

# Minutes of a Meeting of the Rhu and Shandon Community Council

**Wednesday 21st August 2019  
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

**Rhu & Shandon CC:**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Jim Duncan Chairman | JD  |
| Linda Black         | LB  |
| John Clark          | JCI |
| Jean Cook           | JC  |
| Linda Duncan        | LD  |
| Ken Glen            | KG  |
| Derek Hall          | DH  |
| Kevin Johnstone     | KJ  |
| Patrick Johnstone   | PJ  |
| Tim Lamb            | TL  |

**Councillors/Guests/Public:**

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Cllr George Freeman   | GF  |
| PC Ian Mustarde (MDP) | IM  |
| PC William O'Donnell  | WOD |
| PC Andrew Biddulph    | AB  |
| Cdr Mark Fitzsimmons  | MF  |
| Alastair Moore        | AM  |
| John McGall           | JMc |
| James Murphy          | JM  |
| Tara Murphy           | TM  |
| Vivienne Abbott       | VA  |

| <b>Topic</b>                         | <b>Minute</b>  | <b>Decision/<br/>Action</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>1. Apologies:</b>                 | Apologies were received from: Cllr Iain Shonny Paterson<br>Fiona Baker, Olivia Birch. Andrew Nicholson, Cllr Barbara Morgan,<br>Kate Williams  |                             |
| <b>2. Declaration of Interest</b>    | JD and LD as neighbours of property involved in the change of use<br>Planning Application Item 7b  |                             |
| <b>3. Co-option of Kate Williams</b> | The application has been circulated to all members of the Community<br>Council.<br><br>Proposer: JC, Seconded LD. Carried unanimously.   |                             |
| <b>4. Guest speakers:</b>            | <p><b>4a. Police Scotland.</b></p> <p>The full police report will be posted on the website. WOD highlighted the four main incidents in our area, two of which were resolved and two are ongoing, plus 66 minor incidents, including noise complaints. In response to a question WOD will supply the information on how many of the noise complaints concern Invergarra.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note. The number is. 2.</p> <p>It was noted the recent spate of vandalism in Helensburgh has not spread as far as Rhu. On the positive side with regards to the problems in Helensburgh, the recent publicity in the press has encouraged many people to come forward to the police with information.</p> <p><b>4b. HMNB Clyde</b></p> <p><b>Police Update PC Ian Mustarde (MOP)</b></p> <p>The report is posted as Appendix 3. It involved Rules and restriction on the water and a plea for the public to report drones if they are seen in the restricted area. <a href="https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/clyde">https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/clyde</a></p> | WOD                         |

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| <b>HMNB Cdr Mark Fitzsimmons, Base Executive Officer. Clyde:</b>   | <p>The report, provided by the Community Council on Japanese knotweed in Shandon is in the hands of the Environmental Inspection Team. MF assured the meeting that the team are aware of their statutory obligations. He is unable to provide maps of the MOD estate but suggested we provide maps of outbreaks and the MoD will confirm or deny that these are on MoD land. MF will ask if they will liaise directly with the secretary on these matters. It was pointed out that time is running out for the effective treatment of Japanese knotweed this year.</p> | <p>Action JC<br/>Action MF</p> |
| <p>With regard to the Mackenzie Estate, MF told the meeting that Amey has held a series of public meetings. He was unclear on when or where these were held, but promised to send the Secretary a copy of the Power Point Presentation which was used. This included information on the Traffic Management and details of the phases of the demolition. The company doing the demolition is Glasgow based and contact details are on the slides. The demolition is due to start towards the end of August and will be completed in 30 weeks with an expected completion date of 6th February 2020.</p> | <p>Action MF</p>   |                                |
| <p>IM has provided the secretary with the contact details of the Project Manager. The Convener requested the support of MF in ensuring that any further notifications include the Community Council. MF agreed.</p>  |  |                                |
| <p>A civilian Contractor has been recruited for a year to come up with options for future off-site accommodation and for off-site moves of office based activities, which do not need to be behind the wire, the latter being mostly in Helensburgh. The accommodation facet of this will involve the Mackenzie Estate, St Andrews House and properties in Helensburgh.</p>  |  |                                |
| <p>The Convener asked once again that the CC be involved in the discussions for the development of the Mackenzie Estate and At Andrews house.</p>  |  |                                |
| <p>It was confirmed that : Mrs Nyree Stalker will take on the role of Naval Base representative to the CC. MF will send her email address to the Secretary</p>   | <p>Action MF</p>   |                                |
| <b>5. Minutes of meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019:</b>   | <p>The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed LB, seconded JCI</p>  |                                |
| <b>6. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:</b>  | <p>Post Meeting Note.</p> <p><b>6a:</b> Item 6a. 19/00943/PACSCR</p> <p>Details of a PACSCR Application are not made public at this stage.</p> <p>This information was provided by GF later in the meeting.</p>  |                                |

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|                            | <p><b>6b:</b> Item 6c Multi-story car park at Faslane<br/>Details have appeared in the press. Work will start in 2020. The Woodlea Crescent car parks will be completed before the work on the multi-story car park starts.</p>  |                       |
|                            | <p><b>6c:</b> Item 11 According to Ailsa Cunninghaml, A&amp;B will maintain the Play Park “when resources become available”. Most of the surface is unusable, and the grass is not being cut regularly. It was agreed to ask the parents of the children who use the area to put in a complaint on the A&amp;B website to try to force some action. KJ who first raised the issue with the Community Council will encourage the parents to take action.</p>  | Action KJ             |
| <b>7. Planning Matters</b> | <p><b>7a: 19/01573/PP Invergare House</b><br/>Three neighbours of Invergare attended the meeting. Following the last meeting, the CC leafleted residents on the Glenarn Road side of Invergare. DH reported that there are now complaints from residents in Upper Torwoodhill Road. In addition to noise, the neighbours are concerned about the traffic on the narrow approach road and lack of access should emergency vehicles be needed. The outdoor sound system has been turned off but the parties in the house are very noisy. It was reported that some of the police treat the call outs as amusing and that Planning are not prepared to take any action, on what is clearly a commercial operation. The Planning Officer pointed out in a reply to a letter from the CC that the planning applications submitted relate to building work and Enforcement procedures have begun to ascertain the exact use of the building but meeting with the owners has proved difficult. The problem is that Airbnb does not require planning permission, and whereas they think that the use of Invergare goes further and does require Planning Permission, they need to go through the correct procedures and get precise information from the owners. .<br/>Two planning enforcements are under consideration on the property but these are not readily accessible. GF pointed out that Enforcement course are notoriously difficult and toothless and confidentiality in these matters is standard.<br/>Short terms lets are a problem in many places and any regulations which might result from the recent Scottish Government Consultation on this matter will not be in force for some time.</p> | Action Residents      |
|                            | <p>The following points were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents will continue to report noise issues to the police and will always ask for an incident number.</li> <li>• JMcG will send details on an Act which has the power to solve the noise problem. This info will be forwarded to residents who can quote it to the police.</li> <li>• Since unreasonable and persistent noise is also an environmental health Issue, residents should contact Environmental Health at A&amp;B and ask for advice. The</li> </ul>  | Action JMcG &JC       |
|                            |  | Action JC & Residents |

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|                          | <p>secretary will provide the contact details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CC will contact, Head of Planning, Building Services, Chief Inspector Roddy McNeil and the West of Scotland Fire Master on the various issues raised,</li> </ul>  | Action JC                    |
|                          | <p><b>7b. 19/01573/PP Change of Use Duneira Pier Road.</b><br/>JD and LD left the room for this topic and JC took the chair.</p>  |                              |
|                          | <p>Doubt was expressed at the true nature of this change of use. The planning application is very sparse, but public domain information suggests a use other than as a Training Centre. . It was agreed that the CC would lodge an objection citing issues of traffic, and parking on Pier Road, and the fact that the area is a Residential Area not zoned for business.</p>   | Action JC,<br>KC, FB ,<br>TL |
| <b>8. Other Matters:</b> | JD and LD returned to the room.   |                              |
|                          | <b>8a Harvesting Timber</b>   |                              |
|                          | JD thanked GF for his support on this matter.   |                              |
|                          | JD posed the open question on where we go from here, since we have not got the response we were campaigning for from Jim Smith.   |                              |
|                          | <p>GF reported that he had contacted Barry Harper and Tom Davies, the Senior Operations Manager with Scottish Forestry. The latter said that will respond when he had contacted Barry Harper and Ian Catterwell. GF also asked for an update on the alternate route to the east which would join the road system on the A818. Luss Estates have leased part of the land for this suggested road so there are problems. GF has asked for logging operations to be suspended due to the unsuitability of the current route. He has also requested an update on the police report that pedestrians are being put at risk on the current route.</p> |                              |
|                          | <p>JM reported that the residents will pursue a collective complaint to the Ombudsman. They are also considering copying this letter to Tom Davies and our MSPs. The logging license can be suspended if it can be demonstrated that due diligence was not undertaken prior to the start of operations. The CC need to consider their future actions. JD will consult Fiona Baker who has been leading on this matter for the CC.</p>   | Action FB                    |
|                          | <p>GF indicated that he is drawing material together to pass to the Helensburgh Advertiser</p>  |                              |
|                          | <p>It was reported that Tom Davies has said that Road Safety should have been considered when consultation with the community took place before the original contract was agreed. The emphasis in the TTMP is on the state of the road.</p>   |                              |
|                          | <p>Barry Blackwood, the Woodland Officer for Scottish Woodland has said that he was not aware or any discussions about an alternative route.</p>  |                              |

**8b. Update on Heath Related Matters.**

Grant funding of £10.500 has been distributed to local groups including Route 81 (£1050), Garelochhead Riding for the Disabled (£1100), Helensburgh and Lomond Youth Forum (£1125), Helensburgh Art Club (£1000), Garelochhead Station Trust (£350 for Walk Leader training), Kirkmichael Community Trust (£1000 to do ??care), Rosneath Primary (£2000 for physical exercise equipment in the school playground), Food Bank (£1400 for holiday lunch boxes), Helensburgh Community Council (£975). This latter amount be be used to fund a Health and Welfare Festival on January 11th in Helensburgh Parish Hall.

GF expressed concerns on how the money is distributed.

At the Vale of Leven hospital a new scanner has arrived and a tree has been ceremonially planted.

A new West of Scotland Trauma Centre has been opened at the QE hospital with minor units at GR and RAH.

A new call categorisation system has been introduced for ambulance call outs. Five levels have been reduced to three; Critical, Less Critical and Minor Injury. The aim is for a quicker response and initial evaluations are positive.

Conversation Cafes in Argyll and Bute are being set in in Argyll and Bute by the Health and Social Care Partnership.

NHSGC report that in the last 12 months 5100 Health Care Staff have suffered abuse at work..

Links to Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Highland and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde are already on the website. Each has a Newsletter which individuals can sign up to.

**7c. Knotweed**

In addition to the information in item 4b, there nothing positive to report from the officers at Argyll and Bute. The spring treatment window was missed for most outbreaks, despite several reminders, The word is that they will treat the outbreaks a within the next few weeks.

The treatment by Network Rail In Rhu has been successful and a reminder will be sent to ensure that another treatment will be undertaken in September.

**9.Consultations****Details of all of the following are on our website.**

- How Good is your Place. Open until 30<sup>th</sup> September. Up to last week there had been only one submission from Rhu and Shandon.
- Right to buy land for further sustainable development. Open until 19<sup>th</sup> September

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| <b>10. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:</b> | <p>VA commented on that fact that Himalayan Balsam seem to have taken over on the shore opposite the Post Office. .Advice on what can be done about this invasive will be in JC's members report..</p> <p>The other members of the public present contributed to the discussion in items 7a and 8a</p>   |                     |
| <b>11. Treasurer's report:</b>                                 | <p>Following the receipt of the Council grant of £663.50, the closing balance in the accounts is £3562.32. with one outstanding expenses claim.</p> <p>The Report is Appendix 3.</p>   |                     |
| <b>12 Correspondence:</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scotland Woman Stand Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September A&amp;B are hosting a hub event in Lochgilphead to coordinate with the one on Edinburgh. The events are to encourage more women to stand for office. More details on the News page of our website.</li> <li>• Impact of RET on Ferry Services. This might be of interest to some residents who have contacts in the islands.</li> <li>• Vision for Helensburgh. There is a short survey which Helensburgh Community Council encourage you to complete is on their website.</li> </ul>  |                     |
| <b>13. Website and related issues:</b>                         | <p>Four Newsletters have been sent out since the last meeting<br/>The Planning, Consultation and News pages are updated regularly</p>  |                     |
| <b>14. Councillors' Reports:</b>                               | <p>None</p>  |                     |
| <b>15 Members' Reports:</b>                                    | <p>KJ. A patch repair has been done on Aros Road, near the access road to Aros Rhu House.. Water seems to have got under the tarmac, and a cone has been placed over it. KJ agreed to report this to A&amp;B.</p> <p>JC. Attended the 16<sup>th</sup> Non Native Species Forum in Edinburgh in June. Japanese knotweed in now not one of the top15 invasive species in Europe which cause concern across the union, although Himalayan balsam is. JCI confirmed that the best way to eradicate the latter is to systematically remove the seed heads before they explode. This is best done by breaking off the seed head in a plastic bag, to avoid it splitting as it is broken off the plant.</p> <p>JD. There have been some developments on the Bowling Green and JD will circulate a report and update, members. It was noted that a new secure gate has been installed at the bowling club, although it is not clear who is responsible for this.</p> | Action KJ           |
| <b>16. AOB:</b>  | <p>None.</p>   |                     |
| <b>17. DONM:</b>   | <p>The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday October 9th 2019 at 7.30pm.</p>   |                     |