

Rhu and Shandon Community Council Ordinary Meeting

Held on 11th April 2012

At Rhu Community Hall

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Jack Rudram	Convenor	(JR)
Pat Pollok-Morris	Deputy Convenor	(PPM)
Jean Cook	Secretary	(JC)
Colin Caskie	Treasurer	(CC)
Gordon King	Minute Secretary	(GK)
Fiona Baker		(FB)
Jayne Burnett		(JB)
Andrew Nicholson		(AN)
Linda Duncan		(LD)
Jim Duncan		(JD)

Guests/Public:

Cllr Billy Petrie	(BP)
Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
PC Angus Daniel	(AD)
Ronald Sandeman	(RS)
Kenneth Smith	(KS)
Maurice Corry	(MC)

Meeting was opened by JR at 1935.

The Convener welcomed those present to the meeting.

1. Apologies:

Martin Ritch
Morven Boyle
Cllr Danny Kelly

2. Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting:

The minutes of the Meeting held on 8 Feb 2012 were accepted. (CC) & (JB).

3. Matters Arising:

- Chord Project – Initially it was agreed at the meeting that the Community Council should not write a letter at this point but should keep a watching brief on developments. GF pointed out that, after the forthcoming elections, the *'New Council'* may review the situation. PPM had tried to intervene and suggest that the emphasis should be changed from the centre of the town to the front, but has been unsuccessful. BP agreed that we should wait until after the elections but move quickly afterwards if changes to the square are still an issue as the intentions are to carry out the work this year. After the discussion it was decided that PPM and JC should draft a letter with the views of R&SCC.

4. Guest Speakers:

Guest Speaker 1 – PC Angus Daniel for Police Community Officer:

PC Daniel informed the council that:

- Most of the incidents in Rhu were related to traffic. The Police have targeted drivers who were exceeding the speed limit through the village and there was little evidence of excessive speed. Drivers who were caught were given warnings. A large number of the speeding vehicles were busses and motorcycles.
- There is expected to be an increase in incidents of underage drinking during the summer months and the public are urged to inform the Police if this is seen so that the problem can be nipped in the bud.
- There was a report of a suspicious-looking person sighted but no trace was found and no report made.
- People should be on the lookout for bogus workmen who will charge excessively for poor quality work.

Concerns were raised by the Community Council that motorcycles had been seen using excessive speed and 'pulling wheelies' along the road between Rhu and the Naval Base. There was a discussion with regard to extending the 30 mph speed limit and reviewing the limit along the A814 with the increase in population expected as the base expands. It was pointed out that changes would depend upon statistics of accidents that have happened but would not take account of all of the near misses that would not have been reported. Discussions would need to take place between the community, Police and Council and traffic surveys for speed and traffic density would have to be carried out. JB proposed that we should write to the Roads Department to ask that they could investigate if the current speed limits and that the location of the signs were appropriate. JB also raised the problem of parents parking in the vicinity of the school which is causing concerns for the safety of the children and asked if Police could help at peak times.

Guest Speaker 2 – HMNB Clyde - Cdr James Leatherby:

Cdr Leatherby stated that he had little to report and advised that, in effect, 'purdah' was now in force ahead of the Local Elections, the vast majority of which will be held on Wed 3 May 12. [Note: "Purdah" is the colloquial expression used to cover the period (normally the 3 weeks) preceding elections/referendums during which public servants are required to observe particular care in relation to the conduct of government business in order to ensure that no activities or announcements are undertaken that could be perceived as having a potential impact upon those same elections]. Thus he reported:

- That he had had discussions recently with the Dr Alastair Macbeth of the Helensburgh Study Group seeking an update to past population and housing projections relating to Base staff, and that he had just received 2 requests for Base assistance from BP relating to the Bi-centenary of Henry Bell's Comet celebrations.
- That the Clyde Local Liaison Committee had met on Thu 29 Mar 12. Although GF confirmed that the meeting had been useful and well attended, PPM advised that there had been no R&SCC representation. Thus, JL accepted the following actions:
 - To establish what had happened to the anticipated invitation

- To provide PPM with a copy of the Notes when they become available
- That HMS Ambush (the 2nd Astute Class submarine) is due to arrive this summer.
- That the major (3 yearly) Grade A Nuclear Emergency Response Exercise, Ex SHORT SERMON 2012, will take place on Wed 5 Sep 12.
- That the signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant is due to take place on 26 April.

[Post Meeting Note: On Fri 13 Apr 12 it was mutually agreed between the Naval Base Commander and the Chief Executive of Argyll & Bute Council that this event should be postponed for reasons of 'purdah'; realistically unlikely to be rescheduled before Jun 12.

Base Support for Rhu Gala. FB informed James that she has been in touch with Cdr Phil Ireland and applied for the licence for the Rhu Gala. In the discussion that followed it was confirmed that the fee covers one event only and that the Base cannot waive that fee because it covers insurance for MOD for the event. The Convenor encouraged further discussion to be held Out of Committee.

- That the next Exercise JOINT WARRIOR was due to start within 2 days and that, over the course of the next weekend, there may be a marked increase in local traffic as 45 Cdo embark in 2 of the ships involved using the Clyde Off-site Centre in Rhu.

5. Planning Matters:

- Rhu Marina Masterplan – Crown Estates (CE) and Rhu Marina Developments (RMD) have not yet re-submitted a masterplan so effectively nothing has happened since our last meeting. Watch this space.
- An email has been received with regard to planning reform which contains 5 consultation papers, looking for comments on the proposals. JC will forward to Community Council members for any comments to meet a closing date of 22 June.
- JD informed the meeting that Rhu Marina had proposed £700,000 to be spent on replacement concrete pontoons. He raised the question whether they need planning permission to change from the original wooden pontoons.
- Commenting on the proposed plans for the leisure centre on the pier, FB asked whether we should be proactive in putting forward our views on what people want. The leisure centre will not just be a replacement swimming pool but will be limited by the money in the capital project. Clearly views and opinions will need to be submitted before the plans are drawn up so that they can be taken into account. It was suggested that there should be dialogue with Helensburgh Community Council. It was proposed to write a letter to Sandy McTaggart requesting that R&SCC be kept informed of progress and planning and that we would like to be part of the early planning and consultation. The letter should be copied to all 8 Community Councils in the Helensburgh and Lomond area.

6. Members of the Public:

Maurice Corry gave thanks for the support to the Rhu Gala.

7. Treasurers Report:

CC reported that that he had handed over the accounts to Martin Ritch, the new treasurer. Colin provided the Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 March 2012. The statement is required to be submitted to the council in order to claim the £400 annual grant. He added that the Community Council is always open to requests for contributions to help good local causes, each of which would be judged on its merit, and the scale of such contributions determined by the financial resources available. The Rhu Gala committee were invited to apply for a contribution to meet their needs.

Highlights of expenditure over the last 8 years:

- £500 – School Garden project
- £500 – Church clock repair
- £1000 – Community Hall upgrade
- £200 – Helensburgh Access project

JR proposed a vote of thanks to Colin for his sterling service over the last 8 years.

8. Correspondence – Nil

9. Members Reports:

- CC reported that the Churchyard wall had been repaired. The water has returned to Cumberland Road, previous searches for the source were inconclusive, major works will be required to resolve this issue. It was thought that Scottish Water were not responsible and the council are conducting a major survey.
- LD Reported that there are numerous pot holes in Artarman Road which require to be repaired. The problem is compounded by lack of street lighting and no footpath. This has been reported by email. LD was asked to forward copy of email to GF and GK.
- FB gave a short report on Gala preparations; there will be a dog show, craft fair in the village hall and prize tug-o-war sponsored by the Rhu Inn. She enquired as to whether the traffic information sign could be used to raise awareness of the event and was given the contact details of the roads department, (Campbell Divertie). FB informed those present that the locks are due to be changed on the village hall on Sunday 15th April so key holders will need to exchange their keys. There is a box of papers in the hall which include Community Council minutes. She added that there was a problem with irresponsible dog owners in Lineside Walk and Rhu in general allowing their animals to foul the footpaths. It was agreed that signage made little difference and approaching perpetrators may be unwise. If anyone can be identified or has regular habits the dog warden (Dominic Swan) can be informed who will know to intervene. Additionally she reported that the steps between Lineside Walk and Manse Brae are in need of cleaning to clear litter and debris. GK to contact David.Rae@acha.
- PPM told the meeting that the wall at Orwell Lodge is still in a dangerous condition. The house owner has been contacted but has failed to respond. JC was asked to contact Jan Crawford to try and find the correspondence with the owner. Pat has

also raised papers to ban dogs from the play park to safeguard the health of the children against the dangers of dog waste.

- JB said that the school is still getting funds for the ECO playground and doing good work in the community. Litter is still an issue at the bus stop to the North of the Peace Camp. She suggested that providing a waste bin at the bus stop may help.
- GK nothing further to add.
- JC pointed out that Japanese knot weed was encroaching everywhere. Trials are ongoing control the weed but the only effective weedkiller is not licensed for use and it was pointed out that the weed can be cut down but not transported anywhere. She has been sent a questionnaire with regard to Affordable Rented Housing most of which seems to be commonsense and strengthens the hand of social landlords. After a short discussion about commenting on various issues it was decided to take no further action on this one.
- AN passed round the pack promoting the Big Lunch as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, encouraging communities to have an organised lunch. This event is proposed by the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of the Queen. The proposed date for lunches is 3rd June and BP suggested that one could be held in the village hall for senior citizens. AN asked to send email to encourage support. This could be incorporated onto the Community Council website.

10. AOB.

- Production of a newsletter was raised JR said that this is a subject for the next meeting to allow people to get their thoughts together.
- We should be promoting the Community Council – this is a recurring topic.
- Suggestions for amendments to the website to JC who will liaise with John Fenny.
- There will be a presentation on the Argyll and Islands Countryside Trust on 1st May in Garelochhead. This will discuss access to the coast and countryside, what happens now and the reasons for changing. People are encouraged to attend. FB has completed a feedback form on the issue.
- JR and JC will be attending the Association of Scottish Community Councils in Dunblane.
- The RNEQC will be lighting a beacon on the spit as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. This will be a registered event and co-ordinated nationally. The beacon will be lit on 4th June. Time to be confirmed.

11. DONM. 13th June at 1930 in the Community Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2138.