hot Topics' button
- Provide link to weekly planning list and applications on the A&BC website.

£25 per year proposed by AN, seconded by RS and approved by a majority show of hands.

JR proposed a vote of thanks to the Website working group.

## 10. A82 Campaign

John Semple, the Deputy leader of A&BC and is soliciting support for the improvements to the A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan. The letter was circulated by email on 30 Sep with a return slip attached. See Appendix 1 A82 campaign letter

Individual members urged to support projects by returning reply slip by 16 Nov.

## 11. Helensburgh Police Office Opening Hours

**At Item 4a** AC explained the changes to the opening hours of Helensburgh Police Station which are now:

Monday	9 am to 8 pm
Tue/Wed/Thur	8 am to 7 pm
Fri/Sat	1 pm to midnight
Sunday	11 am to 10 pm

There is a telephone facility at the front door to contact someone when the door is locked. Telephone number if phoning from elsewhere: 01436 633600

## 12. Member's Reports

**RS** reported that the burn flowing under Aros Road and leading to the Loch had become blocked by rubbish being washed out from a farm upstream. A number of dramatic photographs were circulated. The debris blocked the grilles causing the burn to flow over the wall and across Aros Road entering the grounds of neighbouring properties. The flooding deposited large amounts of silt around the various properties requiring extensive cleaning. The torrent of water washed down some large obstructions, concrete blocks and wood onto the A184 at the bottom of Aros Road which posed an additional hazard to motorists. RS commended the response from the council as men were working to clear the blockage within half an hour of being called.

RS to liaise with the council and Cllr RM to resolve issues to avoid repetition.

**PPM** reported that the burn in the village that flows adjacent to Manse Brae getting blocked with rubbish. Some of the neighbours are trying to keep it clear but need assistance from the council.

RS to include this in discussions with council.

**FB** informed the CC that the Gala committee are due to hold their AGM on 21 Nov. Pamela Pettit is trying to raise funds and her Newsletter for the 'All New Under 5s' has been distributed. JR suggested she should make application by letter to the community council in the same way that the Gala Committee had previously.

**SW** asked if anyone is looking at the 'muck' issuing from pipe adjacent to the scout hut and cycle path. This is a H&S issue as children could come into contact with it.

RM and SW to look at problem, environmental health dept to be informed.

**GK** reported that there are a number of streetlights out around Rhu. This is an increasing problem with the nights drawing in. There is a timing issue with the light at the bus stop in the centre of the village (R41A), this is a long running problem.

**GF** pointed out that the local school bus contract is due for renewal in Jan 13.

**MC** informed that the white lining in Guthrie Place is complete. Coffee mornings are being held in the Village Hall on Tuesdays 1030 – 1200.

## 13. AOB

**JC** circulated document describing new disabled parking bays in the area. The only one that affected Rhu was outside the School. There was a request for a member of the Community Council to become a member of the Licensing committee.

AN volunteered and accepted by JR.

**DONM**

**7:30 pm 12 December in the Village Hall**