

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 11th June 2014
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Jack Rudram	(JR)
Pat Pollok-Morris	(PPM)
Jean Cook	(JC)
Gordon King	(GK)
Brian Fleming	(BF)
Olivia Birch	(OB)
Tim Lamb	(TL)
Jayne Burnett	(JB)
Andrew Nicholson	(AN)
Linda Duncan	(LD)
Jim Duncan	(JD)
Ronald Sandeman	(RS)

Guests/Public:

Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Cllr Robert MacIntyre	(RM)
Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Alastair Moore	(AM)
Peter Knox	(PK)
Margaret Barman	(MB)

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
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1. Apologies:

1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of:
Fiona Baker, Edna Muir and Maurice Corry

2. Declaration of interest:

2. There were no declarations of interest.

3. Guest speakers:

3. Cdr James Leatherby (JL):

- **The 'Breakwater' in the vicinity of the Rhu Radar Tower:**
Covered at para 5f below.
- **Clyde Local Liaison Committee (CLLC) Meeting – Wed 28 May 14:** It took place at the Off-site Centre as advertised. TL attended as the Convenor's representative. The Minutes are yet to be published.
- **Submarine Heritage Centre:** A meeting about the way ahead has been programmed to take place with Cllr Corry and Mr Keating on 16 June. Target date for opening not known but it will not be before the Commonwealth Games.
- **Community Covenant Grants:** By way of illustration about what is possible, the most recent Grants approvals included:
 - a. Campbeltown Heritage Centre awarded £20,200
 - b. Gareloch RDA awarded £10,000
 - c. Helensburgh Play Parks (Colgrain) £26,000
- **Service Families Accommodation (SFA):** Again by way of illustrating the current level of investment, the official 'opening' ceremony of the rejuvenated Churchill Estate took place on 5 June, marking the completion of a £15 million pound project. Smugglers Way is next.
- **Drumfork Community Centre Churchill Square:** £600k obtained for a refurbishment due to start in July on this

facility which also benefits the wider community – hopefully an investment to be bolstered by grants from RN charities.

- **Plymouth-based Submariners' Families:** A party of HMS Trenchant's families visited the area in early June. 19 out of 20 said afterwards that they would be happy to come up here to work, based on what they had seen.
- **Single Living Accommodation (SLA):** Phase 2 (@620 beds) is progressing well; the first block is due to be delivered in a year's time. It is this work that has generated the current presence in the Woodlea Crescent compound.
- **New Faces in the Base:** Although Commodore Beckett, the current Naval Base Commander only joined last September, he is about to become the longest standing senior officer! Flag Officer Sea Training's Director (North) – Captain Anstey – joined in May, Commodore Walliker joins as the Commodore Faslane Flotilla on 12 June and Rear Admiral Hockley is expected to be relieved as the Edinburgh Military Tattoo concludes at the end of August.

4. Minutes of meeting held 9 April 2014.

4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th April 2014 were considered.

The minutes were approved
(OB & PPM).

5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:

5a. Rhu Marina Masterplan and GSS planning application.

Little to report other than GSS had taken over Silvers Marine and would be basing their operation at the site in Rosneath.

5b. Peace Camp Structure. GF reiterated his standard statement that the code of conduct preventing him from making comment on the subject. It is believed that construction work is still going on underneath the tarpaulin. Information regarding this should be emailed to the local councilors who will pass it on to the relevant officers. This matter remains unresolved and needs to be progressed. There is an additional caravan on the site. Residents of the camp have defaced road signs and painted the road with graffiti. The peace camp celebrates its 32nd anniversary this week.

JC to write to relevant parties.

5c. Station Rd Bus Stop, Shandon. There is still no bin at the bus stop but the litter had been cleaned up. Councilors advised that SPT are responsible for maintaining the bus stops.

5d. LDP update. The plan is currently sitting with the Recorder, more information may be requested. JD is keeping in touch with Mark Lodge with regard to the mini brief but not expected any time soon. No information has been received from either TCE or from RMD.

5e. Rosslea Hotel Fireworks. TL unable to find the lady who had previously complained about the fireworks. GF mentioned that there had been a similar problem at Luss and believed that the environmental health department had enforced a watershed for letting off fireworks but was unsure of the time, 9 or 10 o'clock. JD thought that this dispute should be handled

diplomatically with the hotel which is a local business that we should be supporting. It was also noted that there had been no recent firework displays.

5f. Rhu Spit Breakwater. JL reported that part of Rhu Spit was purchased by the SofS for Defence in 1989 the boundary being close to the beacon. The sea wall was constructed around the time of WW2 when Faslane was Military Port No 1. Three quarters of the sea wall is on MOD land and the other quarter is to the north east and thought to belong to CE. The sea wall has been inspected at least 3 times in the last few months. However, it is hoped to be able to arrange a formal survey soon in order to establish its condition, safety and what the options for it are (ie demolish, lower, make safe, rebuild, etc). Consequently, HMNB Clyde has been approached for instructions and funding.

5g. Clyde Local Liaison Committee (CLLC) meeting. The following subjects were raised:

- Radioactive waste management at the Naval Base.
- The Vanguard class submarines had completed their 100th patrol.
- HMS Artful, the 3rd Astute class submarine has been launched in Barrow-in-Furness.
- A series of Emergency Planning exercises are taking place to bring the new Incident Command and Control Centre (ICCC) into service. There is an exercise for a Reactor Emergency planned for 3rd September.
- Change in limits for radioactive discharges.
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. The cameras are considered to be non-controversial in planning terms, the system is not yet up and running. Police Scotland will have access to the information gathered with agreed protocols in force.

5h. Brief on Radioactive Discharges from Faslane. At the last meeting the CC asked JL to provide a brief on discharges from the base. The subject was on the agenda of the Clyde Local Area Liaison Committee meeting.

- The current limit, agreed with SEPA is 500 Mega Becquerel (500MBq) per year. To quote SEPA this level has “no deleterious effect” i.e. no safety impact, either to people or to the environment.
- To be exact, a Becquerel is one disintegration of an atom per second. This is a very small event number and, as a consequence, it is usual to deal in Mega Becquerel.
- Discharges from Faslane for 2008 – 2012 averaged 2 MBq per year, i.e. less than 1% of our agreed annual level. These figures are for Cobalt 60 and are taken from the SEPA consultation document.

- Having taken into account a range of factors, including the projected expansion in the number submarines based on the Clyde over the next few years, there may be an increase the overall discharges in future, but even doubling or more the amount discharged will still only amount to a few percent of our currently allowed level.
- Given that our discharges are so far below the authorised limit, the MoD have proposed to SEPA a significant reduction in our limit – down from 500 MBq to 125 MBq - and we fully expect to remain comfortably within this new reduced limit.

More detail is available from SEPA consultation document which can be found by Googling “SEPA Faslane Consultation”.

GF stated that previous applications to SEPA support the information that discharge levels are low. He added that nobody in Garelochhead has any concerns. The CC were happy with JL’s report.

5i. Parking in Church Place. It appears that A&B C has not adopted Church Place in its entirety. GF advised that as the areas affected by the disputed parking were not council property and as such, needs to be resolved by the residents.

5j. Water on junction between Cumberland Rd and School Rd. OB has contacted Scottish Water and they have tested the water for chlorine and conducted dye tests of the sewer and drains from the adjacent property. The indications are that the water is surface water run-off. GF is pursuing the matter and has pointed out that new managers are in place in this area.

6. Planning matters:

6a. Helensburgh Wind Farm. A meeting was held in the Church Hall on 26th May to provide the community with information on the proposed Helensburgh Wind Farm, which is to be sited on land within the Rhu and Shandon boundary. As the host Community Council, it was decided that we should become more proactive in seeking an understanding of the current status and progress of the project, and not just rely on what we glean from the public domain. Full minutes of the Special Meeting can be found on the CC website.

JD suggested that a sub group of R&S CC be set up as a point of contact with the developer parties in order to obtain and evaluate up to date information from the developers. This evaluation would then be passed to R&SCC for consideration. This group has the authority to seek information from other sources to further their investigations’. This was agreed

1.JD will write to the developers.

It also was agreed that the Convenor should write to the developers thanking them for the information provided to date and requesting up to date information when it becomes available. There are some issues which need to be resolved.

2. JR to write to Ian Fraser

- R&SCC have not been consulted as to whether we

support or object to the proposal.

- There is an intention to construct 5 turbines. The question is whether the CC should wait until consulted or pre-plan a response.
- There is so much misinformation, conflicting and changing information it is difficult to take a stance.

3.The CC will make no decision until there is a formal planning application, and the community has been consulted.

6b. Bowling Club. Luss Estates have made application to develop the site of the Bowling Club. A letter was drafted stating the position that the CC was opposed to the application changing the open space to housing and supported the neighbours with concerns over access. JR said that the matter was going before the PPSLC at Kilmory on 18 June. The public are not permitted to speak at that meeting but there are a number of objections to the plan.

7. Other matters:

7a. Conservation Area and Key Environmental Features: JD reported that there was a bit of a lull in proceedings but the Scottish Civic Trust have been trying to secure A & B Council's agreement their proposals (for the approach to funding) but have had no reply from Lynda Robertson, who is the A & B contact. JD will give an update when there is something significant to report. GF asked to be copied in on any correspondence on the subject.

JD to copy future correspondence to GF

7b. Broadband: JC has written to Jackie Baillie who thought that funding was from the Scottish Government. Digital Scotland was contacted but simply regurgitated their website and provided no useful or new information. A further reply from Jackie Baillie is awaited.

7c. Beach Cleaning: Various groups are involved in beach cleaning, a small number of pupils from Rhu School could help but is getting too close to the holidays to organise anything in the short term. Concerns were raised with respect to fishing from the beach. Some animals are being harmed by discarded hooks and line causing one resident to pay a large vet's bill. There seems to be little or no regulation and difficult to control. A community beach clean will be considered for a date in September (JR).

8. Opportunity for members of the public to speak:

8. MB: Raised concerns that the views along the shores of the Gareloch are being obscured by the growth of shrubs and trees which were previously kept in check by the council arranging cutting. MB has spent a significant amount of money trying to help out but unable to afford to continue. The point was made that one man's view was another man's privacy.

RM undertook to make enquiries with the Council on what could be done.RS agreed to spearhead a group on behalf of the Council to look into a more permanent solution to this problem. MB agreed to be a member of the group and other volunteers are sought.

Action RM and RS

9. Treasurer's report: **9. Treasurer's Report:** LD briefed the state of accounts:

Opening Balance £1128.71
Expenditure £ 85.00
Closing Balance £1043.71

The expenditure was for the hire of the hall and data protection.

10. Correspondence: Correspondence had been circulated as and when it was received.

11. Website and related issues:

11. Website. The website is being constantly updated and the 'Communications Team' is doing a wonderful job. JC suggested a blog to be set up for corrections to the minutes but GK thought this was a step too far and would prefer corrections by email with reference to the sections affected. He suggested using the format "Remove ..*some words*.. and Insert ..*correct version*"

This method of correcting the draft minute was accepted.

12. Member's reports:

12a. JB:

- Rhu Primary School has been awarded a fourth Green Flag. This was applauded by the CC.
- School holidays start 27 Jun and return 14 Aug.
- JB will be coming off the Parent Council this year.
- Message from the Hall Committee; Hall is doing fine.

12b. JC was telephoned by a concerned resident in North Shandon about spread of Japanese Knotweed and asked for the name of a contact in A&B C – Amenities department, Tom Murphy. If Knotweed on MOD land then MOD are responsible. JC also pointed out that early action would limit spread and some activities such as shredding and clearing areas of scrub are actually encouraging growth. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Council.

Action JC

13. AOB:

13a. RM: Reported that the pavement was broken at the Post Office and should be being repaired.

13b. Several members of the Community Council had attended the meeting at the Victoria Halls regarding the Orange Parade. GF was unable to attend the meeting as he was engaged elsewhere. Neither the Police nor the Roads Department raised any material issues and by a vote of five to three, the PPSLC allowed the March to go ahead along an amended route and with the condition that the Council's Environmental Health Officer approve the arrangements.

14. DONM:

14. The next ordinary meeting will take place on 13th August 2014 in the Community Hall.