

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 14th August 2013
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

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

Guests/Public:

Cllr Robert MacIntyre (RM)
Cllr Maurice Corry (MC)
George Wilson (GW)
Peter Knox
Mike Gemmell (MG)
Brian Fleming
Graham Miller (GM)
Alastair Moore (AM)
Ruth Fleming
Tim Lamb (TL)
Rodney Snook (RS2)
Forbes Ferguson MBE
Chris Lee
Jan Lee
Alison Mc Gall

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
1. Apologies:	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Cllr George Freeman, Cdr James Leatherby RN and PC Andy Crawford.	
2. Minutes of meeting held 12 June 2013	2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 th June 2013 were considered.	The minutes were approved (LD & JB) .
3. Matters Arising	<p>3a. The Barge Memorial Garden. The Garden is owned by the council, the original plants were donated by Colonel Barge who indicated that the area could serve as a place for quiet reflection. The Barge Memorial Trust provides grants and could contribute towards maintenance of the garden.</p> <p>3c. Scout hut. GW contacted the Environmental Health Department with regard to the 'smelly drain' adjacent to the Scout Hut. He was told that it was 'ionisation' of the pipe. Further investigation is needed. The matter seems to lie between the Environmental Health Department and Scottish Water.</p> <p>3d. Flooding in community area. A dedicated line (01546 605514) has been introduced by A&B Council to report blocked drains. JC has reported a number of drains some of which have been cleared and repaired which proves that the system is working. The public are encouraged to 'adopt a drain' and report problems directly. RM added that capital works were currently underway and the drains will be cleared afterwards. A new grille has been fitted in Lineside Walk and extensive work has been carried out on the A814 clearing culverts beneath the road around the Naval Base.</p>	<p>MC to liaise with AN to pursue funding and progress improvement of garden.</p> <p>RM asked to pursue.</p>

3e. Japanese Knotweed. No further progress. The section on the R&SCC website dedicated to the subject still needs further work

Ongoing

3g. Rhu Bowling Club. This issue is now being dealt directly by the residents and with Luss Estates The entrance to the site has been gated and locked.

3m. Conservation Charter. JD and FB have continued the quest to assist A&B council in the production of the Charter. The object is to detail the features within the area that should be conserved, the area being roughly which lies within the 30mph speed limit along the A814. The sub committee have enlisted the assistance of Mr and Mrs Thornley for help with buildings of architectural significance, Mr Petrie for historical information and SEPA for the environment. To be done properly this is an extensive task and some costs are involved. FB is actively seeking grants to assist and, as the work should have been carried out by A&B Council, there may be an avenue to recoup some of the cost. Meanwhile JD asked for a working capital of £250 for printing and purchase of documentation. This was unanimously agreed.

JD asked to continue the project.

14a JC reported that the 4 issues with respect to the cycle path; missing metal covers from drains and water access points, blocked gully, unmowed verges and weeds on the edges of the path have all been dealt with by Gerry O'Hare and his team. They even discovered some Japanese knotweed which they have treated.

14d. A letter with photographic evidence has been sent to the Roads Department regarding the positioning of the 60mph sign in North Shandon, An acknowledgement has been received.

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

continuing

4. Guest Speakers

4a. There was no Community Police Officers present but the local crime figures had been passed to JC as follows:

- 1 of Drinking and driving
- 1 of Dangerous Driving
- 1 of House Breaking in Shandon
- 1 of Excess speed
- 1 of Dog out of control
- 1 of Drink Driving & Dangerous Driving
- 1 of Disorderly conduct (Barge Court)
- 1 of Theft of Lead from roof in Shandon

GM highlighted that a 'Gypsy' in a white transit type van had been seen parked in Pier Road and the occupant was looking for a caravan. GM warned that someone is going around looking for open garages and outbuildings and that it was believed that 2 motorcycles had been stolen. As these were not included in the statistics provided GM was advised to report his observations to the police.

4b. GK had received an email from Cdr James Leatherby on the subject of the patch of land known colloquially as "the Dirty Dozen" adjacent to Station Road, Woodlea Crescent and Carnban Road. It is intended that the piece of land will be used to support other building projects. Previous difficulties with the area are noted and every effort will be

made to ensure that the area will be returned to a proper state on completion of work. The erection of screen fencing has been muted but recognised that that it will be costly. See also Appendix 3: Notes from JL

5. Planning Matters.

5a. Cove Wind Farm. There will be a PPSLC hearing in the Victoria Halls on 17th September, R&SCC has submitted comments and should be represented.

FB will represent R&SCC

5b. National Planning Framework 3. PPM and JR formulated a response on behalf of the Community Council. This is included in Appendix 1

5c. Town and Country Planning changes. PPM and JR have submitted comments. This is included in Appendix 2

5d. Rhu Marina Masterplan and GSS planning application. There is to be an Hearing in the Village Hall on 27 August at 10.15 am. The points will be put forward by R&SCC in written submission, prior to the meeting as well as the verbal representation on the day. The spokesman for the Community Council will be Jack Rudram. The understanding is that the Rhu Marina Masterplan will be considered first and, if accepted, will then consider the GSS plan. JD explained the Masterplan process. JC has highlighted that R&SCC has submitted comments on both applications. RS2 informed those present that A&B planning will accept comments from the public up until the day of the hearing. TL added that a time limit of about 30 minutes will be allocated for comments and once a point has been made it will not be revisited. Therefore he advised that a co-ordinated approach is best using the most articulate speaker first and get names in if you wish to speak. It was pointed out that there are 3 options in these matters, object to, adopt or adapt. JD's analysis of comments submitted for Masterplan were 64 objecting vs 2 supporting. AM encouraged people to register a voice against the infill in the 'Save our Rhu Bay' campaign which will run until 26 Aug. The campaign is publicised on Facebook and can be registered online, or by a letter deposited in a box in the Post Office. Responses supporting the campaign have been received from as far afield as Germany, Paris, London, Dumfries as well as locally. The majority of responses have been from the G84 postcode and the general consensus is that people object to infill and 3 story buildings but would like to see the site tidied up. JR drew discussion to close in order to continue with the agenda.

6. Key Environmental Features for Rhu and Shandon

6. Community Councils have the remit to define Key Features of their area for planning matters. The 'Helensburgh Landscape Statement' is a leaflet that has been produced for Helensburgh and JR suggested that this could be used as a basis for Rhu and Shandon. There is a considerable similarity and overlap with the Conservation Charter albeit in less detail. There would be the additional area of Shandon to be included. In the interests of avoiding duplication of effort JR agreed to assist JD's sub-committee in its production. It was agreed that the formulation of the key features should be completed expediently so that it could be used for planning without undue delay.

7. Community Council

7. The current term for Community Councillors ends on 31st

Elections

Oct 2013. Nomination papers will be available from 12th Sept and need to be submitted by 27th Sept. Prospective councillors need to be on the electoral role and have to be nominated and seconded by people also on the role. JR hoped that, in the interests of democracy, there would be sufficient applications to warrant an election.

8. Opportunity for members of public to speak.

8. CL raised the point that the work that had been carried out on road resurfacing had left some of the roads in a dangerous state leaving loose gravel on the surface for too long where it was heaping up at the edges, filling the gutters and leaving a poor surface for motorcycles. Additionally the new surfaces are already holed and worn. RM answered by stating that the work had been carried out by contractors rather than the A&B team. The weather at the time was too hot and fine grit was required to form a skin on the tar. The grit was not readily available on site. The Council are suffering repercussions as a result. White lines are still required but there is a shortage of contractors to carry out the work.

9. Treasurers Report

9. LD briefed the meeting that a grant of £562.50 had been received from A&B and has paid out £35 for the Data protection registration. The account stands at £1337.26 in credit with liabilities of approx £200 for hire of the Hall and £250 voted for the Charter appraisal expenses.

10. Correspondence

10. Correspondence is being circulated as and when it is received.

- A visitor centre has been planned for the peace camp which has already exceeded the 10 caravans originally permitted. This additional construction appears to be in progress and considered to be outwith current permission. MC stated that A&B have visited the site and, together with the Military will be keeping a close eye on the site. He also pointed out that St Andrews school is a listed building and MOD property. The Council is talking to Defence Estates with a view to developing the site, bringing new business to the area.
- North Shandon suffered another power outage on 14 July. After several communications with Scottish power it now appears that work on the infrastructure, scheduled for 2014 will now be brought forward to this year.
- Two letters to Howard Young with regard to winter storage at Rhu Marina has, as yet, elicited no reply.
- A letter relating to the Core Paths project has been circulated. Thanks given to FB, for her assistance in this matter.

11. Website and Related Issues

11. JR thanked Jean and her team for the continued good work on the website. JC thought that there should be generic email addresses for Community Councillors. At £6 per address per year it was considered that the only necessary for the Convenor and Secretary.

JC to organise this

12. Member's Reports

12a. JD had contacted the Scottish Land Fund which is available for communities to purchase land for community. His proposal was for the potential to purchase Rhu Bay in order to preserve the panoramic view and conserve the varied wildlife that the bay supports. Initially the bay was considered to be in the urban area and so within the excluded area but on closer inspection it became apparent that the limit of the excluded zone was at the high water line and therefore, not excluded. By registering an interest with the Scottish Land Fund the community has first refusal the next time that the bay comes up for sale. The Bowling Club site could be another target for such a transaction.

12b. AN informed the meeting that Rhu Church now has 2 ministers, Revs Dave Clark and George Vidits, shared with St Andrews Church in Helensburgh.

12c. JB commented that the school holidays were over.

12d. GK had investigated a complaint that the 'Old Coup Road' was blocked by parked cars and that drains had been diverted causing trip hazards across the path. Although the path is established as a right of way it is not registered as such. He has contacted the Access Officer and submitted the Argyll and Bute Access Reporting Form. MG of Avalon House explained that water originating from the farm higher on the hill was washing away the path and he was doing his best to preserve it by repairing the surface and preventing horses from being able to use the path. He said that recent road repairs to Lineside Walk had raised the level of the road and exacerbated the problem by not allowing the water to enter the culverts.

GK and RM to take forward to resolve drainage issue.

13. AOB

13. Inverclyde Wind Farm. There is a proposal to build 10x 110m wind turbines on Corlic Hill in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, east of Greenock. A discussion took about the stance that R&SCC should adopt. It was considered in the interests of consistency that a letter of objection should be sent along the lines of the Cove proposal.

FB to write letter.

14. Councillors

14a. RM said the Manse Brae and Pier Road were the next roads on the plan to be improved.

14b. MC asked for thoughts on the future of 'Rhu Loos'. GK said that they were used frequently by people jogging along the front and by those picnicking on the adjacent grassed area.

15. DONM

The next ordinary meeting will take place at 7:30 pm 9th October 2013 in the Community Hall.