

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Rhu and Shandon Community Council**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 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)

Guests/Public:

Cllr Robert MacIntyre (RM)  
 Cllr Maurice Corry (MC)  
 Cllr George Freeman (GF)  
 Cdr James Leatherby (JL)  
 Peter Knox (PN)  
 Graham Miller (GM)  
 Alastair Moore (AM)  
 Brian Fleming  
 Tim Lamb (TL)  
 David Scott  
 Alan Dundas  
 Edna Muir (EM)  
 Lesley Cox (LC)  
 Audrey Butler

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
<b>1. Apologies:</b>	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Andrew Nicholson, PC Andy Crawford and Mike Gemmell(MG).	
<b>2. Minutes of meeting held 14 August 2013</b>	2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2013 were considered.	The minutes were <b>approved (PPM &amp; JR)</b> .
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>	<p><b>3a. The Barge Memorial Garden.</b> The Barge Memorial Trust may provide a one off grant to improve the garden with a view to turning it over to the council.</p> <p><b>3c. Scout hut.</b> Recent inspections of the reported 'smelly drain' have been unable to locate it.</p> <p><b>3e. Japanese Knotweed.</b> JB has emailed Richard Ireland with regard to the knotweed being burned at the MOD properties in Shandon and intimated that the council were not interested in assisting. GF replied that the responsibility lies with the landowner. When trading properties the presence of knotweed is a civil matter between buyer and seller. He reported that SEPA have determined that burning is not a problem but there are clear restrictions on the use of weedkillers near watercourses.</p>	<p>MC to liaise with AN to pursue funding and progress improvement of garden.</p> <p>PPM will have a look after it rains. RM asked to pursue.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

**3g. Rhu Bowling Club.** Update later in meeting.

**3m. Conservation Charter.** Update in members' reports.

**14d. Speeding on A814.** No action is planned for revising the speed restrictions in North Shandon as insufficient residents are affected. Although not a satisfactory outcome R&SCC feel that this matter should not be pursued any further. GF said that a 'Full National Survey' had been conducted resulting in a reduction to only the portion of road at Ardoch in our area. A traffic speed indicator, costing £5000 has been procured for erection on the A814 at the junction of Aros Road.

No further action

**Peace Camp Building.** There was a long discussion with regard to the construction in the peace camp. Summary:

The peace campers are constructing a large building on the site for which, it is believed, that there is no planning permission. It appears that the land owner is Argyll and Bute Council and the peace camp is permitted to stay on the site having obtained a lease from the former local authority, Dumbarton District Council. The details of what is permitted on the site are vague but believed to allow a small number of caravans and tents but not buildings. R&SCC and local residents are concerned that there is no control of the site and that planning permission, building warrants, health and safety, fire regulations and other administration is not being applied or adhered to. Cllr Freeman stated that he had been told that a report on this issue was to come to the last area Committee meeting. Unfortunately, no report was forthcoming. The Council's Planning Officers had reported that the structure does require planning permission but GF said that the Council, as a planning authority, cannot take enforcement action against itself. GF also said that from experience, it was unlikely that the Procurator Fiscal would take any action on and enforcement issue. Planning officers and Building Control officers have visited the peace camp. Cllrs stated that they were actively pursuing this issue which they hoped to be able to raise at the next Council meeting. R&SCC insist that the Council apply the planning regulations in that same way as they do with everyone

JC to write to Chief Executive A&BC to raise issue.

else within their jurisdiction.

#### 4. Guest Speakers

**4a.** Community Police Officers were called away before the start of the meeting, tendered there apologies and asked to email there comments.

Not yet received.

#### **4b. Cdr James Leatherby:**

- Commodore Mike Wareham had been superseded as the Naval Base Commander (Clyde) by Commodore Keith Beckett, Royal Navy.
- Good work continues under the Armed Forces Community Covenant (AFCC) – focal points of contact being Cdr Ian Riches (the Base Executive Officer) and Cllr Maurice Corry (as the AF Champion for Argyll & Bute Council).
- Work planned for external improvements to MQ at Mckenzie Estate (aka Smugglers Way in Rhu) – re-roofing and over-cladding is currently subject to planning permission. The aim is that the £1M+ project will have been completed before the end of the current Financial Year.
- Exercise JOINT WARRIOR 132 is currently taking place. On this occasion there were few ships alongside last weekend and there are only expected to be 2 Minor Warfare Vessels in Faslane on its completion in 10 day's time. However the first such Exercise of 2014 is being advertised as a very large one.

#### Post Meeting Notes:

1. The work being carried out, clearing Japanese Knotweed, in the vicinity of Woodlea Crescent is being undertaken by West Coast Cutters on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council. The Council's POC is Gerry O'Hare.

2. The issue raised by TL regarding the state of the breakwater structure that (allegedly) protects the Rhu Radar Tower has been passed by JL to QHM Clyde. It has been established that the threatened structure is almost certainly sited on the MOD owned land at the end of the Spit and arrangements are now in hand for a site survey to be undertaken.

## 5. Planning Matters.

**5a. Rhu Marina Masterplan and GSS planning application.** A public hearing was held and the Masterplan was not approved. The GSS planning application was accepted with conditions; matters are now back in the hands of the developers.

AM made a lengthy comment complaining that the community were prohibited from getting information and that the community council should raise the issue with the planners about was felt to be the underhand way that officials had misled the public. MC replied that the website had been upgraded which should help and it was pointed out that the CC had already made comment concerning these issues. GF pointed out that the vast majority of planning applications were processed with minimal problems. Major applications require pre-application consultation. Seldom are there any complaints on the process. FB added that comments are normally accepted after the closing date and the system can be quite flexible. The deadlines are set to allow planning department to prepare reports on time.

AM invited to raise concerns by email to JR

**5b. H&LCPG meeting.** The minutes of the meeting have been circulated. The residents of Kilcreggan have expressed an ambition to have the ferry service to Gourock taken over by the Lifeline service under Scottish Government control. The contract was awarded to Clydelink about 2 years ago. Improvements were to be made to the Kilcreggan Pier by SPT, but if it were taken over by the Scottish Office, this may not happen.

Discussions at the Area Community Planning meeting to determine what needs to change in order to bring more people into the area. There were 3 key areas identified that need to be addressed, energy, community housing and sport. The effects of the Maritime Change programme will be presented in a paper to be produced by the

Economic Development Unit.

### **5c. Wind Turbines.**

- i. Cove Wind Farm – application has been withdrawn.
- ii. Corlic Hill Wind Farm – FB will be writing letter on behalf of R&SCC later in the week.
- iii. South Ailey Wind Farm – This single turbine FB has submitted objections of R&SCC. Details are on the website. There will be a public hearing.
- iv. Helensburgh Wind Farm – Helensburgh CC have given support to a questionnaire being mailed to Helensburgh residents asking whether people are in favour of a common general fund and if they are happy with proceeds coming from wind farms. Maps were passed around showing the areas of from where the turbines at the top of Helensburgh can be seen. A meeting is to be held in Victoria Halls to make the public aware. It is believed that the surveys and reports that are required prior to submitting a planning application have not yet been done. R&SCC's concern is that the proposed site is as much above RHU and Shandon as it is above Helensburgh as the site is described as above Highlandman's Way. Turbines will be visible from Cross Keys area and from the National Park. The proposed height of the turbines at 78.5m is also above the councils policy. LC has had 3 letters published in the Helensburgh Advertiser but has received no response. R&SCC has not yet been consulted but need to be aware of the potential for a development. It was considered that the CC's views should be withheld until the appropriate time.

**5d. Marine Planning** – A consultation report has been circulated and it was not considered to be an issue for R&SCC. Marine and land litter was the only aspect that applies and PPM has submitted comments as an individual.

### **6. Licensing Policy Statement Consultation.**

**6. Licensing Policy** – AN represents the CC on the Licensing Committee and has no concerns with respect to the report.

**7. Access Issue.**

**7. Coup Road Rhu.** GF reported that Luss Estates is the landowner and are reluctant to get involved with the legal issues and the Police are not interested as this is a civil matter. The Access Officer has not been able to contact MG. The council will request that MG moves the vehicles that are obstructing the path. Damage has been caused to one of MG's vehicles which is a criminal matter for the Police. GK stated that MG has got a justifiable grievance because he is trying to protect the access to his property which is being damaged by water running off Lineside Walk. There is a culvert on the opposite side of Lineside Walk which should be used to remove the water flowing onto the road.

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

**8a.** EM gave an update on Rhu Bowling Green. Household adjacent to the Bowling Green access had been contacted with a view to selling a strip of land in order to widen the access so that houses can be built on the site. Details are vague and the width of the access road would depend on how many properties were to be built.

**8b.** AM Raised concerns that he thought that there was little awareness of the Community Council locally stating that many locals didn't know about the Community Council and that it was a closed shop. He also said that the CC should engage with the public and embrace social networking. GK responded that some years ago every household in Rhu had received a leaflet explaining what the community council was about, how to make contact and who was on it. There was a questionnaire that asked for suggestions but the response was disappointing. It was also pointed out that meetings, arranged by the CC, on specific issues, had been well attended. In addition to this the three local Councillors expressed the view that the meetings of R&SCC were well attended. It was noted that there is also a well maintained website which is easily found using internet search engines. It was pointed out that, in the recent elections for the Community Council, it was disappointing that only 14 out of 16 places were filled.

AM also raised the issue that the Community is not well served by Local Home Broadband. BT is the main provider and he has spoken to the tech guys. LD thought that we were unlikely to get high speed broadband in this area because

there is no priority. RM stated that fast broadband is a priority and the local planning team are well aware as it had been brought up at a meeting. Paul Wheelhouse MSP is taking comments to the Scottish Parliament.

JC to talk to AM to take matter forward.

**9. Treasurers Report**

**9.** LD briefed the meeting that the account stood at £1325.26 after expenditure for 2 email addresses. £250 has been ring fenced for conservation area appraisal expenses and there is an outstanding bill for the hall rental.

**10. Correspondence**

**10.** Correspondence has been circulated as and when it is received.

- A letter from Police Scotland had been received advising the revised opening hours of Helensburgh Police Station, it will be opened 0800 to 1800 daily. A re-organisation has resulted in there being one fewer Police Inspectors in the area.
- Alan Reid's visit.

**11. Website and Related Issues**

**11.** Two new email addresses have been set up at a cost of £6 per annum per address. These are generic addresses for the Convenor and Secretary. They will be used after the inauguration of the new Community Council.

**12. Member's Reports**

**12a.** PPM has received a further £2000 for the playground fund together with £60 for bulbs and is hoping to complete the project.

**12b.** JB reported that the school is to be awarded a 4<sup>th</sup> Eco Flag. Also reminded the CC that Halloween is coming up.

**12c.** FB pointed out the large puddle of standing water in Caldwell Place. She also questioned the lack of white lines at the top of Sinclair Street. RM replied that there was more work to be done on the road surface before the lines can be repainted. Rhu Hall is considering a local history project about the conservation area. The Rhu Gala committee AGM will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> November and is in need of new members

**12d.** JD has kept the CC informed of progress with regard to the Conservation Charter via email. He is currently waiting for the Heritage Officer to respond to correspondence and asked if GF could assist. LD added that there could be some funding available for the Conservation Area appraisal from the 'Awards for All' and is in

contact with Audrey Baird. She also said that A&BC may pay for the production of a booklet.

**12e.** GK reported that there were a number of street lights out and is particularly concerned that the one over the bus stop at 'Rhu Loos'. This light goes out at 0645 in the morning and comes on at some time after 2130 in the evening, cleverly avoiding the bus stop's most useful hours of darkness. This same problem has been reported, and minuted, many times over the last few years.

**12f.** JB asked if the defaced speed limit signs could be cleaned or replaced in the vicinity of the peace camp.

**12g.** JR – At the economic development workshop the John Logie Baird initiative is trying to attract young professionals to set up in new business parks.

**12h.** MC informed the CC that WW1 centenary commemoration events will be taking place next year. CC and villages will be putting together displays, articles and other events about the war at Inveraray Castle on 20 September 2014. Grants will be available from the Scottish Government to assist. MC will be working with the Royal British Legion, all three branches of the services. The Scouts, Guides and other organisations will be taking part. There will also be pipe bands and the like.

**12i.** All three local councillors thanked the present Community Council for their commitment over the last four years and are looking forward to working with the next Community Council.

**13. AOB**

**13.** There was no other business.

**14. DONM**

**14a.** The date of the inaugural meeting for the new Community Council will be determined by the Officers of A&B.

**14b.** The next ordinary meeting will take place at 7:30 pm 11<sup>th</sup> December 13 in the Community Hall.