

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013  
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Jack Rudram (JR)  
Pat Pollok-Morris (PPM)  
Jean Cook (JC)  
Gordon King (GK)  
Andrew Nicholson (AN)  
Jayne Burnett (JB)  
Fiona Baker (FB)  
Ronald Sandeman (RS)

Guests/Public:

Cdr James Leatherby (JL)  
PC Colin MacMillan (CM)  
George Wilson (GW)  
P Paisley  
M Paisley  
J McBeam  
Edna Muir  
Craig Jackson  
John Fraser  
Craig Leslie  
A Moore

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
<b>1. Apologies:</b>	Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Scott Weir, Linda Duncan, Jim Duncan, Martin Ritch, Morven Boyle, PC Andy Crawford, Audrey Butler, Cllr George Freeman, Cllr Robert MacIntyre and Cllr Maurice Corry.	
<b>2. Minutes of meeting held February 13<sup>th</sup> 2013</b>	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2013 were considered	The minutes were <b>approved</b> .
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>	<p><b>3a. The Barge Memorial Garden.</b> AN contacted Alistair Hope and was asked to submit request for financial assistance to tidy up the space although the Memorial trust has no knowledge of the area. It is believed that members of the Barge family had tended it in the past but have now moved away.</p> <p><b>3b. Shoptmart.</b> The shop has applied for a liquor licence.</p> <p><b>3c. Scout hut.</b> Cllr Robert MacIntyre was due to give update but was not available.</p> <p><b>3d. Flooding in community area.</b> JC has circulated letter. Jim Smith states that there is cyclical cleaning but there is no evidence of this actually happening. RS reported that the grille adjacent to Aros Road had been</p>	<p>AN to get quote for work to be done and continue dialogue with Alistair Hope.</p> <p>Noted, no objection.</p>

broken down so will not block in future and that the pipes under the road have been cleared. JL said that the culverts are cleared 3 times per week at the Naval Base and warned not to underestimate the task. GW has reported a large number of blocked drains but no action has been taken.

Letter from Jim Smith is Appendix 1

JC asked to collate information and reply to Jim Smith.

**3e. Japanese Knotweed.** JC has written to Cllr George Freeman asking if the document on recognising and dealing with Japanese Knotweed that he was lobbying the Council to produce was available.. Cardross CC, who also have a knotweed taskforce have been contacted are likely to work cooperatively with RSCC

JB volunteered to assist JC in pursuing information.

**3f. Cove Wind Farm.** Debate on the Cove Wind Farm project has gone quiet. The National Park has raised an objection.

Subject removed from agenda.

**3g. Rhu Bowling Club.** The demise of the bowling club is irrecoverable and the ground is being returned to Luss Estates as confirmed in letter from Leonard Prow. The Community Council are interested in the future use of the site and JR has suggested that there should be a meeting with Luss Estates to discuss the way ahead.

JC asked to contact Luss Estates.

**3h. Argyll and Bute Budget.** A letter of concern has been sent to A&B, no reply has been received to date.

Letter sent is Appendix 2

**3i. Reorganisation of Community Councils.** JR and JC attended the meeting of Community Councils with Charles Repkie. The committee has been looking at the boundaries of Community Councils which were satisfactory for Helensburgh, Rhu and Shandon. The scheme seems to be operating reasonably well. Best practice is being used. The use of co-opted members was discussed. Helensburgh would like to adopt this approach. The committee would like to broaden the base of representation on Community Councils and it has been observed that they are made up of the 'more senior' members of the community although this was not seen as an issue. The use of social media is growing - fact. It was suggested that Community Councillors were given a retainer, this was not supported by the H&L Community Councils.

Use of co-opted members supported by R&SCC payment of a retainer was not.

JC asked to provide feedback to Charles Repkie.

**3j. Data Protection.** After receiving advice from Argyll and Bute the Community Council will apply for data protection registration at a cost of £35 pa.

This may require the production of a policy document.

R&SCC will register.

**3k. Grit Bins.** PPM reported that a new grit bin had been placed on Cumberland Road.

**3l. Pot Holes.** Cllr Robert MacIntyre not available to give update.

**3m. Conservation Charter.** JD has discovered that there is no Conservation Charter for Rhu and Shandon. Linda Robertson has stated that there were 31 in Argyll and Bute and will all be re-assessed by 2015. 12 have been ongoing since 1997. JD considers that this needs to be pursued.

R&SCC unanimously supports JD's position.

**3n. Matters Arising.** There were no further matters arising.

#### 4. Guest Speakers

**4a. PC Colin MacMillan.** PC Macmillan reported that 'Police Scotland' was now in force with Chief Constable Stephen House in overall charge. He reported that there have been 5 instances of crimes in the area; 2 Traffic offences, 2 drug dealing and 1 breach of the peace. There has been an increase in road checks and nowadays every Police Officer trained in the use of speed detection equipment. He warned of mass demonstration planned for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April at HM Naval Base Clyde and confirmed that the Police were working with the base security team. The current priorities are targeting speeding on the A814 between Rhu and the base. With the nights drawing out there is the potential for drunk and disorderly behaviour and anyone witnessing instances should be reported to the Police. There has been a rise in theft of fuel oil from properties on the peninsula. There is a reminder that the new number 101 has been introduced to report crime that has happened which should be used in preference to 999 which is reserved for crime that is in progress or other emergencies. If in doubt use 999. He also stated that there will be additional Police in the area for the period of Joint Warrior.

**4b. Cdr James Leatherby.** JL updated the Council on a number of items which had been covered in previous meetings and provided a brief on some new ones, as follows:

- The Armed Forces Community Covenant (AFCC). Good work continues, still Army led from

Stirling but now bolstered by funding from LIBOR fines imposed upon Banks.

- The Service Pupil Premium is operated differently in Scotland than in England but for identical reasons (to provide additional support for Service Children), using a bidding process (again led by the Army but with Base representation) to achieve a similar effect.

Post Meeting Note: Advice has been received that the details of the successful applications for funds from the £3M Support Fund for Schools with Service Children have been published. A total of 18 applications were received in Scotland and 13 of these have been offered funding by the Funding Panel. The successful applicants include a total of £64,000 continuation funding for additional teaching staff in various schools within Argyll & Bute.

- The Base continues to be involved with ABC in combating the local flooding events, by improving access to the culverts located between the railway line and the A814, etc.
- The first ships for the next Ex JOINT WARRIOR arrive tomorrow. This coming weekend Faslane will host 2 x German, 2 x Danish, 1 x Dutch, 1 x Norwegian plus 6 visiting RN vessels while 17 other foreign warships head for Glasgow.
- Reaffirmed that the “Stop Trident” mass demonstration event being promoted to take place in the vicinity of HMNB Clyde on Mon 15 Apr 13 was expected to become a reality and to have a local impact.

## **5. Planning Matters.**

**5a. Rhu Marina development.** The Masterplan for the development was exhibited in the Community Hall on 2 Apr. Consideration of the Masterplan and planning applications has been postponed until the May with an extension for objections until 24 Apr to allow time for the submission of views. A survey was

conducted by R&SCC. Results from 107 people polled: 26 supported proposal, 13 agreed with reservations, 10 had no opinion, 58 disagreed on various grounds including excessive height, excessive numbers of units and that it was not in keeping with the Conservation area. RS was 'horrified'. As a keen supporter of GSS he commented that none of the companies that work from the marina had been consulted and there had been poor process throughout. GSS will need temporary accommodation during the development of the site. There followed a lengthy and heated comment from a member of the public with an apparent inability to access the A&B Council website.

**5b. Local Development Plan.** Comments have been invited by 29 April on following subjects:

- Rhu Marina – High density housing
- Housing allocation at Blairvadach, 28 houses increased to 64, another 60 to the NW of the main house all as part of settlement zone. 25% to be affordable housing.
- Re-zoning of the area above the railway line from Green Belt to Countryside.

FB concerned about the re-zoning as this would be a step towards development of the area.

**6. Local Plan**

A meeting is to be held in the Rosslea Hall Hotel at 7:30pm on Monday 15 Apr to discuss the Local Development Plan and the Rhu Marina Masterplan to take views from the residents of Rhu and Shandon. The R&SCC sub committee will meet shortly afterwards to formulate a response to the proposals.

**7. Opportunity for members of public to speak**

No additional comments or matters were raised by the public.

**8. Treasurers Report**

JC presented the Treasurer's report, full details were circulated prior to the meeting. Jean was thanked for the excellent work she had done producing the leaflets and for her contribution to the improvement of the website.

Income and expenditure figures accepted.

**9. Correspondence**

Correspondence received has been distributed by email.

**10. Members' Reports**

**FB.** The gala committee had received a grant to buy equipment for a bigger and

better Rhu Gala. FB was also asking for volunteers to help with the gala on 8 Jun between 12 and 4pm.

**RS.** Reported that, despite surveys and enforcement, the speeding on the A814 was just as bad as ever. The survey did not highlight the real issues of the excessive speeds by the minority of road users. Motorcycles had been seen pulling wheelies at evenings and weekends.

**AN.** Rhu Church is linking with St Andrews Church in Helensburgh and services will be held in Rhu every Sunday at 11 o'clock.

**JB.** The school restarts on 15 Apr after the Easter holidays. Mrs Milne will be returning at the same time. The bike sale and associated activities raised £1800 for the school.

**11. AOB.**

Everyone was reminded that there is an extraordinary meeting in the Rosslea Hall Hotel on 15 Apr at 7:30pm. The purpose of the meeting is for the public to make their views known on the Local Development Plan for high density housing at Rhu Marina, 124 houses at Blairvadach and plans to reduce the Greenbelt and the Masterplan for the marina.

**12. DONM.**

The next ordinary meeting will take place at 7:30 pm 12<sup>th</sup> June 13 in the Community Hall.