

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 13th August 2014
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

Pat Pollok-Morris	(PPM)	Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Jean Cook	(JC)	Cllr Robert MacIntyre	(RM)
Gordon King	(GK)	Cll Maurice Corry	(MC)
Olivia Birch	(OB)	Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Andrew Nicholson	(AN)	Alastair Moore	(AM)
Linda Duncan	(LD)	Peter Knox	(PK)
Jim Duncan	(JD)	Edna Muir	(EM)
		Chris Lee	(CL)
		Alastair MacBeth	(AMcB)

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
1. Apologies:	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: PC Andy Crawford, Ronald Sandemen Jack Rudram, Jayne Burnett ,Fiona Baker, Margaret Barman	
2. Declaration of interest:	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Guest speakers:	<p>3a. PC Andy Crawford:</p> <p>PC Andy Crawford submitted the local crime report by email as he was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Crimes recorded for Rhu and Shandon since 01/07/14:</p> <p>02/07-03/07 theft from insecure shed Aldonwick Farm. 07/07 – Disqualified driving and no insurance, A814 Shandon. 28 year old male arrested. 26/07 – 43 year old male arrested in possession of 2 swords near to Football Pitches in Rhu. Detained for court. 27/07 – 24 year old male arrested for failing road side breath test and no insurance. A814, Shandon. 27/07 – theft of two pedal cycles from rear garden in Quarry Knowe. Both bikes recovered, 26 year old male subject of a report to the PF.</p> <p>3b. Cdr James Leatherby (JL):</p> <p>Exercise JOINT WARRIOR. The autumn one will already be in progress when the Community Council next meets as the first ships are likely to arrive on Thu 2 Oct with the final departures being on Mon 20 Oct 14.</p>	

Often the smaller of the 2 such exercises held every year, at the moment it is expected that JW142 will involve 15 maritime units.

The 'breakwater' in the vicinity of the Rhu Radar Tower: The MoD has made Rhu Spit Sea Wall safe by removing and crushing loose material. There is no plan to undertake any further repair or rebuild work because it is regarded as safe and still functional.

Exercise EVENING STAR 2014. Faslane will be holding a routine examination of its emergency arrangements on Wed 3 Sep14. As a consequence, both the Base Broadcast System and Alarm Siren will be used in the exercise and, in addition, a token number of Base personnel may be evacuated from the site.

New Faces in the Base. Having reported last time that Commodore Beckett, the Naval Base Commander, was about to become the longest serving senior officer locally, it is now apparent that he will be leaving Faslane for Bristol in late October on promotion to Rear Admiral. In the meantime the new Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland will arrive at the end of this month – and is expected to be more West Coast oriented than his predecessor, due to a number of changes to be made to his other roles.

4. Minutes of meeting held 11 June 2014.

4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th June 2014 were considered.

The minutes were approved (**OB & PPM**).

5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:

a. **From 5b. Peace Camp Structure.** JC had written to Charles Reppke but has not received a response. MC has received an email which he will forward to JC.

Ongoing

b. **From 5e. Rosslea Hotel Fireworks.** There have been a few fireworks displays at the hotel since the last meeting but have been deemed not too much of a problem. The hotel are operating within the rules and abiding by the 11pm deadline.

Closed

c. **From 5j. Water on junction between Cumberland Rd and School Rd.** OB has contacted James Daley and it is thought that an extra drain should be added to Cumberland Road to remove the water. This needs to be done before winter to avoid the danger of ice formation at the junction with school road. RM said that the council will come up with a solution in the near future.

RM to pursue.

d. **From 6b. Bowling Club.** The application made by Luss Estates to develop the site of the Bowling Club which has been rejected. There are questions about the lease on the land. EM has obtained a copy of a 1909 document pertaining to the use of the area and formation of the Bowling Club. The current trustees have never seen any documents relating to the provenance and use of the land. One of the clauses states that if at any time the Bowling Green is not maintained the land is to be reverted to the superiors. The document is thought to define the ownership of the land and GF requested to see it so that he could discuss the

matter further with Luss Estates. A fire at the Luss Estates offices in the past resulted in the loss of documents. R&SCC had objected to the development because there had not been a full survey of potential use. MC had suggested that the site had potential for Veteran's housing or sheltered accommodation. GF suggested that the area could be too small to achieve the economies of scale that would be required. It was also pointed out that the site was an Open Space Protection Area (OSPA) which would normally be a major hurdle for any development of the area. It was suggested that Residents and Planners should hold a meeting to agree what development would be mutually acceptable use of the land.

No further action by CC at this stage.

e. From 8. Control of Vegetation on the Lochside:

The growth of trees and shrubs along the lochside is causing concerns among local residents. The Community Payback Team have agreed in principle to help out. The subcommittee of the CC has to agree what is desirable and then there will be a meeting with Willie Freeland to see what is possible. Robert McIntyre agreed to find out what the local authority is able to undertake, and to meet with Willie Freeland along with the subcommittee. The council could do some of the work this year but the extent would be limited by budgetary constraints.

- 1.The subcommittee to agree what is desirable
- 2.Meeting with Willie Freeland
- 3.RM to consult local authority to see what they can do.

6. Planning matters.

6a. Helensburgh Wind Farm. A planning application for the wind mast for recording wind speed and direction has been approved. A further application has been submitted for the wind farm without waiting for the wind data. A letter has been written to Ian Fraser, of the Helensburgh Community Development Trust(HCDT) with copies to the other two Directors of the Trust and to Helensburgh Renewables, Luss Estates and Greencat Renewables, regarding the operation of the Trust, and whether, in the light of the location of the turbines, the Objects of the HCDT will be changed to include R&S. No reply has been received to date. The Community Council agreed to set up a sub group to find out the views of Rhu and Shandon residents. A notice of the Helensburgh Community Development Trust's exhibition at St Columba's Church Hall has been posted through doors. The leaflet included a survey to determine the level of local support but contained little tangible information on which to base judgment. R&S CC will be producing its own leaflet and posting it to residents to determine the local feeling. Results would be needed by 15th September. The cost of this exercise would be approx. £215 for the production and distribution of 1000 leaflets detailing the pros and cons of the wind farm. GF said that late objections and comments would normally be heard by the planning committee. The sub group would decide how to collect the results and formulate a response. R&S CC would remain neutral and uncommitted until all information and facts have been presented and the survey of the community has been conducted. AM said that Helensburgh Renewables has had problems. The application has attracted an objection from air traffic control advice. There is a high impact on the environment and RSPB have objections.

- 1.The subgroup will produce an informative leaflet
2. A survey of local opinion will be conducted
- 3 The full CC will be informed of the results
- 4 The full CC will decide whether to support or oppose the Planning Application.

AMcB from TEG-H (Turbine Evaluation Group – Helensburgh and Area) reported that the group have looked at a number of aspects and cannot find anything to support a wind farm. Visual, environmental, wildlife and impact on the amenity are all negative. He urged people to view the website at www.helturbines.org

6b. LDP Update. A letter has been written drawing the attention of the Reporters to the large number of objections to the retention of the housing element in the proposed zoning of for PDA3/2.; this letter has been acknowledged. Cllr Freeman informed the CC that the final report from the Reporter was not now expected until early 2015.

7. Other matters:

7a. Broadband. Jackie Baillie has not yet responded to the letter sent by JC but assurance has been received from her office that it will be done. New poles have been erected in the area but they are nothing to do with the Broadband upgrading. AM said that there were no changes in the timescales for the introduction of high speed broadband.

7b. Beach Cleaning. A beach clean will be organised sometime in September for which volunteers will be needed. Advance notice will be given and the date will be publicised. JD said that the beach was cleaned in the vicinity of Armadale Road which made a difference. JC was asked to write to Rhu Marina regarding to cleaning up the rubbish around the Marina

1.JR to organise the beach clean
2.JC to write to Marina

7c. Japanese Knotweed.

Luss Estates reacted promptly to a report by PK of an outbreak of the weed in Ardenconnel Wood and have started treatment. JC has written to the MOD and A&B C listing places in North Shandon where there are outbreaks of the weed. The MOD responded and she will meet with a member of the Estates department to try to identify areas of responsibility. No reply has been received from A&B C to date. JC said that if people were to tell her where the weed exists a map could be produced which could be shared with the council. It was said that small outbreaks could be treated by painting the individual leaves with a glyphosate gel.

Ongoing.

8. Opportunity for members of the public to speak:

8. Opportunity for members of the public to speak:

There were no comments from the members of the public.

9. Treasurer's report:

9. Treasurer's Report: LD briefed the state of accounts:

Opening Balance	£1043.71
Expenditure	£ 50.00
Closing Balance	£ 993.71

The expenditure was for the hire of the hall. The accounts had been submitted and accepted but the administration grant has not yet been received.

10. Correspondence: Correspondence had been circulated as and when it was received. Some items of interest:

- a. Core Paths project – The Report of the enquiry into the objections has been delayed because the Reporters are waiting for information from A&B C on the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Core Paths Plan.
- b. Progress on the Community Empowerment Bill. Deadline for written evidence is September 5th. This concerns the right to purchase land.
- c. Scottish Rural Parliament will meet in Oban on 6-8 November. There is a Regional event on 17th September in Corran Halls.
- d. Invitation to sign up for the Licencing Standards Newsletter. AN will keep us informed.
- e. Policy on Notice Boards. It was confirmed that Informational Notice Boards require express consent
- f. CHArts. Future of Culture, Heritage and the Arts in A&B. This is an organization aimed at the individual. Information has been posted in the Notice Board in the Hall.
- g. ACT Now. Argyll and Isles Countryside Trust a charity, to maintain, enhance and promote the countryside has produced a newsletter you can subscribe to and has a Summer Walks Programme. Most are too far away to benefit our residents.
- h. Advice sort by Chris Black, by email, in connection with which local non-profit distribution organisation might be suitable to manage the funds resulting from a Micro Hydro Scheme .He and his brothers are applying for a grant to develop the scheme. The general policy of the CC will be to maintain neutrality on such projects. Since he was not present at the meeting, he is to be invited to next meeting .

JC to invite Chris Black to the next meeting

11. Website and related issues:

11. Website. Nothing significant to report.

12. Member's reports:

12. Nil.

13. AOB:

13a. MC: There is an open invitation to the First World War commemorations at Oban on Saturday 21 September. There is a parade at 1:30 pm followed by a Drumhead Service at 2:00 pm.

13b. There is a possibility that the Post Office in Rhu will close in about 18 month's time unless the franchise can be taken over.

14. DONM:

14. The next ordinary meeting will take place on 8th October 2014 in the Community Hall.