

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 14th June 2017  
Held in Rhu Church Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

**Jack Rudram (JR)**  
**Pat Pollok-Morris (PPM)**  
**Jean Cook (JC)**  
**Gordon King (GK)**  
**Brian Fleming (BF)**  
**Linda Duncan (LD)**  
**Jim Duncan (JD)**  
**Olivia Birch (OB)**  
**Tim Lamb (TL)**  
**Maggie McCowan (MMc)**  
**Peter Knox (PK)**  
**Derek Hall (DH)**  
**Fiona Baker (FB)**

**Cllr Barbara Morgan (BM)**  
**Cllr Iain Paterson (IP)**  
**Cllr George Freeman (GF)**  
**Cdr James Leatherby RN (JL)**  
**PC Willie Lavery (MOD) (WL)**  
**PC Russell White (MOD) (RW)**  
**Rosemary Brown (RM)**  
**Karen Deverill (KDL)**  
**John Deverill (JDL)**  
**Craig Borland (CB)**  
**Alastair Moore (AM)**  
**Alan Dundas (AD)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Decision/ Action</b>
<b>1. Apologies:</b>	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Andrew Nicholson and Jayne Burnett.	
<b>2. Declarations of interest:</b>	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3. Guest speakers:</b>	<p><b>3a. Police Scotland.</b> There were no representatives from Police Scotland present. To date no up-to-date report of incidents in Rhu and Shandon has been received. When received, the report will be posted as Appendix 1 to the meeting.</p> <p><b>3b. MOD Police.</b> WL. The subject of rubbish in the grounds of St Andrews School has been raised with the base and addressed on 7-8 June. In response to JB's report of intruders at the last meeting additional patrols have been deployed during the hours of darkness. WL thanked the CC for their support for 'Rural Watch' and explained that anyone who has signed up on the website can alter their personal profile at any time. WL also informed the CC that an Anti-Nuclear demonstration is proposed at Coulpport between 8-16 July, it is anticipated that there will be no disruption in Rhu and Shandon. It was reported that a high-quality tent complete with toilet had been erected in the grounds of the school, WL was not aware of this and said that it would be looked into.</p>	

**3c. Cdr James Leatherby:** Presented the brief for the Naval Base and the report can be found at Appendix 2 to the Agenda.

FB asked if there was any news about the future of the maisonettes on the Mackenzie estate and said that there had been some recently smashed windows. It was reported by Commander Livesey at the Helensburgh and Lomond Planning Group Meeting in February that the maisonettes would not be used in future as married quarters and the decision to refurbish or demolish would be made soon.

JL asked to provide more information regarding maisonettes

GF raised the issue of cyclists not using the cycle path on behalf of constituents and asked JL to request that the Naval Base Commander encourage people to use the cycle path. GK maintained that it was impractical and potentially dangerous for cyclists to use cycle path and that cyclists, by using the road, were compliant with the Highway Code.

**3d. AD** prepared a brief on the status of knotweed on the shore side of the A814 between Rhu Spit and Rhu Marina. The brief can be found on the website at Appendix 4 to this meeting. Meetings have been held between RMD and A&B and areas of responsibility have been identified. This was seen as a major step forward in the control of knotweed in the area. PK added that Luss Estates had issued a short statement that they had a programme and were following it. No further details were available. JC reported that there was a major outbreak in a field adjacent to the railway at the top of Rhu but is having difficulty getting contact details for the owner, and has asked Melissa Stewart for advice. The latter will raise this with colleagues in Amenity Services and report back. JC also commended Network Rail for their control of knotweed on their land and diligent record keeping.

**4. Minutes of meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017:**

**4.** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed PK and Seconded JD. The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

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

**5a. Parking in Church Place.** GF had obtained confirmation from Council officers that public parking in Church place is permitted on the right-hand side as this was part of the adopted roads system. Other parking areas in Church Place belong to the residents and are under their control. GF had passed all this information back to the residents at Church Place who had raised this issue. BM said that there had been a parent/teacher meeting and that the Head Teacher had sent out letters to parents asking them to be considerate to the residents.

**5b. Telephone Box.** Our BT contact is 'out of office until further notice' and no replacement has been identified. The perspex panels have been replaced and the flyposting removed. There is still no exterior sign indicating a cashless phone and it is unclear whether the drainage has been improved. OB volunteered to monitor this.

Action JC &  
OB

**5c. Tree Felling.** It is understood that Scottish Woodland and Argyll and Bute are developing a programme for the timber removal.

Ongoing

**5d. Cycle Path Markings.** Following Cllr MacIntyre's departure, JC has written to Gerry O'Hare but has not received a response.

Ongoing

**5e. Rhu Marina and Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club development.** JD contacted the Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club (RNCYC) who are dealing with Crown Estates, Rhu Marina Developments Ltd., Dickie & Low (the developer) and council planners. An invitation was extended to the RNCYC to share the development proposals with the Community Council when they are in a position to do so. The RNCYC confirmed that they have always intended to share their proposals with the CC and they will do so when the proposals are further developed.

**5f. Car in Quarry Knowe.** GF had reported this car and had visited the site and took photographs of the car reported at the April CC meeting and reported that a notice was affixed to the car for the owner to contact the appropriate authority. He asked if the car was still there. GK asked to take a look.

*PMN (GK). The car is still there. When reported it was standing with a wheel removed and supported on a jack which was thought to be unsafe; it now has all wheels fitted.*

*The car is a Red Toyota MR2, Registration Number J750 LTP. According to the GOV.UK website the Tax was due 1 May 2013 and MOT expired 27 March 2014 and the vehicle not subject to a SORN.*

**5g. Defibrillators.** JR has written to Mrs Sheenah Nelson and Keith Shipman regarding defibrillators. Heart Start were represented at the gala and the gala raised £850 for a unit. A further £700 is required for the housing box. A suitable site for the unit has not yet been identified.

**5h.** It was reported that structures were still being built on the Peace Camp. GF asked JC to for email regarding the Peace Camp Structures.

JC to email  
GF

## 6. Planning Matters:

**6a. Siting of Metal Storage Container (retrospective): 15/03082/PP.** Permission for this container has been refused and it will have to be removed and the council may take enforcement action. GF had been told that the planners may be sympathetic to something smaller.

**6b. Laigh Balernock Turbines 16/02662/PP.** A hearing has been agreed and will take place 27th June. PPM will be attending.

**6c. Persimmon Housing Development 17/0662/PP.** JR submitted a letter of objection to the plan on behalf of the CC. This letter is posted on the planning page of our website. The objection was on the grounds that Persimmon's proposal to build 76 units on the site represents a 27% increase over the allocation. Helensburgh CC had objected on similar grounds. GF said that all housing allocations have an 'indicative figure'. He added that the PPSLC will have to decide if a hearing will be held and highlighted recent decisions by the PPSLC not to hold hearings despite the number of representations made being over the number that would normally trigger a hearing.

#### **6e. Other Important Local Planning Applications.**

None Raised.

#### **7. Consultations.**

**7a. Local Development Plan 2.** JR's comments emphasise the Conservation Village, lack of demand for new houses in the area and the maintenance of current settlement boundaries. The plan for Rhu Marina should take out the residences and include development in support of sailing activities. The Bowling club is still looking for alternatives and a delegation visited the site recently. The trustees have been asked to update the CC on progress. The next stage for LDP2 is that it will go to the Main Issues Report. The call for comments will be on the Council's website and we can comment on any omissions.

#### **7b. Other Consultations**

None

#### **8. Other Matters:**

**8a. Key Environmental Features:** FB and JR produced draft and a meeting was arranged but Mark Lodge was unable to attend on the day. A base level has been set and is now on hold.

**8b. Conservation Area Appraisal.** A grant of £3,420 has been received from the Council's Area Committee. One quote has been obtained for the production of the appraisal and the sub-committee are looking for more quotes. FB thinks that other grants will be available.

**8c. Barge Garden Progress.** It was agreed that some of the £100 left over from the seat fund could be used to buy compost and fence repairs. Help has been received from the Scouts and Community Payback Scheme. The walls of the burn at the corner of Pier/Station Road have been repaired well.

**8d. Air Pollution along roads at Rhu.** An email had been received by FB stating that air pollution was a problem along the A814 from Rhu to the base. FB suggested that we could have a test done using a kit that costs £15. JC proposed that we should go ahead; this was supported by the CC.

Action JC

**8e. Environmental Action Plan Funding Applications.**

Removed from Agenda.

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

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There were no comments from members of the public.

**10. Treasurer's report:**

**10. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report is at Appendix 3. The grant for the Conservation Area Appraisal is in the bank. TL warned LD to read the grant letter carefully to ensure our compliance with the terms and conditions.

**11. Correspondence:**

**11. Correspondence:** Correspondence is circulated as and when it is received.

- Knotweed. There has been much correspondence on this subject.
- Letter to Howard Young regarding dumping spoil on the spit.(see 14d)
- Health and Well Being. The next meeting of the Network will on Wednesday 21 June. A representative was sought and JC said she would attend if she could.
- Community Empowerment. The only comments received have been negative.

**12. Website and related issues:**

**12. Website:** JC said that she continues to update the News page of the website, send out the Newsletters using MailChimp, and monitor whether the emails are opened. The use of using social media to reach a wider audience was discussed. There was no support for using Twitter. FB offered to investigate Facebook, along with the absent JB. BM recommended Facebook but understood the difficulties with monitoring.

**13. Councillors' reports**

**13a. BM** Introduced herself as a new Councillor in the Ward and said that as the new kid on the block and is currently finding her way. She is a member of the Area Committee.

**13b. IP.** Introduced himself, he has a background in farming and the oil industry. Based in Arrochar and things are going alright.

**13c. GF.** Induction training is underway; new and existing members are encouraged to attend. He said that it normally takes about a year before new Councillors are comfortable in their post. He urged the CC to take it easy on the new guys, they are trying to help.

**14. Members' Reports:**

**14a. PPM.** Has received comments of praise for the Village Orderly. He works 'like a beaver', over and above what would be expected and this appreciation should be made known to Stuart McCracken. GF said that his view was that the Village Orderly's are the best value for money and should be retained.

Action JC

**14b. BF** said that the Village Orderly has taken on the garden area by the toilets and is a good guy. He reported that one of his neighbours has complained about the noxious smells coming from the Rosslea Hall Hotel. PPM suggested that the neighbour speaks directly to the Environmental Health department as the CC is not in a position to take any action.

**14c. MMC.** Reported that JB wanted the issue of out of hours GP service raised. There is a shortage of trained GPs and the people coming into the profession are not prepared to work the traditional hours. Student places have been reduced. GF said that 25% of GP posts across Scotland were currently vacant. The future of the Vale of Leven Hospital must be kept on the agenda. MMC and PPM work with JC to draft a letter to the Health Minister. MMC added that Health and Social Care has a Facebook page where comments can be made.

MMC, PPM and JC Draft letter.

**14d. FB.** Reported that the spoils from the development at Rhu Lodge had spilled onto the beach at the North side of the spit. SEPA, Marine Scotland and the Council have been informed. SEPA and Marine Scotland are not interested and the Council has not responded. There is a concern that areas of knotweed may be buried by the earth. GF recommended that FB send another email to Howard Young with a cc to GF.

GF also said that the Community Payback Scheme team was relocating from West Dunbartonshire to Argyll and Bute. He highlighted that the current team, which is managed from West Dunbartonshire, was being broken up with a separate team now being set up to cover Argyll & Bute. He said that there is some opposition to the changes which some believed would be a retrograde step.

**15. AOB:**

**15a. Nil.**

**16. DONM:**

**16.** The next ordinary meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9 August 2017, in the Community Hall.