

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

**In attendance:**

**Rhu & Shandon CC:**

Jack Rudram	(JR)
Pat Pollok-Morris	(PPM)
Jean Cook	(JC)
Gordon King	(GK)
Olivia Birch	(OB)
Brian Fleming	(BF)
Linda Duncan	(LD)
Jim Duncan	(JD)
Jayne Burnett	(JB)
Tim Lamb	(TL)
Fiona Baker	(FB)
Angelina Wassell	(AW)
Maggie McCowan	(MM)

**Guests/Public:**

Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Cllr Robert MacIntyre	(RM)
Cllr Maurice Corry	(MC)
Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Edna Muir	(EM)
Audrey Butler	(AB)
George Wilson	(GW)
Alastair Moore	(AM)
Peter Knox	(PK)
Ken Glen	(KG)
Jeanette Glen	(JG)
John McMahon	(JM)
Kevin Johnson	(KJ)
Dez Marshall	(DM)

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
<b>1. Apologies:</b>	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: PC Andy Crawford, Ronald Sandeman and Andrew Nicholson.	
<b>2. Declarations of interest:</b>	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3. Guest speakers:</b>	<p><b>3a. PC Andy Crawford's Police Report.</b></p> <p>AC was not present at the meeting but submitted his report by email, a copy of which can be found on at <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p> <p>JB informed the CC that she had discovered a deer hanging from a tree on MOD land in North Shandon with one of its forelegs missing. This was a distressing sight and has been reported to the MOD and Police Scotland.</p> <p>PC Crawford is leaving Police Scotland and it was proposed that a letter of thanks would be sent to Andy with an enquiry as to the identity of his replacement.</p> <p><b>3b. Cdr James Leatherby:</b> (JL) Provided a written report prior to the meeting which can be found at <b>Appendix 2</b>.</p>	Action JC

FB pointed out that this could be the last year of the Rhu Gala on the

present site because of the proposal to install an all-weather hockey pitch. JL was unable to give any details but assured the Community Council that they would be kept fully apprised of any developments.

**4. Minutes of meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015:**

4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were considered.

The minutes were endorsed.

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

**5a. Peace Camp Structure:** A written update was received from the Building Service Manager confirming that an enforcement notice has been served on the Peace Camp which has not complied with planning and building regulations. It is understood that they have been given until 29 Jun to conform. They need to present a credible application or demolish the building in question. GF informed the CC that the Building Control non-compliance procedure ultimately rests with the Procurator Fiscal.

**5b. Bus Stop Near South Gate HMNB Clyde:** A new bus shelter has been provided complete with solar powered lighting.

Matter closed.

**5c. Bowling Club:** There has been little movement reported on the future of the Bowling Club. The Trustees are currently taking advice on the ownership of the site and the CC continues to maintain its watching brief. EM said that one of the Trustees is keeping her informed and there may be some news. Jackie Baillie's Office has been consulted for advice by EM on the legal questions. It is understood that the Bowling Club has not yet been formally wound up and that Stirling and Gilmour are the solicitors acting for the Trustees.

Although R&SCC have no formal involvement it is proposed that the CC encourage local groups to come up with and take the lead on its use. No practical solutions have been proposed and access to the area is an issue. The idea of a tennis club appears to have floundered because an indoor facility was envisaged. PPM suggested that we advertise for interested parties or groups to come forward and run with their project. EM has sent letters and has received some interest but nobody is willing to take the charge. JB will liaise with the school and visit the site with a view to it being used as an amenity by the school.

FB suggested approaching Helensburgh Tennis Club for help and advice but ultimately that might depend upon what the neighbours would be willing to accept. MM suggested placing an article in the Community Advertiser and it was agreed that the CC would write the article.

Action JR and publicity sub group

**5d. Seat for Rhu Spit:** The seat is in the Council depot. The replacement spar has arrived. Despite repeated attempts, no information about when it will be installed is available, Stuart McCracken has been asked to help, but we are no further forward.. MC agreed to follow up with Stuart McCracken.

MC contact Stuart McCracken

**5e from 7d. Roads and lighting:** The surface between Ardchapel and

the service road is experiencing constant flooding even after a period of dry weather. This has been reported to Gerry O'Hare. Mr O'Hare has failed to respond after numerous phone calls and emails. He is not complying with the Council's Code of Practice for speed of response to the reports.

RM to contact Mr O'Hare for way ahead.

**Post meeting note. A response was received after the meeting and some action is expected in the next few weeks.**

**5f from 8b. Petition for Vale of Leven Hospital.** The hospital has been saved as a general hospital. Accident and Emergency will not be transferred to the Jubilee Hospital at Clydebank and reinstatement of A&E at the Vale is being revisited. The Vale is currently operating 24/7, with facilities provided by three sections; Medical Assessment, The Small Injuries Unit and the Out of Hours GP service.

**5g from 12e. Delivery Vehicles at Ardencaple Hotel.** There have been no further issues regarding delivery vehicles at the Ardencaple Hotel. JR thanked AM for talking to the management.

## 6. Planning Matters:

**6a. Helensburgh Wind Farm:** Glasgow Airport have maintained their opposition and the developer has been invited to withdraw its application. If the application proceeds it is thought that it will be considered at the August meeting of the PPSLC with Planning Officers likely to recommend refusal.

**6b. Lochside Care Home:** Following a flood risk assessment it has been proposed that the finished floor level should be raised by about 1m. The developer is reconsidering the designs but it is thought that the overall height of the building will be increased.

**6c. TPO for Blairvaddach Estate.** An application for a tree preservation order has been submitted by the CC to Howard Young who responded on 7<sup>th</sup> Jun by email. An initial survey has been completed by the Council, and once it has been assessed further action will be determined on the results.

Ongoing.

## 7. Local Recurring Issues:

**7a. Japanese Knotweed:** JC has written letters to RMD, Richard Trail, Crown Estates, Luss Estates, Argyll and Bute Council and the MOD about their proposed actions this spring. The MOD and Argyll and Bute have still to respond. There are more landowners to be contacted. Spraying has been effective and must continue if the weed is to be eradicated. The re-spraying planned for May by A&B was not done probably due to inclement weather. KJ said that SEPA's code of practice only permits direct injection and reminded people that JKW cannot be transported. RM said that Larry Malone will spray the A&B areas that were done last year. JC will be attending a workshop in Edinburgh on non native species. JC is maintaining a detailed plan of outbreaks along the coastal strip in our area.

**7b. Broadband:** Information was circulated to allow residents of Rhu and Shandon to determine which of the three cabinets they are connected to. From the responses, It seems that everyone will be

connected to cabinet 2 or cabinet 3 with nobody on cabinet 1. The dates by which fibre will reach the cabinets has not been confirmed. GF said that BT Openreach is progressing rapidly at Garelochhead and around the peninsula.

**Post Meeting Note: The BT “when and where” website has been updated and states that Fibre Broadband will reach Rhu by the end of June and areas of Shandon within six months. See our website for the link to check your postcode.**

CC to continue to monitor progress.

**7c. Sewage Improvement.** Scottish Water have stated that the three unscreened sea outfalls at Artaman, Torwoodhill and Armadale Roads, along the Rhu shore are no longer acceptable to SEPA. No details of the preferred solution are available at this time.

**7d. Conservation Area and Key Environmental Features.** JD reported that the Subgroup have been working with Gemma Wild of the Scottish Civic Trust (SCT) to assist the CC in producing a Conservation Area Appraisal. The arrangement is that we provide a project brief to SCT who would then assist us to find funding for SCT's fees of £8 -10k. Potential sources of funding might include the Heritage Lottery Fund and Argyll & Bute Council. The aim is for SCT to prepare the Appraisal for the Rhu Conservation Area and as a by-product produce a template that can be used for other Community Councils who also wish to have Appraisals produced for their Conservation Areas. Unfortunately Gemma has left SCT and JD is in discussion with John Pelan, Director SCT, to progress the project. In JD's view the project is at risk unless SCT find a suitable replacement for Gemma who has experience of producing Conservation Area Appraisals. The subgroup will consider options for progressing the project.

Action: Conservation Area subgroup.

**7e. Tree Protection across the Community.** It has been noted that 106 trees have been taken down recently on one site in Shandon, some of which were over 200 years old. JC has suggested that we need someone to identify trees of special interest that are worthy of preservation before it is too late. Some trees on the St Andrew's School site are believed to be over 400 years old. It is thought that maps exist which note trees of importance. Trees outside the Conservation area are the ones at risk of being felled. Planning Officers will advise and Karen Malloy is the point of contact in A&B. JB volunteered to take on the project and find an appropriate process for identifying trees and raising TPOs.

Action JB

**8. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:**

**8a. AM** asked the Councillors why gardening services do not collect the grass cuttings when cutting the verges. GF responded that this was done on cost grounds which included landfill tax costs of £80 per ton. The Council is facing further severe cuts in budgets due to major cuts in funding from the Scottish Government and the frequency of grass cutting could reduce further. MC is looking into the matter and thinks that the Council is cutting grass on land which is not their responsibility.

**8b. AM** informed the CC that the Ardencaple Hotel won an award on Trip Advisor and suggested that a letter of congratulation on their success should be sent.

JC will send a congratulatory letter.

**8c. AM** is concerned about nuisance calls and thinks that the Community Council should take action in the campaign to stop them. It was suggested that individuals should sign up to the Which petition "Calling time on Nuisance calls and Texts". Details of this will be put on the website. It was also agreed that the CC would write to the local MP and MSP with a request for them to encourage governmental action.

Action JC

**8d. EM** and residents of Ardenconnel Way are concerned about the hole left by a falling tree on Luss Estates' ground that left a large hole in the approach road. JC has a meeting planned with Luss Estates about knotweed and will highlight the issue.

JC talk to Luss Estates.

**8e. GW** brought up the problem of hedges overhanging footways. These should be reported to the Council who will advise landowners and take appropriate action. Ultimately the Council could carry out work and send a bill to the landowner

RM asked to look into this.

**8f. KG** is concerned about flooding at Stuckenduff Road due to blocked drains. The drains appear to be blocking because there are no protective kerbs around the drain. MC is aware of this problem and is looking into it.

Action MC

#### **9. Treasurer's report:**

**9. Treasurer's Report:** LD briefed the state of accounts: The only changes to the accounts since the last meeting are £100 has been paid for the hire of the hall and an additional £25 has been added to the fund for the seat.

Opening Balance	£ 1,415.63
Income	£ 0.00
Expenditure	£ 100.00
Closing Balance	£ 1,315.63
Fund for seat	£ 375.00
Cash in Bank	£ 1,690.63

A further £35 is due out to cover data protection registration.

#### **10. Correspondence:**

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

- 3 consultations are pending, on Green Networks, Public and Private Roads in New Developments and Area Capacity Evaluation Policy.
- Civil contingency resilience. – A positive decision had been made previously to have "No plan".
- 3 yearly live Nuclear Exercise on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The CC has submitted an application for a place on this event.

Action: Planning subcommittee

**11. Website and related issues:**

**11. Website.** Nothing to report

**12. Members' Reports:**

**12a. JC** said that several defective street lights reported on the Council's website were promptly repaired. However it remains an ongoing task as new defects arise. At this time of the year, off lights are not critical.

**12b. GK** has reported blocked drains on the Council's website. Two unsuccessful attempts have been made to clear the blocked drain at Orphir on the main road. The drain cover near the bottom of Spy's Lane which clatters each time a vehicle passes over has been reported. No action so far on this.

**12c. JB** informed the CC that the last day of the school term will be 26th June. She is standing down from the chair of the Parent Council. The bike sale raised around £2k which was a tremendous effort.

**12c. FB** reported that the Rhu Gala is this Saturday starting at 12 o'clock at the marina. All items for the bric-a-brac sale should go to the tent on Friday. She thanked everyone for their help. There is a possibility that this will be the last gala at the Ardenconnel Field dependent on the future of the pitch. Fiona also informed the CC that the Chair and Co-Chair will be standing down after this year's event.

**12d. MM** attended a video conference with PPM regarding the integration of health and social care. There were problems with the video link. They questioned how success would be measured in the third sector (voluntary). The 'Named Person' child care initiative is a problem as many of the named persons are schoolteachers and continuity over the holidays is an issue. A survey on this issue was difficult to complete because of the way questions were framed.

**12e. LD** asked about parking in Helensburgh; she pointed out that the marking of the parking bays is difficult to see. MC replied that this is a known problem and is currently being addressed with the Head of Roads.

**12f. OB** pointed out that the road resurfacing work at the bottom of Manse Brae had stopped for the building work at Wilson's garage and asked when it would recommence. RM will investigate, She also asked if the artwork head on the council building had got approved planning permission. Ward Councillors stated that although "artwork" was included in the planning permission for the building, they had not been consulted on the design. The image was described as grotesque and disliked by everyone at the meeting. It was agreed that the Convener would raise the concerns of the Community Council with Sally Loudon - Chief Executive and copy in local councillors. It was agreed that an email would be sent on behalf of the CC.

Action RM

Action JC and JR

**12g. MC** announced that the WW1 centenary commemoration of the Battle of Jutland would be taking place in Helensburgh in May/June next year.

**12h. RM.** There is a discrepancy in the time allowed for disabled parking in Helensburgh against time allowed in normal bays. This is being taken up with the Roads Department.  
The anti-skid road surface on the A814 at the corner adjacent to the Royal Northern Yacht Club will be redone.

**13. AOB:**

**13a. JC.** Item missed in Matters Arising. Control of vegetation along the lochside has been halted because the budget had run out. RM confirmed that this will continue this year. JC recommends that those trees and knotweed stands which are threatening the integrity of the sea wall should be treated first.

**13b. JR.** The Council has requested information on the Community Council's activities to support the liability insurance renewal. It is the first time that this information has been sought. JR would like to know the view of the Council's legal officers. A response was due on 12 June.

**14. DONM:**

**14.** The next ordinary meeting will take place at 1930 on 12th August 2015 in the Community Hall.

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## Appendix 1

### Item 3a: Guest Speaker 1 Constable Andrew Crawford

Report provided ahead of meeting and circulated with the agenda.

Since meeting on 08/04/15

1. 26/05/2015: Assault x 2. Shandon. Within a property. 14 year old female subject of a report to Children's Reporter.
2. 23/04/2015: Dangerous driving, Causing collision. A814 Shandon. 46 year old male reported to Fiscal.
3. 09/04/2015: Theft. Wallet from Blairvadach Outdoor Centre..
4. 18/04/2015: Domestic incident. Within a property, Shandon. 44 year old male arrested.
5. 11/04/2015: Theft of cheque book, (in post). Watersedge Court. Now part of a fraud enquiry.

## Appendix 2

### Item 3b: Guest Speaker2 – Cdr James Leatherby

Report provided ahead of the meeting and circulated with the agenda.

- a. **The Armed Forces Covenant.** The AFC still holds but we await the instructions from London as to the future processes that will allow applications for and disbursement of the £10 million pot that the PM announced at the end of last year.
- b. **The Argyll & Bute Armed Forces and Communities Partnership.** It held its first meeting in March (it will meet twice per year). Its purpose is to work with the Local and other Authorities in education, social care, health, employment and housing to ensure that Service families and Veterans are not being disadvantaged – particularly when moving into A&B from other parts of the UK. While it is not aimed at giving Service personnel an advantage, it is intended to ensure that there is a level playing field
- c. **Rhu (Ardenconnel) Playing Fields.** No decision has yet been made as to its future. The information that has been given to the Rhu Gala Day committee has been made in good faith, with the aim of keeping a valuable partner in the community fully and properly informed.