

Minutes of a Meeting of the Rhu and Shandon Community Council

**Wednesday 10th April 2019
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

| Rhu & Shandon CC: | | Councillors/Guests/Public: | |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Jim Duncan | (JD) | Iain Shonny Paterson | (IP) |
| Chairman | | | |
| Fiona Baker | (FB) | PC Dale House | (DH) |
| Linda Black | (LB) | PC Jessica Smith | (JS) |
| John Clark | (JCI) | Cdr Mark Fitzsimmons | (MF) |
| Jean Cook | (JC) | John McGall | (JM) |
| Linda Duncan | (LD) | Gordon King | (GK) |
| Ken Glen | (KG) | Alastair Moore | (AM) |
| Andrew Nicholson | (AN) | George Wilson | (GW) |
| | | Laura Freeland | (LF) |

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| 1. Apologies: | Apologies were received from: Derek Hall Olivia Birch, Kevin Johnstone, Patrick Johnstone, Peter Knox, Tim Lamb, PC Jeanette Speirs and Cllr George Freeman. From Linda Duncan for being late. | |
| 2. Declaration of Interest | None. | |
| 3. Guest speakers: | <p>3a. Police Scotland</p> <p>DH tabled a report. Appendix 1. There have been 41 incidents reported to the police since 13th February but only 4 of note; one each of Theft by Housebreaking, Shoplifting, Vandalism and a Road Traffic Offence.</p> <p>The Community Council have been asked by a farmer to publicise the fact that dogs should be controlled when walking in fields where animals are grazing. The farmer reported a sheep worrying incident where the he had a picture of the dog, the dead sheep and the dog walker but the police were unable to take any action. DH was asked what the farmer should have done in this instance. DH explained that in Scots Law it is necessary to have collaborative evidence before action can be taken. He advised such reports should be made on 101, He admitted that whether the police would be able to attend promptly would depend on the priority of calls. DH said that he would do some enquiries and report back.</p> <p>A member of the public reported a road rage incident involving a car driver verbally abusing a cyclist. He has dash cam evidence which was shown to the officers present.</p> <p>3b. MoD Bases: Cdr Mark Fitzsimmons, Base Executive Officer.</p> <p>He started by reiterating that the base was eager to engage more actively with the community. He emphasised that very few changes have taken place since the last meeting.</p> | Action DH |

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The Future Accommodation Model, FAM, announced by the Secretary of State for Defence on April 1st will apply to all regular service personnel. It will offer them a level of accommodation subsidy and choice on how they use it. FAM will be piloted in three locations, with HMNB Clyde being the first base in the UK to operate a 3 year pilot, starting on 30th September. Civil servants will be recruited to run this pilot.

Because the whole submarine operation is moving here, personnel can expect to spend a considerable part of their early careers, perhaps as much as the first 15 years, at Faslane which will help with the integration into the community. A&B and the MoD have a close working relationship and issues involved with the pressure on services such as school and NHS are discussed at regular meetings.

MF provided an update on Smugglers Way. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation, DIO, expect contracts to be signed for demolition before the end of May with demolition to follow shortly after. When the future development is being planned, MF confirmed that the CC will be involved. MF was able to confirm that asbestos, should it be found, will be dealt with appropriately and in accordance with current regulation.

It was agreed by those who know, that the changes which have taken place at the North Gate have improved the flow of traffic. KG pointed out that personnel leaving the North gate did not give due consideration to traffic coming from Garelochhead. MF accepted this and said he would take this back.

Action MF

The MoD has drafted in a private team to look at accommodation across three sites; London. Plymouth and Faslane. This team have visited Faslane and in particular they have assessed the St Andrews site. No decision has been made and in answer to a question, MF said that he did not believe that an application has been made to de-list St Andrew's house although this is one of the options under consideration.

In answer to a question about a no fly zone over Faslane, MF explained that at present the no fly zone is a box over the area, so aircraft could fly above the box. He said that at the next review of by-laws the MoD have aspirations to extend this area to include the whole of the Dockyard Port, which includes all water north of a line running east from the tip of the peninsula and north of a line running westward from Cove.

A resident reported to the Community Council that on 27th March he had written a letter to the Naval Base Commander complaining about the state of the MoD land at Woodlea Crescent. He has not had a reply to this letter. He has also raised this matter with George Freeman. It was agreed that the JC would find out whether it was email or snail mail and inform MF who would follow it up. The long

Action JC
&MF

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| | <p>term plan for this area is that it will be a completely renovated car park for the base. This will happen when the building of a second multi story car park behind the wire, is taking place. Plans have been submitted for this:19/00703/PAN</p> <p>Post Meeting Note from MF.</p> <p>MF has confirmed the receipt of the letter by Naval Base Commander's Office and it has been forwarded to DIO for comment. On receipt of these comments, the Commodore will respond formally to the resident concerned.</p> <p>This resident also complained about scrub in the verges encroaching onto the road on Woodlea Crescent, making it difficult for two vehicles to pass without scratching the paintwork. JC thought this may be a matter for A&B as Woodlea Crescent is an adopted road. This will be pursued appropriately.</p> <p>In the long term the MoD is looking for members of the MoD who live within the community to act as the permanent representatives on the Community Councils. So far no-one has been identified for Rhu and Shandon. Meantime our contact is MF.</p> | Action JC |
| 4. Minutes of meeting held 13th February 2019: | The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed FB, seconded AN | |
| 5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda: | <p>Post Meeting Note.</p> <p>5a: Item 8</p> <p>A survey was conducted and the results forwarded to SPT. These can be seen on the News page of our website. The two main concerns were transport to hospitals and the unreliability of the train service from Helensburgh Central.</p> | |
| 6. Planning Matters | <p>19/00701/TPO. Proposed felling and lopping of trees in the land North West of The Briars, Station Road Rhu. Applicant Scottish Water. This was noted later in the meeting. It was pointed out that this is on the extraction route for timber. NB This is not the location reported at the meeting. It is near the junction with Lineside Walk where there is already a Scottish Water hut.</p> <p>With Respect to St Andrew's House, there was a reluctance to support the de-listing of buildings because the owners had not looked after them properly. It was pointed out that the MoD does not have a good track record in protecting the historic buildings in its keeping. After a brief discussion, it was agreed by a vote of 3 to 1 with 4 abstentions that a letter should be written to Commander Doull expressing the view of the Community Council that they would prefer the building be retained.</p> | Action JD |
| 7. Other Matters: | 7a Harvesting Timber | |

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Following a query to Roland Striven, the Timber Transport Forum Officer, as to why the extraction route does not appear on the Agreed Route Map(ARM), despite it being supplied to us in October 2017 and posted on our website at that time, the Regional Transport Officer Ian Catterall replied making the following points; the designation of the route and its recording on ARM will be discussed at the next ATTG meeting, assuming current felling permission protocols continue to prevail, felling, extraction and haulage of timber from Highlandman's Wood will continue in perpetuity and the Forest Agent is considering alternative forest access/egress and substantial road haulage options which would alleviate/remove pressure on Pier and Station roads.

In the response to the Official Complaint raised by the Community Council on lack of communication by the Roads Dept over 16 months, Jim Smith explained in a very long email, that the department was understaffed. JM reported that several residents have also raised complaints against the department and the responses by Jim Smith to these are all remarkable similar, The Community Council will not be pursuing this with the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman (SPSO).

FB suggested that there are four issues which should be raised with Barry Harper at this time. Firstly, one of the electricity-pole warning arches has been damaged. Secondly a drystone wall near where the timber is being loaded has been damaged. Thirdly, he should be asked when the leaflet for all residents of Rhu, promised in January will be available and finally, when will the promised replanting of the cleared area take place?

Action FB

One resident submitted a Complaint about footpath provision on Pier Road, where none currently exists. The response, written by Stuart Wilson was that there is no funding available for this and stepping off the road onto the verge is considered acceptable in a number of locations in the Council area. His justification for the dismissal of the Complaint would be laughable were it not so serious. He has clearly never been on Pier Road! He added that a provision of a footpath will be considered in future. GF will be asked for his advice on pursuing this. IP offered to become involved if it would help.

Another resident contacted A&B Council about a near miss whilst walking on the white lined pedestrian route. There was no follow up to this. An Official Complaint was then raised in reference the increased risk to safety for all on this route. She had previously suggested repainting the white lines around the blind corner and a mirror at this dangerous bend. The lines have not so far been repainted and she was advised that a mirror was not feasible, She has now repeated this and suggested lowering the speed limit to 20mph on this route. A reply is still awaited.

JM reported that there are two replies to Official Complaints by residents which are still outstanding. At this time there are still issues

which are unresolved; for example the lack of appropriate warning signs and inadequate road markings. When all the responses to the residents' complaints have been received, they will write to Jim Smith asking for clarification on several points in his letters and, depending on his response, a decision will be taken by them on whether they will refer the matter to SPSO.

It was noted that due to the changes in personnel which have taken place, the Community Council does not know who to contact on various matters. The lack of response by Officers is widespread.

It was noted that the school exclusion times are being observed; sometimes lorries wait in the lay-by on the A814 until the appointed hour if they arrive early.

Following the advice given by GF at the last meeting, Police Scotland was contacted and the only problem that Inspector McNeil identified concerned the inadequate road markings. The Police Traffic Inspector said the responsibility for driving in inclement weather lay with the driver. However if a member of the public was concerned about a safety issue, they can call 101 and Police Scotland will take immediate action if they think it is appropriate.

As reported earlier, the Forest Agent is considering alternative forest access/egress routes, Given that it was indicated that the planned woodlands at Letrault and now Stuckenduff would use the current extraction route, the Community Council will actively pursue the matter of other routes.

The Community Council will also pursue the issue of Risk/Impact Assessment, which we feel should have been done before this operation started. Simple facts like the vehicular and pedestrian volumes should have been assessed. The only response we have so far is that all due processes have been followed. The Timber Transport team has said that a risk assessment is not required, but Argyll and Bute have a responsibility for the safety of residents. There are officers who know of the dangers that Pier Road poses.

Action CC

7b. Update on Heath Related Matters. Contact LB for further information on any of these items. In the near future all details will be put in the website with pointers from the newsletter

- At the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Review meeting on 11th March, it was announced that the Vale of Leven Hospital was safe from closing. Since then new scanning and X-ray equipment for the hospital has been announced
- The following matters were explored at the Health and Well Being Network meeting, held on 10th March. More information on all these items will be published on our website
Health and Social Care Partnership are looking for members to join a group with links with local GPs and other health related organisations in the community. LB will explore this further and report back.

Grant funding is down to £10,500 this year, half what it was last year. This year the funding is targeted on exercise and self management of conditions; deadline 30th May.

A Wellbeing Event is planned for October. There are no further details at this time.

Free Tai Chi sessions, open to everyone are being held in Helensburgh. Tai Chi helps with balance and in cases of Alzheimer's.

Anthony Morrow will give taster sessions in martial arts to groups.

There are two Open Days planned; on 26th April at Jeans Bothy, the Mental Health Support Unit and on 16th May during Learning Disability Week.

New Way, has been formed. This is a be-friending service for people with alcohol or drug related problems

Riding for the Disabled is now providing carriage driving.

Meet the pony for the elderly. Pensioners Pony Petting?

Garelochhead Station Trust have set up a brunch club which meets in Gibson Hall at present but moving to Garelochhead Station once it is renovated This is a Service, free for veterans and their families with a Donation Box for non veterans.

7c. **Knotweed**

- All large landowners with knotweed on their land have been or will be contacted as we usually do. This year the weed seems more virulent than ever.
- The worst outbreak in Rhu is along both sides of the railway near the underpass on Lineside Walk, but mainly in the field above the line on Aldonaig Farm. Network Rail required the contact details of the owner before treating the knotweed which has most likely spread from the railway. We appreciate the help received from AM in arranging the meeting with Network Rail and providing the email address of the owner of the farm, who does not live in the UK. We understand that the grazing will now no longer be leased and it was agreed that everyone should be on the lookout for any activities related to this land. It is understood that in the past the owner had plans to build here.
- The worst outbreak in Shandon is on the shore side of A814 approximately opposite the entrance to The Briars. This is damaging the seawall and must be undermining the A814. Knotweed canes which pop up in the verge were regularly strimmed last year, providing extra live stems to further expand the growth year on year. Aisla Cunningham was informed on 22/2 and 8/4. No reply has been received so far. Pictures have

Action JC

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| | <p>been sent of the knotweed and of two dry culverts nearby. This is the section of the A814 which has standing water every time it rains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single A4 page including a map showing the outbreaks of the weed in August 2018 have been hand delivered by TL to all residents on Ferry Road since there is knotweed on both sides of the spit. It is just a precaution to warn them to be on the lookout for the weed appearing in their gardens. • A meeting will take place with Alan Dundas and his contractor and the new Land Agent of Luss Estates. Details of outbreaks on MoD land which pose a threat to non MoD property will be sent to the base via MF. | |
| 8.Consultations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health Welfare Act Amendment. Closing date 24th April <p>The Community Council will not respond on this. Residents can find details on the consultation page of the website and can take part in the consultation if they chose to do so.</p> | |
| 9. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak: | NONE | |
| 10. Treasurer's report: | <p>The Treasurer's report can be found at Appendix 3 on the website.</p> <p>No change from the last one.</p> | |
| 11. Correspondence: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30th April 2019: Public consultation event. Coastal Flooding Survey. Civic Centre 2pm – 8pm with a presentation at 6.30pm. • Invergare Castle. Enforcement notice 18/01219/ENLIB: Unauthorised internal and external work on a listed property without planning permission. The order will not be enforced since the owners are being co-operative. The Planning Department confirmed that Planning applications, /PP and /LB, will be required, but could give no expected date. • The suggested Community Cleanup was not greeted with any enthusiasm because of time constraints, so it will not take place. • The annual Stakeholder Forum on None Native Invasive Species will take place in Edinburgh this year on 18th June. JC attended the last one in 2015, and will attend this one also • A conference on a fairer more Inclusive Planning System in Scotland will be held in Glasgow on 11th May, organised by Planning Democracy. It might be useful for a member of the CC to attend. There were no volunteers from the members present. | |
| 12. Website and related issues: | Four Newsletters have been sent out since the last meeting | |

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| 13. Councillors' Reports: | None | |
| 14 Members' Reports: | <p>AN: As Licencing Officer, AN advised that the changes to the Licencing (Scotland) Act 2005 do not warrant a response from the CC.</p> <p>FB & JC. There is no update on the fly-tipping in Ardenconnell Woods. JC will check and if necessary discuss this when she meets LE in the near future.</p> <p>JD. There is no further news on the redevelopment of RNCYC</p> <p>JD & JC: A small survey has been conducted with adjoining residents on a possible future use of the Bowling Club. The results will be conveyed to the residents. No further action at this time. Our thanks to PK for his help on distributing and collecting the survey</p> <p>Note. It was noted that PK is moving to Helensburgh so will be ineligible to serve on the Community Council; There was general agreement that he will be a great loss.</p> | |
| 16. AOB: | None. | |
| 17. DONM: | The AGM followed by a regular meeting will take place on Wednesday June 12th 2019 at 7.30pm. | |