

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 12th February 2014
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

Jack Rudram	(JR)	Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Pat Pollok-Morris	(PPM)	Cllr Robert MacIntyre	(RM)
Jean Cook	(JC)	Cllr Maurice Corry	(MC)
Gordon King	(GK)		
Fiona Baker	(FB)	Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Brian Fleming	(BF)	PC Andy Crawford	(AC)
Linda Duncan	(LD)	Audrey Butler	(AB)
Jim Duncan	(JD)	Edna Muir	(EM)
Olivia Birch	(OB)	George Wilson	(GW)
Tim Lamb	(TL)	Alastair Moore	(AM)
Ronald Sandeman	(RS)	Graham Miller	(GM)
Jayne Burnett	(JB)	Alison McGall	(AM)
Andrew Nicholson	(AN)	John McGall	(JM)
		Craig Leslie	(CL)

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
1. Apologies:	1. There were no apologies.	
2. Declaration of interest.	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Minutes of meeting held 11 December 2013.	3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 th December 2013 were considered.	The minutes were approved (JD & OB).
4. Matters Arising from minutes.	3c. Scout hut. Oily brown water still evident at Scout Hut RM has spoken to the Environmental Health department who have confirmed that the liquid is not sewage and not considered a hazard to health. The roads department has been asked to determine the source of the liquid.	RM asked to pursue
	3e. Japanese Knotweed. Nothing further to report.	Ongoing .
	3g. Rhu Bowling Club. MC reported that Luss Estates were looking at developing the site. Inchgowrie has been approached for access and the Council were expecting a planning application. EM thought that there was an aspiration to build 2 bungalows but Inchgowrie residents were reluctant to give up their gardens.	Ongoing.
	5a. Rhu Marina Masterplan and GSS planning application. Nothing to report.	Ongoing
	5c iv. Helensburgh Wind Farm. Turbine Evaluation Group Helensburgh and Area has been formed and a website set up to provide information. The Scottish Government have said that all communities within 15km of a community wind farm are entitled to a share of the money made.	

6. Coup Road Rhu Access. The vehicle has been removed and the access is now clear.

Matter Closed

8b. Internet Broadband. Data rates are generally poor and vary wildly across Rhu and Shandon dependant on provider, distance from the exchange and time of day. GF has raised the matter at various meetings. He also highlighted that funding had been allocated by Community Broadband Scotland to install a new generation broadband network on Colonsay as one of the CBS pilot areas. AM stressed that an improved broadband service is worth fighting for but the economics are not attractive to the service providers in Rhu and Shandon. JR proposed that the CC write to BT and ask for details of proposed improvements in the area. JC will canvas for and collate statistics of Data rate, service provider and post code which can be used to substantiate the claim of poor service.

Action JC and everyone to supply data

7. Peace Camp Structure. GF stated that as the Community Council would be aware, any enforcement action had to be discussed as an excluded item at any Council / PPSLC meeting and that councillors could not comment publicly on any excluded item as they would be in breach of the Councillors Code of Conduct. It was suggested that a letter to Charles Reppke to request information but Councillors cannot comment. MC said that he would talk to Charles Reppke. This is still termed as an 'excluded item' and no progress has been made on the structure in question.

13a. Pot Holes. FB called in the pot hole and was allocated a reference number. R1414724. She also requested that the pavement to be swept in Lineside Walk and this has been done. RM asked for the Community Council to write in about the pot holes in Pier Road and was extolling the virtues of the 'spray patcher'. His views were not universally shared.

JC to write letter with regard to pot holes.

JB raised the issue of the rubbish around the bus stop at the bottom of Station Road, near the peace camp. JL was asked if the bin had been removed as a security issue for the base but thought not to be the case.

RM asked to take up the provision of litter bin at the bus stop.

14c. Data Projector. JC investigated the purchase of a data projector and the cost would be £200 - £375. It was felt that there was not the need for the equipment and when a projector was needed in the past it was readily available for hire. It was proposed that no further action is required.

Item closed.

5. Guest Speakers

5a. Police Report: AC gave the information of policing in the area since 1st December 2013:

- Speed Checks – 27 year old male stopped for 52mph in 30mph zone
- Person stopped for speeding at 44mph in 30mph zone also found to have no insurance.
- Fraud – Resident handed over bank cards to caller on doorstep. CC asked to share information and urge householders to be aware and report anything suspicious to the Police.
- One incident of vandalism to a car in Ardenconnel way.
- A number of post boxes in Cove, Kilcreggan, Garelochhead, Rhu, Helensburgh and Cardross had been broken into in the run up to Christmas. Police have some CCTV footage and are making further enquiries.
- Other calls to the Police were related to weather conditions and fallen trees.

There are revised opening hours for Helensburgh Police Office as follows:

Monday – Thursday 0900 to 1230 and 1330 to 1900,
Friday – Sunday 1200 to 2200.

JC requested an updated list of duty officers in the area which she will put on the website.

Action AC

AC said that people's main concerns reported in a policing survey related to speeding.

AC commented on the quality of sweets, thanked for his early release and departed to continue with his duties.

5b. Cdr James Leatherby: JL advised that he had little to report, other than the following:

- Work to build the Phase 2 of the Single Living Accommodation within the Base has begun. Over the next 2 years building work will add a further 630 beds to the stock to cope with the new submarine arrivals. It is planned to build a Phase 3 in 2016; this will add a further 1100 beds. It is this work which has led to the controlled & monitored re-occupation of the Woodlea Crescent site by the building contractors.
- Phase 1 of the external and internal improvement works to the MQ at McKenzie Estate (aka Smugglers Way) mentioned at the last meeting has now begun. All 42 houses are having new fitted kitchens, in addition over 50% of them are being re-roofed, new thermal cladding being applied to the exterior with new render. The aim is to re-life the quarters for another 20-30 years.
- The next in the Exercise JOINT WARRIOR series will be taking place over the period 27 March to 14 April 2014. It is confirmed that it will be one of the largest to have been entertained with a significant number of foreign warships in Faslane and other local berths on the Clyde.

In answer to subsequent questions raised, he stated that:

- The 'breakwater' in the vicinity of the Rhu Radar Tower: JL confirmed that the issue had been brought to the right people's attention in the MOD, that their work included the need to establish ownership (which was not clear cut from maps/charts), as well as its current state, any risks associated with further degradation and, from that, what work if any is needed to be undertaken, by whom that should be achieved and in what order of timescale. He concluded with a promise that the issue was being addressed and that he would continue to monitor its progress.
- Faslane Open Days. JL advised that, following the demise of the annual Faslane Fair some years ago, there were no plans to replicate any such activity off-site and that, on-site, there were no plans currently in hand to repeat the Families' Day held in October 2008, let alone extend that theme into an Open Day. However, he did undertake to make the Base aware of the question.
- Litter Bins at Bus Stops in the vicinity of HMNB Clyde. JL advised that he was not aware of the Base having any view about the placing, or not, of litter bins in the vicinity of local bus stops surrounding the Base's perimeter on the A814 (the question having been targeted at those at the bottom of Station Rd near the Faslane Peace Camp.)

Action JL.

Action JL Base was formally advised Thu 13 Feb 14. Action Complete.

6. Planning Matters.

6a. LDP Update. A Council meeting was held in January which approved the plan to go forward. The council wants the plan to be proposed so that it can be examined and representations can be taken into account by the Reporter for the Scottish Government. It is expected that it will take 6-8 months for the examiner to make judgement. It is anticipated that there will be a visit to the Marina site. MC does not think it is a feasible plan to have housing and a Marina development. The Area Committee had agreed that a brief would be produced by Officers for the Marina site which would come to the Area Committee for approval in the near future. AM asked where the meeting was advertised and it was pointed out that it had been in the Helensburgh Advertiser. RS undertook to take photographs to show how busy the hard standing at the marina is in the winter. JD circulated a summary of the Local Area Committee (LAC) and the process. New unsolicited information would not be considered by the Reporter. MC said that the LAC minutes would need to be changed to reflect his stance on the Masterplan not being 'up for discussion'. There was a comment that there appears to be a lack of democracy where 4000 objections had been reduced to 400. The CC wrote to councillors to express the lack of support and asked for the mini development brief to be given to the CC for comment. Rhu Marina has to provide a Masterplan which will need to be approved before a planning application can be submitted. The LDP can be influenced by the examiner. JD suggested that the CC write to Mark Lodge with the CC's view of the LDP and ask that the view is taken into account in production of

the mini brief. JD has drafted a letter which he was asked to pass to the CC Secretary and copy to the local Councillors. GM commented that with the recent severe weather any developments on the shore line are absolutely insane.

JD pass draft letter to Secretary

It was reported that there are 700 homeless people and LD asked whether they were all over Argyll and Bute or just Helensburgh. It would be helpful to know what this number represents. MC had asked the same question and it was thought that the 700 are in Argyll and Bute but includes people who want to move back to the area. Actual homeless numbers are much lower and any development would be reliant on price structure and range to have any impact. However these numbers may not be accurate as people can be on several housing lists at the same time, resulting in significant duplication.

Post Meeting Note. GF Supplied the following:
The latest figures of the total number of applicants on the housing waiting lists by first preference as at January 2014 for the Helensburgh & Lomond Area was 1,089 which includes transfer requests. In 2012 and 2013 17% of those on the housing waiting lists were transfer applicants. If we assume that 17% of those on the current waiting lists are transfer requests, direct / homeless applicants on the housing waiting lists in the Helensburgh & Lomond Area will total approximately 904. The 904 are only those on the local Housing Association waiting lists and does not include those wishing to buy properties in the area.

7. Conservation Area and Key Environmental Features.

7. Conservation Area appraisal. JD was delighted to welcome TL as a new member of the sub-committee. There has been a meeting with the Council to get the format of the document. In the 2nd meeting of the group established that funding was available from the council and were looking at other potential sources of funding for the project. The Key Environmental Features (KEF) document has not been addressed. The scope of the documents is still growing and it is estimated to take about a year to complete. It has not been decided whether the KEF document would be incorporated within the Conservation Area Appraisal or as a stand alone document.

Ongoing

8. Opportunity for members of public to speak.

8a. Members of the public. EM raised a safety concern with the road adjacent to the children's play park. Cars parking by the entrance where children could run out into the road and would be obscured from traffic. Suggestions made were that two spaces be marked out for disabled use or painting of yellow lines. It would appear that the same two cars are the ones causing the issue. The police could be asked to have a word with the owners or a letter to the owners to request that they may be more considerate. Campbell Divertie of A&B council may be able to assist.

Additionally EM reported that a hole had appeared in the fence surrounding the play park which should be

repaired.

8b. GW brought up the nuisance created by the noise from fireworks let off at the Rosslea Hall Hotel. This seems to be a problem that is increasing in frequency. Although the displays only last for a few minutes they have an impact on domestic animals in the area. Some dogs are frightened to go outside for days after an event. Concerns from neighbours have been raised with the hotel and it is believed that the Fire Brigade has been involved on one occasion. It was not known who controls such events or whether there is any sort of licensing required. TL and GW will try to gain more information.

9. Treasurers Report.

9. LD briefed the meeting that the account stood at £1128.71 after cheques for the domain name (£48.60) and photocopying (£23) have been cashed.

It was noted that Charles Reppke had confirmed that the resources at the local office at Scott Court could be used to keep administrative costs down.

10. Correspondence

10. Correspondence has been circulated as and when it is received. There were one or two consultations, nothing of importance.

Letter received regarding the opening of a Citizens Advice Bureau in West Princes Street which will be open for two ½ days per week. There will be a course offered for potential volunteer advisers. There is a growing demand for these services.

Commission on Local Democracy – Peta Burton Smith of Avich and Kilcreggan Community Council has been drawn by lot to represent Community Councils in Argyll and Bute in a round table discussion on local democracy in Edinburgh on 26th February.. Any questions to be raised need to be with Melissa Stewart by 21 Feb. Possible questions should be sent to JR.

Action All CC

FB and JC attended the meeting for Cultural Arts and Heritage. The meeting was useful, attended by 30-40 people and shows what goes on in the area. Cllr Aileen Morton is quoted as commenting 'Argyll and Bute Council see no economic value or return on Cultural Arts and Heritage'. This opinion is not supported by everyone.

11. Website and Related Issues

11. The Website has been updated and a page has been constructed for Facebook.

12. Member's Reports

12a. RS reported that the burns were running well and commended the council for their efforts in this area.

12b. GM. Reported that there are still a large number of blocked drains throughout Rhu.

12c. PPM. Dog fouling is still an issue and there are articles in the Helensburgh Advertiser.

12d. OB. There are barriers on the pavement on Cumberland Road at the junction with School Road. The source of the water issuing around the property is still

unknown.

12e. FB. Still canvassing for assistance with the Rhu Gala but fears that it will not go ahead if it is not supported. MC has enlisted help from the Naval Base. The Gala is programmed for 14 June. The Gala Committee needs to know who they can rely on to help, on the day, by the next committee meeting on 12 March.

12f. JB Announced that it is half term at the school and they will be holding a Spring Fair on 22 March.

12g. JR. On the subject of rubbish on the beach. Much of the litter appears to originate from the marina and it was suggested that, if this was confirmed, they should be asked to contribute towards the clean up. The Council has organised cleaning of beaches and the Community Payback Scheme has been used to good effect. The council will clean up its own ground. Grants are available to help cleaning up the beaches and JR will contact the various bodies to enlist help.

Post Meeting Note: An email from Melissa Stewart states that neither Helensburgh nor Rhu can apply for a grant to help clean up the shore. It seems that as there is no GRAB project coordinator for H&L, therefore there is no grant provision. We can get pickers and gloves if we decide to go ahead.

13. AOB

13. There was no other business.

14. DONM

14a. The next ordinary meeting will follow the AGM on 9th April 2014 in the Community Hall.

14b. The AGM will be held at 7:30 pm before the April meeting.