

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 13th February 2019
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Jim Duncan Chairman	(JD)
Fiona Baker	(FB)
Linda Black	(LB)
Olivia Birch	(OB)
John Clark	(JCl)
Jean Cook	(JC)
Linda Duncan	(LD)
Ken Glen	(KG)
Kevin Johnstone	(KJ)
Patrick Johnstone	(PJ)
Peter Knox	(PK)
Tim Lamb	(TL)
Andrew Nicholson	(AN)

Councillors/Guests/Public:

George Freeman	(GF)
PC Andrew Barron	(AB)
Capt Craig Mearns	(CM)
PC Jeanette Speirs	(JS)
Cdr Mark Fitzsimmons	(MF)
John McGall	(JM)
Gary Morrison	(GM)
Alastair Moore	(AM)

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1. Apologies:	Apologies were received from: Derek Hall (DH) and Cllr Iain Shonny Paterson (on 14/02/2019).	
2. Declaration of Interest	PK in the event that the Bowling Club is discussed.	
3. Guest speakers:	<p>3a. Police Scotland</p> <p>AB tabled a report. Appendix 1. He noted that the new police Area Commissioner for Cowal, Bute and Helensburgh is Douglas Wilson, based in Dunoon and the new Police Inspector for Helensburgh is Roddy McNeil. There have been 88 incidents reported to the police since 10th December, but 39 of these were to do with missing children from Blairvadach. Of the remaining 49, most were minor non-crime based incidents. Five crimes of note are listed in report, four of which were detected. Two ringleaders from Blairvadach Children's Unit have been moved out of the area. The number of calls from Blairvadach have reduced significantly since this happened,. GF noted that the number of children housed in the unit will be reduced from eight to four, with the staffing remaining the same.</p> <p>The horse issue has now been resolved. (Post meeting Note from JC: David Logan A&B has been very cooperative in keeping the CC informed on this matter)</p> <p>3b. MoD Bases Captain Craig Mearns.</p> <p>CM introduced himself and the Base Executive Officer MF. He explained that he considered the improvement of linkages between the Naval Base and the local community an important part of his role. MF will act as a two way conduit between the CC and the Base, until a new representative is appointed.</p>	

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CM's organisation within the base is seeking extra personnel to cope with the 30% increase in staff which will take place over the next three years. To accommodate this, empty married quarters in Helensburgh are in the process of being converted into single living accommodation. The linkages with A&B are unique and very strong and important to both parties since the education of children, the housing of personnel and the employment for spouses are all significant facets of the growth of the base. Sailors are being encouraged to move out of the Naval Base into the local community. A pilot study "The Future Accommodation Model" will incentivise this. Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the empty maisonettes on Smugglers Way, on land owned by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. Considerations are ongoing as to the best use of this land.

Later this year the first of the three T-class submarines will arrive... This is part of a base port change from Plymouth to Faslane. Also the 4th Astute Class Submarine will arrive from Barrow. There will continue to be an increase in the number of visits by units who are using Faslane as a forward operating base.

All this expansion is causing traffic problems both inside and outside the base. As of today there were only 36 parking spaces inside the base and 240 sailors due to arrive. The new gate has helped traffic flow from the north, and, in an attempt to reduce the number of cars entering the base, a new car sharing app will be introduced. Other solutions under discussion involve the coordination of bus and train times, and increasing the number of buses going to the base. An extra rail stop is being considered close to the North Gate. The time scale for this, if approval is granted, is estimated to be five years.

The future use of the St Andrews house site is under consideration, but its listed status is a problem and this is under discussion with A&B. The MoD bought the site to avoid its purchase by anyone with ill-intentions towards the Naval Base. If the listed status were removed, this would open up the St Andrews site to become something useful to the navy.

As part of the MoD's commitment to the community, the plans for a Sports Hub at the Helensburgh Rugby Club site are moving forward. Ardenconnel pitch will be maintained but not developed further. The Naval Base is keen to support community events, but adequately notice must be given.

A&B Council have submitted a Rural Growth Bid to Scottish Government which includes work on the cycle path to the South Gate. CM accepted that the existing cycle path is dangerous.

The following points were made In answer to questions

Future MoD requirements have to be considered before any

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discussion on the development of the Smugglers way site. The timescale for this is expected to be in late spring. However, when the development discussions begin, CM agreed to the request that the CC should have a seat at the table,

After the clash last year, CM advised the Gala Committee to contact Wayne Burbury, who works for MF as soon as possible. CM pointed out that, there are many national events taking place this year.

A suggestion was made that the new rail stop by the North Gate should include parking for the community. The implications of the proposed charges for parking are as yet unknown. CM accepted that an extra stop by the underpass at the top of Lineside Walk is worth considering. For these extra stops to be of value, extra trains will be needed at peak times. The proposals for the North Gate stop are being driven by Argyll and Bute. As stated earlier the time scale after approval would be five years.

Suggestions were made for improving the cycle path. CM said that there is a plan in existence which takes the cycle path though the Royal Northern. He will ask A&B if we can see the plan for the changed route... It was suggested that widening the old A814 though Shandon to provide a dedicated cycle path is a possibility.

CM reiterated his genuine desire to improve communications with the community. He holds regular Base engagement meetings with all organisation in Faslane and Coulport, and is intent on setting up structures which are independent of personalities. The Naval Base Commander is behind this approach.

JD welcomed this and said that the change in approach was apparent from Appendix 2 of the December meeting.

He thanked CM and MF for their valuable contributions to our meeting.

3c Mod Police. Jeanette Speirs

Police Scotland, in conjunction with the MoD Police and Adult Volunteers, now run a Youth Volunteers group with 24 kids aged 13-18. The aim is that, after the ten week training period, they will be encouraged to volunteer for both local and national events. They will wear a uniform and so will be recognisable.

Vandalism within the maisonettes on Smugglers Way is causing concern, not least for the safety of the individuals concerned. It was noted that one workman has fallen through a floor on the site.

JS advised that drones have been observed operating around/near the base during the month of December. The base would appreciate it if the public would report any further sightings.

Please report any activity on drones, vandalism etc to the main Control Room on 01436 674 321 Ext 3812. This is manned 24/7.

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4. Minutes of meeting held 12th December 2018:	The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed LD, seconded OB	
5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:	<p>5a: 15. JD: Bowling Club Building. Building control has declared the building safe. No further action at this time.</p> <p>5b:15 JC. Disabled Bus Stops. Immediate reply from Alex Linden. He has no locus with respect to sight lines but reported that he is still pursuing the Peace Camp on the unauthorized structures on the camp,</p> <p>After a reminder, Ailsa Cunningham replied to say that she would chase SPT about completing the work on the bus stops. She said there had been no complaints from the Bus Company about site lines. It was reported that according to a bus driver who was approached, it was not the responsibility of the bus driver to look for passengers, it is the latter's responsibility to flag down the bus.</p>	
6. Planning Matters	a. 18/02221/PNDEM. MOD Demolition: covered in 3b	
7. Other Matters:	<p>a. 7a. Harvesting Timber</p> <p>Thanks to FB and PK for their efforts</p> <p>The school exclusion times were reduced in November 2018 by 30 minutes from the times published in December 2017 but the revised times were not made public. In fact the old times are still on the A&B website. We expect the information posted on the A&B website to be accurate.</p> <p>A meeting was held with concerned residents, and following this, on January 23rd, FB and PK met with representatives of Coille Haulage, Ridings Sawmill, Argyll Timber Transport Group, Scottish Woodland Group & ATTG. A&B were invited but all we received was an automated reply. The note of this meeting is published on our website. Subsequently a letter was written to Stuart Watson who we understand to be the A&B contact. The response to this was another automated reply. Following protests and the Intervention of GF. Jim Smith, from A&B replied, but appeared to have read neither the letter nor the minutes of the meeting. The latest from Kirsty Robb of Ridings Sawmill is that, in order to accommodate the School exclusion times which were requested, timber will be brought down from 6am</p> <p>It was noted that one resident has written to the Ombudsman; The CC is not in a position to do this.</p> <p>A paper, Appendix 2, was presented to the meeting by JM, a long term resident of Pier Road, which summarises the concerns of the residents.</p> <p>He intimated that the main aim was to have the TTMP fully reviewed by the local authority given the categorization of the route to ensure</p>	

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that safety measures are properly considered. It is not clear that any risk assessment was undertaken before the original TTMP was drawn up.

There is a requirement for liaison between the forestry interests and the roads department to develop a solution that enables timber transport, addresses community concerns and protects the road. Community concerns have been ignored. In the limited public monitoring which was undertaken, there were 19 breaches of the published TTMP.

The paper is well argued and factual and concludes that as tax payers we are entitled to expect better and more professional standards from council management who on this occasion have badly failed our community. It seems apparent to this CC that someone, for whatever reason, took their eye completely off the ball and failed to deliver the competence and due diligence we expect. The knock on effect of this has undoubtedly added to public concern and diminished confidence in the stewardship at the top of our Councils Roads Department.

A discussion took place on whether the police could be involved, but it was concluded that it was not a police matter. The problem is that the road is unsuitable for 44 ton vehicles, but there is no alternative route. Nevertheless, GF suggested that an approach be made to the Road Safety Officer at Dumbarton to see whether he had a view on the safety aspects of road use.

FB is of the opinion that progress has been made, despite the non co-operation of A&B. The school times need to be protected, and a leaflet should be circulated to all residents and the new TTMP needs to be published. Since this operation is due to continue until 2034, we need to ensure that better community engagement takes place in the future.

Action
FB, PK

It was agreed that the way forward is twofold. For those residents who have genuine concerns, as many as possible should follow the formal complaints procedure on the Argyll and Bute website.

Action
Residents

Secondly The CC should seek an explanation as to why the Roads Department are using automatic replies as their main means of communication with this Community Council in breach of Section 4.1 of the best Practice Agreement. The personnel and dates for these automated replies can be supplied if required. GF suggested that we involve the Community Council Liaison Officer. Consideration will be given to this and whether we contact the Chief Executive Officer.

Action
FB,JC, JD

GF requested that that Lomond North Councillors be copied into any correspondence with A&B.

7b. Update on Health Related Matters. Contact LB for further information on any of these items.

- Health and Wellbeing Network. There is information on the News page of our website about the Helensburgh Branch and the various Training Courses which are available,

You can also download The Joint Health Improvement Plan 2017-2022 from the Health and Wellbeing website
- Link Working in Primary Care. Over the next few years, a wide range of Healthcare professionals will be located in Local Surgeries in addition to GPs and nurses,.

A Link Worker will be appointed to advise people on how to access the care they need.
- Welcome Café in Helensburgh for recovering addicts and lonely vulnerable people is looking for help in the form of workshop leaders, speakers etc. See LB if you think you can help.
- Greater Glasgow Health Board Core Brief provides up-to-date information on a wide range of issues. It has links to the NHSGGC and Scottish Government press releases on health. There is a link to the Brief on the News page of our website.
- National Health Service Glasgow and Clyde The Annual Review 2017-18 will be held on 11th March. The purpose of the event is to hold the NHS Board to account for our delivery of the Local Delivery Plan Standards throughout 2017/18. There will also be a presentation on the progress the Board has made and continues to make in delivering the Scottish Government's Health & Social Care Delivery Plan and our aim of delivering Better Health, Better Care, Better Value and a Better Workplace.
LB and JC will attend
- Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Policy Draft Strategic Plan 2019/20 – 2021/22. Comments were provided on behalf of the CC. The consultation has closed but additional comments can be made up to the end of March. Details are on the Consultations page of our website.

7c. Condition of Road and Sidewalk On Upper Torwoodhill Road.

JD to contact DH to ascertain the current situation

Post Meeting Note: DH confirmed that the Advice Note prepared by the CC has been delivered to residents and a coordinator has been agreed. The latter will encourage residents to report faults on the A&B website and follow these up with formal complaints if no action is forthcoming. (This organised approach has been taken, because all measures taken since the faults were first reported to A&B in December 2017; casebooks logs by Cllrs Morgan and Paterson, and reports by at least 4 residents, have elicited zero response.)

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7d Update On Local Defibrillators	The signs for the Defibrillators on the outside walls of the Outdoor Centre and the Marina have been placed on lamp poles on the A814. Sheenah Nelson will contact Rosslea Hall Hotel with a view to having a sign for the remaining defibrillator which is in Reception at the hotel, placed on the Hotel sign on the A814.	
7e. Play park Swamp	There is no progress on this.	Ongoing action GF
8.Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the use and regulation of Fireworks in Scotland. The CC will not make a take part but details will be put on the Consultation page of our website. Interested residents please note. Closing date 3rd May. • Houses of Multiple Occupancy. Closes 16th Feb • New Regional Strategy for Transport. The CC will arrange to consult the community along the lines of the Pop-up stations consultation. Closing Date 15th March. It was suggested that we involve the MoD via MF. • The CC received a request to take part in a research project on Community Resilience and Local Government. This will not be pursued. 	JC and others.
9. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:	Comments made earlier in 7a	
10. Treasurer's report:	The Treasurer's report can be found at Appendix 3 on the website.	
11. Correspondence:	Correspondence is circulated as and when it is received.	
12. Website and related issues:	Two Newsletters have been sent out since the last meeting. JC noted that one of the advantages of the MailChimp Newsletters is that it is possible to track who opens them.	
13. Councillors' Reports:	None	
14 Members' Reports:	<p>OB. The next Outdoor Museum Panel will be on 11th March. There are four meetings per year. FB is also a member of the panel.</p> <p>PK. The Container at Ardencapel has finally been removed</p> <p>There will be Beach Clean in Rhu on the last Sunday of every month organised by Rhiannon and Kate. The time will be tide dependant. Details will be posted on our website and included in the Newsletters.</p>	

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	<p>Sewage discharge on beach opposite the entrance of Rosslea Hall Hotel was reported to Scottish Water on 8th October and 4th January. They have attended three times and they recommended that A&B Environmental Health Officer be informed. This has been done by telephone and email, Discharge from the hotel has happened many times in the past. The CC felt that SEPA should also be contacted as they will have a file on this. PK to pursue on behalf of the CC.</p> <p>FB & JC. Fly tipping was reported in Ardenconnel Woods. It was thought to be on ACHA land but they reported, after checking that it was not.. Luss Estates agreed after checking that it is their responsibility and they will move it, along with some other historic fly tipping in the Woods. It was noted that there is a fixed penalty notice of £200 for fly tipping.</p> <p>JC Fly tipping. A mixed trailer load of building material and black bag waste was dumped outside the main door of Blairvadach. It was reported on-line on Saturday 5th January. Gerald Quigley arranged for the black bags to be were removed that afternoon and for a JCB to move the remainder the next day. He will investigate whether there was any way of preventing this happening in future.</p>	
16. AOB:	None.	
17. DONM:	Wednesday April 10th 2019 at 7.30pm.	