

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

**In attendance:**

**Rhu & Shandon CC:**

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

**Guests/Public:**

Cllr George Freeman	(GF)
Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Alastair Moore	(AM)
Des Marshall	(DM)
Suzanne Marshall	(SM)
Deirdre Henderson	(DH)

Topic	Minute	Decision /Action
<b>1. Apologies:</b>	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Angelina Wassell, PC Andy Crawford, Cllr Robert MacIntyre, Jayne Burnett and Cllr Maurice Corry.	
<b>2. Declarations of interest:</b>	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3. Guest speakers:</b>	<p><b>3a. Deirdre Henderson . New Macmillan Cancer Service: Appendix 1</b> was circulated prior to the meeting:</p> <p>Macmillan Cancer Service is available to give support, other than clinical, to sufferers, friends and families. There is wide array of information leaflets available ranging from early diagnosis to how to speak to someone affected and getting travel insurance. A consultation day will be held on the ground floor of the Helensburgh Library on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May between 11:00 and 18:30 to promote the benefits of setting up in libraries rather than hospitals as the emphasis is on information. It has been found that the well-furnished open space with tea and coffee is a good environment for discussion and passing on information. The intention is to set up the service in September, 3 months after the consultation, followed by an official launch in November. Deirdre is putting together information packs and is asking the Community Council members spread the word on the forthcoming</p>	

service. She is also looking for volunteers to help run the service and for people with experience (good and bad) that can provide top tips. Volunteers will need to be suitably vetted and trained. Macmillan is putting 25% of their resources into other illnesses such as heart problems and dementia. For more information and contact details see Appendix 1:

**3b. Cdr James Leatherby (JL):** Appendix 2 was circulated prior to the meeting:

- Exercise JOINT WARRIOR 151. This is a large exercise with 21 hulls alongside at Faslane, 20 in Glasgow, 4 anchored off the Tail of the Bank and 2 in Loch Long.
- Annual Meeting of the Clyde Local Liaison Committee.
  - R&SCC CLLC Item. JL added that options for the future use of Maxine's cottage were under consideration (but could include adoption as staff accommodation or as an "outside the wire" meeting space).

**3c. PC Andy Crawford's Police Report :** Appendix 3 sent by email

**4. Minutes of meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015:**

4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were considered.

The minutes were approved (OB & LD).

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

**5a. From Item 5b. Peace Camp Structure:** JC has written to the Chief Executive of Argyll and Bute Council on behalf of the Community Council with regard to the unauthorised structure within the Peace Camp. It is understood that a building warrant 13/01232/NMOM5 has been refused and the Community Council would like to know what action the Council, as landowner, is taking. GF gave his standard statement about confidentiality and proceeded to say that following a meeting he had requested with the Chief Executive, senior officers and senior councillors, a draft report has been produced containing information that can be released to the public once approved. The Community Council have reiterated their dissatisfaction at the lack of progress and asked for an update at the next meeting.

**PMN. A reply has been received from the Chief Executive explaining that our local councillors have been active in communicating the concerns of the community, but the matter is complex. However she assures us that we can expect further contact in the next few weeks.**

**5b. From Item 5c. Bus Stop Near South Gate HMNB Clyde:** There has been no progress since last time other than painting of yellow lines. It is understood that money was allocated for the provision of a shelter and lighting out of last year's budget. RM is pursuing.

Action RM

**5c. From Item 7a. Bowling Club:** There was no representative from the

Bowling Club at the meeting but it is believed that there are discussions planned over the ownership of the site. The Community Council has not heard of any further progress on the development of the site as a tennis club. Luss Estates development plan has been turned down and no other organisation has shown an interest. The Bowling Club is currently lying fallow and ideas for the way forward are sought. The Community Council are inviting expressions of interest and JC has been asked to try and put something together for the website to promote its future use.

Action JC

**5d. From 12e. Seat for Rhu Spit:** The seat has now been delivered and will be in place in the near future. The Community Council will invite people who have contributed for a photoshoot at the installation. The MOD will be kept informed as the seat is on MOD land.

Action JC and PPM

**5e. From 12f. Footpath sweeping on Lineside Walk:** FB reported that the footpath on Lineside Walk had been swept after 3½ months.

## 6. Planning Matters:

**6a. Helensburgh Wind Farm:** Glasgow Airport has objected to the plan for the wind farm on the grounds that the turbines interfere with radar. The developer has met with Glasgow Airport and there is a possibility that the application will be withdrawn.

**6b. Inverclyde Wind Farm:** The Council has refused to grant planning permission for the proposed Inverclyde Wind Farm; this has gone to appeal. JD has written to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Community Council confirming that our objection still stands

**6c. Lochside Care Home:** JD and PPM met with the Developer to discuss the application. The proposal is that the existing building is to be demolished and replaced with a 3 storey building 57m long and up to 20m high. This will transform the visual appearance of the shoreline. The overall height of the original plan may have to be increased by up to 1.5m to accommodate potential flood requirements. The Application contains a very large area for 'unspecified future development', and the developer said that he has not given any thought to what it might be used for. The current access from the A814 to the site needs to be improved. The question was raised as to whether the building was listed. (PMN from GF and FB- building not listed). The Community Council have provided the only comments regarding the planning application which is pending further consideration. This application has not attracted much publicity and may not have registered with local residents and the issue should be highlighted. It was agreed that, since there were a number of details of this planning application which require clarification and final drawings, the planning sub group should contact planners seeking clarification. It was also agreed that, should a deadline for statutory consultee representation be set before the next CC meeting, the subgroup should highlight our reservations on height, mass and scale of the building for the site, site access and availability of parking. Any comments should be addressed to JD, PP-M or JC.

**GF left the meeting at this point**

**7. Local Recurring Issues:**

**7a. Broadband:** JC is concerned that Rhu may get a good broadband service but those on the extremities may not be well served. There are only 2 fibre boxes in the area, one at Manse Brae and one at Stuckenduff. JC to contact BT to ask how effective the arrangement will be. AM will provide contact details.

JC to contact BT

**7b. Japanese Knotweed:** To date there have been 9 burnings with 12 people assisting. Good progress is being made clearing old growth of JKW and brambles which allows the spraying to be more effective. More burns are planned and the council will spray in May. JC is looking for people to monitor and report the spread of the species.

Action Everyone

**7c. Control of Trees and Vegetation Along the Lochside: The cutting down started at the north end, by Oakbank. The Community Council understands that the contract had been issued** to remove trees, spray vegetation and rebuild the sea wall from Oakbank to Rhu. RM to be contacted on the timescale for completion and congratulated on the progress so far.

Action JC

**7d. Roads and lighting:** There is serious flooding on the service road at the Ardchapel turnoff from A814 even after a period of dry weather. This has been reported to Gerry O'Hare. JC will get update and send it round. There is drainage in the road which does not run in the expected direction which also needs to be investigated. RM will be asked when the cycle path is to be resurfaced. MC had asked for a footpath to be marked up on Pier Road which has been done.

Actions. JC to circulate update from Gerry O'Hare and to approach RM concerning resurfacing

**8. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:**

**8a. DM and SM** presented plans for the conservation of woodland and construction of a single dwelling house in the area to the North of Blairvadach. The proposal is to preserve trees, build house, replant woodland and provide amenity for the outdoor centre. This would be contrary to the Council's proposal for 48 houses on the same site which would destroy the woodland. DM is seeking to obtain tree preservation orders and was advised to communicate with the Council and the Community Woodlands Group. The CC is broadly content with the proposal to seek a TPO and feels that there are trees worthy of preservation in the area. It was considered that DM's proposal was sympathetic to the site and the area would benefit from continued public access. JR to draft letter to Council to propose that a TPO be considered for specimen trees.

Action JR

**8b. AM** highlighted a petition that is being raised to reinstate the Accident and Emergency department at the Vale of Leven hospital as the nearest A&E is too far away. The petition has gained 1500 names so far and can be found at 'Care to Petitions, Vale of Leven'. Support for this proposal was split as there is a 'North of the River Campaign' to get an A&E department at the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank. This is supported by Jackie Baillie and intended to service 400000

people north of the river. PPM stated that an A&E at the Vale of Leven was a not starter as there are neither sufficient resources nor expertise available. JC will however, liaise with AM and highlight the existence of the petition on the website.

Action JC

**. Treasurer's report:** **9. Treasurer's Report: Appendix 4** LD briefed the state of accounts: There was no change in the accounts since the last meeting.

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

- Disabled Parking - it is now an offence to park in disabled spaces without a blue badge.
- Parking in Helensburgh

**11. Website and related issues:** **11. Website:** LD, AW and JC attended a workshop on the use of social media for community councils. This was a worthwhile exercise which recommended the use of Facebook and Twitter to get in touch with more of the community. JC and team are to explore further options and AM has offered his assistance. Again JC and the team are thanked for their continued work on the website.

Action Website team

**12. Members' Reports:** **12a.** LD. Noted that the local Shopmart store in the village is currently shut so that staff can assist in the Helensburgh shop and Post Office.

**12b.** BF. Highlighted the issue that there is a predominance of ivy choking trees in the area which could cause loss of trees if unchecked.

**12c.** FB. Reported that the plans for Rhu Gala are coming along. There is to be a Grand Bric-a-Brac marquee, and village organisations are invited to take tables.

All donations required by 12th June for Gala on 13th

**12d.** JR. Announced that the R&SCC AGM will be held at the beginning of the next meeting in the Community Hall.

**12e.** JC. There was a reminder about the bike sale at Rhu Primary on 25 April.

**12f.** JC. There have been some complaints about delivery vehicles parking on the footpath outside the Ardencaple Hotel causing disruption to traffic and pedestrians. AM has spoken to the manager and has assurance that it will be sorted out.

**13. AOB:** **13.** Nil

**14 DONM** **14.** The AGM of the R&SCC will take at 1930 on 10th June 2015 in the Community Hall. The next ordinary meeting will take place on completion of the AGM

## Appendix 1 Item 3a: Guest Speaker 1 Deirdre Henderson

### Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service – Key Information

Website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/macmillan](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/macmillan)  
Email [macmillan@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:macmillan@argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Facebook page: Search for locality 'Leisure and Libraries'  
Telephone 01586 555932 (office)

#### Staff:

Deirdre Henderson	Chris Holden
Service Manager	Volunteer Co-ordinator
<a href="mailto:deirdre.henderson@argyll-bute.gov.uk">deirdre.henderson@argyll-bute.gov.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:chris.holden@argyll-bute.gov.uk">chris.holden@argyll-bute.gov.uk</a>
01586 555937	01586 555938

The Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service is a non clinical resource based in Argyll and Bute Council's Library Service. Quality information on all aspects of support for someone affected by cancer is available in one place and volunteers are carefully selected and trained to offer emotional support, to guide people to the most helpful information, and to signpost people to specialist services at weekly drop-ins. Specialist services might include online resources or local agencies for financial help, movement programs, social groups, counselling, complementary therapy, or specialist healthcare services. All drop-in support is given over a friendly cup of tea. Phone and email support can also be given.

#### How we can help your community:

- ✓ Encouraging people to visit their GP should they have any clinical concerns.
- ✓ Support people to prepare for meetings with Healthcare Professionals.
- ✓ Provide services that will reduce the stress on people affected by cancer. This might be the person diagnosed, family, friends or co-workers.
- ✓ Enable people to have access to information and encouragement to lead healthier lives, and get more involved in community based activities.
- ✓ Raise awareness and normalise the discussions around cancer in the community to reduce the isolation that people with cancer can feel.

#### How you can help us:

- ✓ Encourage people to come forward to volunteer, and to help shape the service.
- ✓ Signpost people to the support and information offered.
- ✓ Host the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support promotional materials.
- ✓ Invite us to key community events to enable us to reach as many people who might benefit from support, as possible.
- ✓ Let us know if community fundraising events for Macmillan Cancer Support are being planned so we can help promote them.
- ✓ Let us know of community groups that we can signpost people to in your area.

Macmillan @ Argyll and Bute Libraries

**Appendix 2: Item 3b: Guest Speaker 2 – CDR James Leatherby**

- **Exercise JOINT WARRIOR 151.** As previously advised, the first major exercise of this series programmed for 2015 will be starting to form up as the meeting convenes.
- **Annual Meeting of the Clyde Local Liaison Committee.** The CLLC Meeting was held on the afternoon of Tue 10 Mar 15 in the Clyde Off-Site Centre (COSC) in Rhu. TL represented R&SCC. The Naval Base Commander considered it to have been a positive meeting; he provided a review of the last year and an update on the long term Infrastructure Plan. Some short briefs on the safety regime and Emergency Arrangements & Exercises were also presented. The Regulators were in attendance and endorsed the Base's lines. There were a number of local issues that were raised and answered. CLLC Minutes will be distributed to Members once approved.
  - **R&SCC CLLC Item.** TL asked about MoD policy on the care of listed buildings, referring to the parlous state of St Andrew's School and the old gatehouse on the Southern Approach Road (commonly known as "Maxine's Cottage") which had recently been acquired by the MOD. JL was able to advise that MoD purchased the latter to ensure that appropriate protection was provided, adding that it was subject to a care and maintenance programme that was underpinned by regular site inspections.

**Appendix 3: Item 3c: Guest Speaker 3 – PC Andy Crawford- by email**

**Crime Report 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Crime wise, not to much going on but that might increase as the weather improves and the days are longer....

- 02/03 Vandalism within a dwelling on A814. occurred about 1000hrs, officers have a line of enquiry.
- 16/03 1800hrs, speeder on A814 near school. 52 mph in a 30 mph zone. (too excessive for ticket, therefore reported to Court).
- 23/03 Domestic incident within a village dwelling. Male arrested.

The Helensburgh area saw its first shed broken into this week. Please be aware and secure your property. The criminals know that we have equipment in sheds and out houses that are expensive. It's that time of year....

Please pass on my apologies for non attendance

**Appendix 4 Item 9 Treasurer's Report:**

There was no change in the accounts since the last meeting.

Opening Balance	£ 1,415.63
Income	£ 0.00
Expenditure	£ 0.00
Closing Balance	£ 1,415.63
Fund for seat	£ 350.00
Cash in Bank	£ 1,765.63