

**Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community
Council**

**Wednesday 13th April 2022
Rhu and Shandon Church Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Fiona Baker Chairman	FB
Olivia Birch	OB
Jean Cook	JC
Laura Freeland	LF
John McGall	JM
Alastair Moore	AM
Andrew Nicholson	AN
Kate Williams	KW

Councillors/Guests/Public:

PC Andrew Omand	AO
Linda Baylem	LB
Thomas Baylem	TB
Jean Fairlie	JF
Allan Fairlie	AF
William Moorhouse	WM
George Wilson	GW

Topic	Decision/ Action
1. Apologies:	Apologies were received from CC members Jim Duncan, Linda Duncan, Linda Black, John Clark, Derek Hall, and Tim Lamb, Cllrs George Freeman and Iain Patterson and Mark Fitzsimmons (MF) from HMNB Clyde. Those attending the meeting introduced themselves and were welcomed by the Chairman.
2. Declaration of Interest	FB. Item 7b Ferry Point.
3. Appointment of a Minutes Secretary	There were no volunteers.
4. Guest Reports	<p>a POLICE REPORT: 3 significant crimes; vandalism near Blairvadach Children's Unit involving some throwing and damage to a vehicle, theft from a shipping container in Glenarn Road- ongoing and 37 other incidents; fraud, house alarms, road traffic issues, missing persons and disturbance calls.</p> <p>b.HMNB Clyde: MF. Nothing to report but Mark is still trying to secure some input into the Gala from MoD Personnel.</p> <p>c. MDP Report: PC Drew Omand, the new Defence Community Police Officer (DCPO) for the Churchill and Helensburgh Defence Estates including Smuggler's Way, outlined his Report which is posted on the website.</p> <p>He drew attention to the increase in the number of drones, particularly in sensitive defence areas, and asked that the public should report sightings to HMNB Clyde Control room (Tel 01436 655765) giving details of time and place and a description.</p> <p>He noted that the Peace Camp celebrates its 40th Anniversary in June 2022 with a month-long series of events.</p>

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Drew has been working with the Youth Engagement Officer, Mark Toner and with Sheena Nelson in reaching out to the schools, mainly P5 and P6. Internet Safety is high on the agenda. He will also assist at the Gala and will contact Gordon Black, the Chair of the Gala Committee.	
5. Minutes of previous meeting	Approved.
6.Matters Arising	
The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a correct record. Proposed AM, Seconded by FB, and agreed unanimously.	
Consideration of issues not on the Agenda.	
7. A Defibrillator sign has not yet been installed on roads near the Scout Hut as we requested. 210915-000250. In fact there has been no response, despite reminders	
7. Official Argyll and Bute Dog Fouling signs have been requested for the gates into Rhu Play Park. 220412-000673.	
8b Invergare: The appeal was rejected by the Scottish Government on 11 th February was upheld by the PPSLC on 23 rd March.	
10.Consultations:	
Empowering our Educators. Our response is posted on the Archived Consultations page of our website.	
We did not respond to the consultations on the HSBC Budget, Pavement Parking or Free Period Provision.	
13. Green Island Felling 20/02183/FELLIN	
In our submission in December 2020, we asked that the logging vehicles should not travel along the A814 through Rhu Village.	
Howard Young explained in an email that in such applications the Council is a consultee and not the decision maker. They are consulted to identify if the trees are protected by TPOs. Scottish Forestry would consult separately on other issues which they did not do. He denied that our representation had been ignored and no-one bothered to tell us that we had to contact SF. He said that they do not usually pass on third part comments to SF. It was up to us to talk separately to Roads. He agreed to look back and see what procedures were involved. Watch this space!	
On the same issue Iain Catterwell said there was no difference between a logging truck and an HGV and there is a presumption that the TTMP will use the A814. He suggested that the TTMP drawn up in 2014 when the last logging here took place will still be in use. I have not been able to access this.	
Whether a TTMP is required is at the decision of the Council, since these are concerned with the state of roads, not road safety. LF thought she may have a copy of an existing TTMP for this forest and will forward it to the Secretary if she has.	
Post meeting note: LF forwarded TTMP and a letter has been written to IC. Further investigation is needed here. FB reported that for the forthcoming felling in Highlandsman and Torr and for the Road Building in Letrault and Stuckenduff, the previous	Action LF

TTMP will have to be revised following a consultation with the community.

JC met with Fergus Madigan from Garelochhead and Norman Muir from Helensburgh to consider collaboration on common issues that many CCs have with A&B. Another meeting will be arranged. FB suggested that maybe we should request a meeting with officers of the Council.

7.Planning Matters

7a: RHU LODGE 21/02709/PP: Variation of Road Conditions at Ferry Road

This application is in response to the approval for a single dwelling house which required some changes to Ferry road. The owner objected to the improvements required for Ferry Road and suggested others. The CC objected. We asked that the Planning and Roads Departments would consider whether the conditions attached to Planning Applications 16/02043/PP, 16/01491/PP and 20/01150/PP, described as Residential Properties in their applications, are appropriate for what has evidently become a series of commercial developments at Rhu Lodge. The owner of Rhu Lodge had lobbied pedestrians who use Ferry Road suggesting that the road would change dramatically unless his proposal was approved. Since this is essentially a road usage issue, our Objection provided evidence in the form of links to websites of the commercial nature of activities at Rhu Lodge of which Planning are unaware. By Monday, the links we had in our objection were all unavailable, but fortunately we had screen shots so were able to resubmit with screen shots instead of links. This application is still "Awaiting Decision".

7b: Ferry Point Change of use

Following our submission **to the above**, and after several reminders, Howard Young confirmed on 12th April that an enforcement case on Change of use has been opened on 16/01491/PP and they are in the process of collecting information before taking action

7c: Demolition of Workshop and Erection of Replacement Workshop/Store:19/02479/pp

This planning application is for the removal of a single story wooden building of height 3m at its highest point and its replacement by a two storey structure of height 5.65m, higher than the two nearest buildings in Inchgower Grove, a modest increase in height according to the application. This structure was a joinery workshop in the 1950s. Because it is in a conservation area, there is a presumption for replacing like for like. It was agreed that the application is flawed in many respects. Two of the four neighbours are directly affected have found that this application is impinging on house sales. It was agreed that the Planning Subcommittee should investigate this further and take what action they see fit in attempting to get this application reconsidered. It was also suggested that advice should be sort from PAS.

7d: Duneira 19/01573/PP Change of use from Dwelling House to

Residential Training Centre.

This was approved in January 2020 subject to conditions. The owner appealed against these conditions. No reply from Howard Young in response to the receipt of the half dozen links demonstrating that the property was in fact, being used for short- term lets, until today."The matter is being investigated and the department will endeavour to send a reply within 28 working days".

8.Other Matters**8a:Road Safety Campaign**

The email roadsafety@rhuandshandoncommunity.org has received no reports but AM reported that his campaign on the Rhu Bay Face book page had generated 70 to 85 responses. Despite attempts and promises, the reporting system to A&B is flawed and many residents feel that they have been let down by A&B. AM registered a complaint about the reporting system and this was upheld The project manager at Roads and Infrastructure accepts that there is a problem but, despite promises, has yet to take any action.

8b:Forestry Issues

FB proposed that the CC write a formal letter of complaint to Scottish Forestry(SF) copied to Jackie Baillie and Marie McCallam, the Minister for Forestry, about the shambles of the consultation which we have been subjected on Letrault and Stuckenduff (L&S). On 7th May 2021, when we were informed that the grants had been awarded, we responded to say that the planting looked better but could we have up-to-date copies of the Operational Plan and the Issues Log. We asked Scottish Woodlands(SW) and SF again in November and in February this year and finally FB asked Doug Howieson, Operations Manager at SF on 9th March. A reply from the latter blamed Covid but assured us they were working on it. He said that only one representation had been received by SF on these proposals, We know this to be untrue. Iain Catterwell (IC) has said that because of the minister's position he hoped that L&S would be the last of the old bad consultations. We would like it to be the first of the good ones!

Marie McCallum spoke at a recent CONFOR meeting and said that communities are no longer to have Forestry "done to them"; they need to be consulted and there needs to be community benefits. In a reply to a question from English Forestry, SF explained that they were able to progress so many applications because they had reduced the need for an Environment Assessment (EIA) to only 2%. L&S did not have an EIA. .Many issues have been ignored; wildlife in burns, short eared owls, etc We now know that future coups from H&T will be smaller, 10 to 12 thousand tons instead of the recent harvest of 30. Harvesting will take place every two years from 2022 to 2035. There will no logging between 2035 and 2055 when all three properties will be productive. He said that explorations on the potential for an alternative timber route have been undertaken and at this stage are not viable.

A meeting of active parties to discuss a strategy for action. We might also consider consulting PAS.

It was noted that other Community Councils in Dumfries and Galloway are similarly affected.

Finally it was agreed unanimously that the formal letter of complaint mooted above would be sent.

Action FB

There is no further feedback on the Emergency TPO on Whistler Glen and Torr Farm, despite a reminder being sent to Planning.

Action FB/JC

8c:Aldonaig

The owner Mr Al Taghi has been introduced to Peter MacDonald from Horse Rescue Scotland who will help him get rid of the existing troublesome tenant and obtain a more satisfactory one. Police Scotland and MDP are aware of the situation.

8d:Future of Bowling Club site

A registered letter was sent to Messrs Prow and Carr to ask if they would consider transferring or selling this piece of land to the Community. A reply was received which has been circulated. . The answer was a very definite “no”. They made it clear that as far as they are concerned the matter is closed.

The demolition application for the existing structure has been applied for. WM reported a thwarted attempt made by the owners, to force entry into the site via Inchgower Grove, which would have involved making holes in a brick wall, beech hedge and fence. Police Scotland and A&B have been informed.

8e: Shandon TPO.

Nothing to report.

8f:Planning Advice Scotland(PAS)

Information about this has been circulated PAS offer advice, talks and training.

It was agreed that we invite them to give a talk first and then arrange a training session.

Action JC

8g:Local Place Plans

These will be material considerations in planning applications. Once in place a Plan should give a community more control over local matters.

Questions about this will be raised with PAS.

8h: Sewage in Rhu Bay

This current outflow was been reported to Scottish Water and to SEPA. As of today the immediate problem has been solved but it is likely to return. It seems to be related to problems with the sewage from Rosslea Hall. Hotel. The next time it happens, we will contact SEPA and ask them to confirm that the Septic Tank at Rosslea Hall is fit for purpose.

Post meeting note. For the record, the last time the CC was involved was in Jan 2019. There was also been an outflow in October 2018. Both of these were reported to Scottish Water and SEPA and the Environmental Health Officer was at the time. .

Given the lateness of the hour, a change in running order was made at this point

10.

Opportunity for members of the

Jean and Allan Fairley. Shandon

Assisted Bin Collection: There has not been a bin collection at their property for 40 years. Now age and infirmity have kicked in and the

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11. Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the significant correspondence has been covered in the meeting apart from several unanswered requests for information from Planning, Scottish Forestry and Scottish Woodlands. • Iona Community Council has asked for us to support their position on the recent Consultation on Education. Since their position was essentially ours, it was agreed that we will do this. 	Action JC	
12 Councillors' Reports	<p>A report from Cllr Patterson has been circulated. If anyone wants to consult him he will be available in Garelochhead next week. The report covered the successful conclusion to a bus stop problem and he has raised actions on the state of the road on Smuggler's Way, damage to the pedestrian barrier and the faded street signs at Quarry Knowe. He is still aware of the footpath problem on Pier Road.</p>		
13. Member's Reports	<p>JC on behalf of LD. Concern has been expressed at the number of temporary orange fences which are in Rhu. Three along the bay side, some of which are very insecurely attached and downright dangerous and a strange one outside Rhu House where the actual fence is intact. This one is particularly poorly attached. The others are in places where the existing fence has rotted away and is unsafe. There is also another behind the bus stop between Pier Road and Artarman Road, which is in front of a lamp post which has rotted away, and is lying by the wall. Both LD and AM has already asked that these be removed. Both have incident numbers. It was agreed to ask A&B when they intend to repair the bayside fences and if they will remove the unneeded sections from outside Rhu House, and deal with the light pole.</p> <p>KW: Beach Clean</p> <p>The end of May was suggested. KW will organise but is unlikely to attend due to other commitments.</p> <p>OB: Memorial Seat at the end of Guthrie Place</p> <p>OB felt the seat would be used. KW will pursue this with the proposer</p>		<p>Action JC</p> <p>Action KW</p> <p>Action KW</p>
	<p>JM Forestry issues Summary of document circulated to members</p> <p>A document was circulated to members by JM, With AM and LF he has have been actively engaged in exploring issues initially concerned with the timber harvesting from Highlandman's and the possibility of an alternate extraction route. An action plan is needed to take matters forward. It was agreed that an initial meeting should be held with the three of them and FB & JC. This should be arranged as soon as possible.</p> <p>A meeting was agreed It was suggested that other interested parties could be invited to the meeting. This will allow those interested to get up to speed on this fiendishly complicated matter.</p> <p>John pointed out that the three members did not see themselves as a "Road Safety Group", and suggest "Timber Haulage Subgroup."</p>		Action FB
	<p>AN Church Matters</p> <p>He reported that the church does not now have a minister and its future is</p>		

Topic**Decision/
Action**

uncertain. The Church of Scotland has far too many buildings and not enough ministers. Sometime this year, the future of Rhu Church will be decided.

FB noted that the Gala would be held at Royal Northern on 11th June.

JC: Derek Hall has resigned effective immediately.

Post Meeting Note. This means that we can co-opt two other members.

14.AOB

None

DONM:

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday June 8th directly following the AGM at 7.30pm. Format and venue to be agreed nearer the date.