

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 8th October 2014
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

Pat Pollok-Morris	(PPM)	Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Jean Cook	(JC)	Cllr Robert MacIntyre	(RM)
Gordon King	(GK)	Cllr Maurice Corry	(MC)
Olivia Birch	(OB)	Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Tim Lamb	(TL)	Alastair Moore	(AM)
Brian Fleming	(BF)	Peter Knox	(PK)
Fiona Baker	(FB)	Audrey Butler	(AB)
Jayne Burnett	(JB)	Chris Lee	(CL)
		Jan Calder	(JCa)
		Chris Black	(CB)
		Samantha Black	(SB)
		George Wilson	(GW)

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
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1. Apologies:	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Jack Rudram, Ronald Sandeman, Andrew Nicholson, Linda Duncan, Jim Duncan and Edna Muir.	
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2. Declaration of interest:	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
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3. Guest speakers:	<p>3a. Cdr James Leatherby (JL): JL provided the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Exercise JOINT WARRIOR</u>. The autumn one is in progress. All the local activity has taken place; on completion the ships involved are dispersing to other destinations. • <u>Exercise EVENING STAR 2014</u>. This Faslane Nuclear Emergency Response Organisation exercise was deemed by the Regulators to have satisfactorily demonstrated the Base's arrangements. • <u>Japanese Knotweed (noting also Agenda Item 7.b)</u>. First treatment of the Japanese Knotweed that was identified during the Fri 15 Aug 14 walk-round has already taken place. Now that it has been identified, there is a follow-on treatment programme in place which should lead to eradication. • <u>Rhu Spit</u>. The MOD's Defence infrastructure (DIO) Organisation has removed further rubble from that area, following communications from a member of the public. 	
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Post Meeting Note:

- The possibility that Japanese Knotweed may be present on a part of the Spit that is owned by MOD is being

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investigated.

- The Local Foreshore. Having asked the question earlier of DIO, JL confirmed that the MOD owns almost all the foreshore between the southern end of the base and Inverallt. From “Inverallt” onwards / south there is no MoD ownership, except for the end of Rhu Point.

Post Meeting Note: Subsequent to the meeting a correction was provided to JHL. The correction was that “MOD does not own the foreshore between the southern end of the Base and Inverallt. It only owns the wooded areas and the shore road.

- Wind Farms & Micro-hydro Electric Schemes. Those promoting such venture are encouraged to contact the Base (for MOD/DIO’s Safeguarding Team at Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham) at the planning stage or if they are ever in any doubt.

Post Meeting Note: JL and CB are taking this proposal forward with MOD Out of Committee(OoC).

- HMNB Clyde Single Living Accommodation. The building of 620 beds (not the 150-ish reported in the local press) is ongoing with first delivery due in about a year’s time.
- HMNB Clyde Service Families’ Accommodation.
 - McKenzie Estate, Rhu – Houses. The next phase of the upgrade work on the houses in Smugglers Way is under way. It is hoped that funding will also be obtained for the final 7 properties so that continuity is achieved.
 - McKenzie Estate – Disused Housing. The maisonettes are still being held pending the projected arrival of an increased number of personnel to Faslane. Public funds will not be committed to them until all the possible options have been considered.
- Armed Forces Community Covenant. Last round 3 bids were received of which 2 were forwarded up to the Regional Board. Its deliberations are awaited. The next Board is due to sit in early Jan 15, so any new bids need to be submitted no later than 1 Dec 14. As before, advice on completion of bids can be obtained from the AFCC website and/or from Argyll Voluntary Action in Colquhoun Sq.

Post Meeting Note: JL provided JC with the relevant link on Thu 9 Oct 14

- New Faces in the Base. Rear Admiral Clink has joined as Flag Officer Scotland and is resident with his family locally. Commodore Becket leaves in a fortnight’s time, having been relieved by Commodore Mark Adams as the Naval Base Commander.

Supplementary questions

1. JC: What is the vessel “Shackleton” doing in the Gareloch?
While JL’s holding reply was effectively correct, an enhanced response is provided here. Shackleton is an RN owned tender that is operated by the Fleet Hydrographic Unit. It is currently tasked to undertake a comprehensive range of surveys in the Dockyard Port. Initially working in the Gareloch, she is programmed to undertake similar

surveys to verify tidal movements and, bathymetric data in the local area, including Loch Long and Loch Goil, during her 2 month deployment to the Clyde.

2 JB: What do the road markings “No1, No2 and No3” on Woodside Crescent mean?

After the meeting, JL has ascertained that the Council painted the markings when they were conducting a site survey related to the drainage problems which result in flooding on the A814 in the vicinity of the Peace Camp.

3b. Chris Black (CB) – Micro Hydro Scheme:

CB introduced himself to the Community Council, his family have owned Letrualt Farm since 1949. The 3 Rhu Reservoirs situated above Lineside Walk were bought in 1999 and CB is hoping to use them by running a Micro Hydro Scheme. Small scale hydro-electric power generation has many advantages over wind turbines in that it is less visually intrusive, more efficient and, with the use of the reservoirs, more reliable than a similar capacity windfarm scheme. Although there were no specific plans available the only visible evidence would be a turbine house which would be surrounded by trees, all associated pipework would be below ground. The reservoirs have been on the site for over 100 years but have been unused in recent times. The area is currently overgrown and access would need to be improved for maintenance of the scheme; this would give the added benefit that the land would be opened up for those wishing to walk in the hills. The Scottish Government has committed to producing all of the country’s electricity from renewable sources by 2020, this scheme would make a contribution. The Community and Renewable Energies Scheme (CARES) can provide loans for community groups and local businesses to develop projects up to the planning permission stage. CB is applying for a loan and the panel will sit to decide in November. JL asked CB to contact the MoD to let them know of the proposal in case they had any objections. If the scheme was up and running there would be financial benefit to the community. Some money would be made available for good causes within the local area for a minimum of 20 years. This proposal was viewed positively by the Community Council and was broadly supported.

4. Minutes of meeting held 13 August 2014.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th August 2014 were considered.

The minutes were approved (OB & JC).

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

- a: **From 5a: Peace Camp update.** A reply has been received from Charles Reppke confirming that
1. Planning permission is required for the Peace Camp meeting Hall.
 2. The Building Warrant, already applied for, and planning are two separate processes but the service seek to ensure that there is symmetry between them.

3. Monitoring of the site is a matter of ongoing interest to the Council. He regretted that he could not provide more detail at this time on the nature of these matters.

GF reminded the Community Council that **no councillor** was allowed to reveal any discussion or decision by the Council on any excluded item as such an action would be a clear breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

b: From 5j. Water on junction between Cumberland Rd and School Rd: OB reported that a drain had been installed but has been largely ineffective. The water is still present and is not 'treated' water. This will have to be resolved quickly as it will soon start to freeze.

RM to pursue

c: From 6b. Bowling Club: AB said that a possibility exists for using the area as a tennis club but this would need to be discussed between the neighbours. MC has asked Luss Estates whether Veteran's housing would be an acceptable use of the land. Luss Estates are interested but access would be an issue. At the August meeting GF had requested to see the copy of a document, held by Edna Muir, relating to the provenance and use of the land but has not yet seen it. AB was asked by GF to speak to Edna Muir to get in contact with GF.

d: From 8. Control of Vegetation on the Lochside:
The growth of trees and shrubs along the lochside was still causing concerns among local residents. This is an ongoing project and will be re-visited when the leaves are off the trees. Willie Freeland will be approached for assistance. RM had agreed to find out what the local authority is able to undertake, and to meet with Willie Freeland along with the subcommittee but was not present at this point in the meeting and, therefore unable to report.

Action ongoing
RM and others

6. Planning matters.

6a. Helensburgh Wind Farm: R&SCC carried out a survey by providing every household with an information leaflet asking for comments and whether in support or opposition to the windfarm. The result was an overwhelming 89% not in favour. An objection on behalf of Rhu and Shandon Community Council, opposing the Wind Farm was circulated to members for approval and submitted. **Appendix 1**
A public meeting, organized by Helensburgh Community Council is to be held in Helensburgh on 23 Oct at 1930 in the Victoria Halls.
The current deadline for representations is 10 Oct. GF said that it was normal practice for late submissions to be considered. An email from Richard Kerr suggests that the planning application would be looked at in November.

7. Other matters:

7a. Broadband: JR, PPM and JC met with Alan Reid on his Constituency visit. Rhu and Shandon are in the 4% of the

Scotland where the infrastructure for the delivery of superfast broadband has not yet been agreed. Scottish Enterprise will play a key role
 Updated after the meeting following an email from Alan Reid. The funding is all in place for the contract for the Scottish Enterprise area. The Scottish Government and BT are the signatories to the contract. The money comes from the EU, the UK and Scottish Governments and BT.
 The Rhu and Shandon area is included in the Scottish Enterprise area contract and is due to go live between January and June 2016.
 However, there is the disclaimer, "It is not necessarily the case that all premises within an area due to receive fibre broadband will receive it at the same time - different premises within that area may be served by different supporting infrastructure."

- 7b. Japanese Knotweed.** On 29 September the Council of the European Union adopted a regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of alien species. There is however, no funding. It is not an offence to have Japanese Knotweed on your land but it you would be liable if a neighbour's property is damaged by the weed .

Locally Argyll and Bute, Luss Estates, MOD, RMD and TCE have accepted responsibility for outbreaks on their land and have agreed to treatment. JC is keeping a record of outbreaks, actions taken and progress in the control of the weed. All members of the Council and residents are encouraged to participate in identifying outbreaks and reporting them to the secretary

Action: Members and residents to report outbreaks to secretary.

- 7c. Alan Reid's visit to Rhu.** Items a and b were raised with Alan Reid on his Constituency visit.

- 7d. Forthcoming By-Election.** Community Council by-elections are taking place on 27 Nov 2014. Nomination papers are available on Argyll and Bute Council's website or from Scotcourt House. There are three vacancies on the Rhu and Shandon Community Council. The closing date for nominations is 27 Oct 2014.

CC Members to encourage residents to stand in by-election.

- 7e. Bus Stop Near South Gate HMNB Clyde.** Following a request for help from the Community Council from an employee at HMNB, the Secretary wrote to the Roads Department , requesting the installation of a lighted bus shelter on the northbound side of the A814 near the base's South gate. RM had also, independently, made the same request. The bus stop is just inside the 60mph zone, and there are no street lights, on a stretch of road which we have already flagged as dangerous. Our appeal was made on health and safety grounds. A decision has been made to install a lighted shelter, design still to be confirmed. RM is actively pursuing this.

RM to report progress at the next meeting.

8. Opportunity for members of the public to speak:

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- a: AB raised the issue of youngsters skateboarding in the roads and using the traffic calming speed bumps as obstacles and jumps. While this is providing exercise and entertainment for the kids is a safety issue. It is believed that Rhu School is discouraging the practice.

- b: AB posed another road safety issue in that cars were parking too close to junctions particularly those joining the main road (A814). There are no road markings present to assist motorists. PPM thought that a 'friendly' word may be in order. GF stated that any changes to parking restrictions etc would normally require a Road Traffic Order to be progressed and approved. GF suggested that if the Community Council had concerns, that they could consider raising the issue with Campbell Divertie within the Council.

PPM will have an informal word with the parents.

Post meeting note: The Highway Code states: '**DO NOT** stop or park: - opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space.' Rule 243 bullet 5.

JC to write to Police and Campbell Diverty.

9. Treasurer's report:

9. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of the treasurer JC briefed the state of accounts:

Opening Balance	£ 993.71
Expenditure	£ 213.60
Closing Balance	£ 780.11

The expenditure was for the printing and delivery of windfarm leaflets. The administration grant has not yet been received.

10. Correspondence:

10. Correspondence had been circulated as and when it was received. Some items of interest:

- An application for a 500kW turbine at South Ailey Farm has been withdrawn.
- Invitations have been received to take part in Exercise Long Sermon which will be a tabletop exercise to develop the council's plan for the days following an Offsite Nuclear Emergency. The exercise will take place in Victoria Halls on 25 Nov and places are available for community councillors.

11. Website and related issues:

11. Website.

- The website has been fairly active over the past two months.
- The option to contribute electronically to the Wind Farm

survey was provided using Survey Monkey. This is a first for the website and was considered a success.

- Members of the Council and residents are asked to give feedback on material on the website, particularly pointing out errors are making suggestions on either presentation or content. Comments can be made from the feedback page of the website or by email to the secretary. If there is something you would like to see there, that is not there presently, please let us know.

Action: residents and members of the Council

12. Member's reports:

12a. GK: Street lighting. The timing of the street light (**R41A**) at the bus stop at the 'Rhu Loos' is inconsistent with the bus operating times. Passengers are forced to wait at the stop in darkness but the light will be on when the service has ceased for the night. This has been an on-going issue for years. The lights between the top of Hall road and the woods are also not working correctly. GF reported that where street lights were on 24 hours a day, this was normally because there was a cable fault that had to be bypassed. Only Scottish Power are authorised to carry out cable repairs on street lighting and that this is normally seen as a low priority for them. There is no additional cost to the Council for street lights that are on 24 hours a day as Councils are charged for the number of lighting standards they have and not for the energy that they use relating to street lighting. FB commented that this adds to pollution. If a comprehensive list of malfunctioning street lights is compiled, both Argyll and Bute and Scottish Power could be approached. It is possible that an official approach from the Community Council might have some success where reports by individuals clearly have not.

Residents and members to report malfunctioning street lights to the secretary. who will then contact A&B and Scottish Power. Deadline of November 2nd for reports

12b. FB: Rhu Gala. The Gala went well this year and the AGM will take place on 19 Nov to sort out a new committee. The accounts for the Gala are in good shape. There is a concern that the football pitches used for the event are going to be changed to an all-weather surface and may not be available for future years. The area is owned by the MoD and if the pitches were changed they may have to be fenced in. It was suggested that JC should write to NBC Clyde for clarification and MC would talk to the BXO (Base Executive Officer, Cdr Ian Riches). PPM said that the matter should be handled sensitively as the community would like to continue to work closely with the base.

JC to draft letter to NBC.
MC talk to BXO

12c. JB: Informed the CC that she will be the School's representative for another year.

12d. BF: Pointed out that there was a patch of Japanese Knotweed on the end of the spit near the radar which needs to be dealt with by the relevant landowner.

Landowner still to be identified.
Action Secretary

12e. PPM: Playpark doing well and has ordered new parts which should see the project completed.

12f. JC: Peace Camp

JC wrote to Charles Reppke prior to the “Yes or No: Trident must Go: Demo and Picnic” held on 20 September, seeking assurance that the Council would control camping and parking on the verges. A reply was received stating that the message was received and actioned. In the event, the MoD security was more than sufficient. The Council has given permission for the Mod Police to patrol the grounds of St Andrews School and patrols are taking place.

13. AOB:

13a. Police Arming Survey: A survey regarding the routine arming of Police Officers in Scotland was distributed by email. GF suggested that members could consider if they wished to respond individually. The CC decided that they are not obliged to consult the public on every issue but could formulate a response if they wished. Responses due by 17th November

13b. Act Alfresco – Coast and Countryside Trust: R&SCC applied for and were awarded a grant of £100 towards a replacement bench for the end of Ferry Road. The cost of the seat would be in the region of £340 and donations from the community would be required to make up the difference. TL undertook to approach the residents of Ferry Road to help with donations. All other assistance would be gratefully accepted. JC will put an advert on the website.

Action :TL and JC

13c. Rosslea Fireworks: The Hotel is operating within the rules but are having firework displays on a regular basis. This is causing distress to the pets of local residents. It was suggested that if the hotel could give advance warning of their intention to have a display it would help people to prepare their animals. This could be done by asking the hotel to put a notice in the Post Office or send an email to anyone who requests one. FB recommended the use of a ‘Thundershirt’ as a solution for dog anxiety. Further consideration will be given to this matter.

14. DONM:

14. The next ordinary meeting will take place at 1930 on 10th December 2014 in the Community Hall.