

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 21st October 2015
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

Jack Rudram	(JR)	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)
Brian Fleming	(BF)	Insp Coleen Wylie	(CW)
Linda Duncan	(LD)	Edna Muir	(EM)
Jim Duncan	(JD)	Alastair Moore	(AM)
Jayne Burnett	(JB)	Ken Glen	(KG)
Andrew Nicholson	(AN)	John Fraser	(JF)
Peter Knox	(PK)	Audrey Baird	(AB)
Angelina Wassell	(AW)		

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
1. Apologies:	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Pat Pollok-Morris (PPM), Tim Lamb, Fiona Baker (FB), Maggie McCowan and Ronald Sandeman(RS)	
2. Declarations of interest:	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Guest speakers:	<p>3a. Insp Coleen Wylie's Police Report. (CW) introduced herself and talked through the incidents that Police Scotland has dealt with in the area during the last 2 months and forwarded a report Appendix 1:</p> <p>3b. Cdr James Leatherby: (JL) Provided a written report prior to the meeting which can be found at the Appendix 2</p>	
4. Minutes of meeting held 12th August 2015:	4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 th August 2015 were considered.	Minutes endorsed.
5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:	<p>5a. Seat at Rhu Spit: A photo shoot at the installed seat on Rhu spit took place last Friday. JR thanked Alastair Moore, who took the photographs, and all those involved in the project.</p> <p>5b. Flooding at Stuckenduff: This is an ongoing situation, being dealt with by Gerry O'Hare.</p>	MC monitoring

5c. Helensburgh Windfarm: The windfarm planning application has been withdrawn.

5d. Broadband: JC reported that the Openreach "When and Where" site in Beta Test version still states that the first premises in the area will have superfast broadband by December. Those present were sceptical.

5e. Historic Environmental Strategy: A response to the consultation was submitted by the deadline. Action closed

5f. Antisocial Behaviour at Rosslea Hall Hotel: Discussions have taken place and it is down to the hotel management to take action to take steps to prevent antisocial behaviour of their patrons. There have been fewer problems recently. AN will raise the issue further with the Licencing Committee. Action AN

5g. Closure of Rhu Post Office: The Post Office was closed, having suffered IT issues and has now reopened for business. Post offices at Rhu, Garelochhead, Kilcreggan and Cove are all under threat and communities are encouraged to use them to prevent permanent closure. Post offices can safeguard their existence if they can gain Dedicated Community Post Office status, details of the rules and regulations concerning this can be obtained from Alan at Rhu. AN proposed RS to follow up

5h. Community Council By Election: Peter Knox was welcomed onto the Community Council following the recent uncontested by election.

5i. Roadside 'For Sale' Signs: JC is trying to establish the regulations pertaining to the erection of roadside advertising signs. Ongoing

6. Planning Matters:

6a. Lochside Care Home: An amended plan has been submitted but is not on the planning website and cannot be seen by the public. GF will ask why the amended plan is not on the website and correct the situation. In the meantime JR will get paper copy from Blairvadach. Ongoing

6b. TPO for Blairvadach Estate: The tree preservation order for the Blairvadach has been approved. JR to meet with Howard Young to see the extent of the order. JB would like to attend if available. Ongoing

7. Other Matters:

7a. Japanese Knotweed: JC reported that the knotweed leaflet, distributed to residents of Rhu and Shandon by Community Councillors and members of the Knotweed Monitoring Group KMG, was well received. Fears by several private individuals of suspected knotweed growing in or near their properties have been dispelled after a visit by a member

of the KMG, Most known outbreaks have been reported to the landowners concerned and all have reported that action to control the weed is ongoing. These actions will continue to be monitored. By the wonders of the web the leaflet reached the Tall Grasses and Weeds Inspector in Kalamazoo, Michigan who was particular interested in the fact that community action was being taken. AM raised the issue that council workers/contractors have been strimming areas containing knotweed and is concerned that they are unaware of the best practices concerning JKW. It is desirable that A&BC ensure that their staff are properly briefed before undertaking this kind of work. RM will raise the matter with A&BC.

Action RM

7b. Tree Protection Across the Community: To be discussed with Howard Young at meeting arranged under item 6b.

JB/JR

7c. Bowling Club Future: There has been no progress on the future of the bowling club. The clubhouse windows have been boarded up since the last CC meeting. Rhu School has shown some interest but PPM was unable to get the keys and access to the site is no longer permitted. One of the elderly trustees has resigned.

7d. Horticulture/Open Public Spaces (Rose Bed and Barge Memorial Garden): FB(Not Present) has asked if the CC could buy roses for the rose garden by the Rhu Loos. It is believed that the garden was created by the late Alf Wheeler. As the Council is not responsible for the upkeep of this rose bed it was thought that the area would be grassed over unless there was community action. A sub-committee FB, PK, JB and headed up by AW to be set up to look at possibilities. It was considered that this would be an appropriate use of the CC's funds.

Action AW

8. Consultations:

8a. Ward Boundaries: The proposed changes to the Ward Boundaries were universally opposed. The changes would involve Rhu and Shandon moving into Helensburgh Central whilst the Glen Fruin area of the CC would stay in Helensburgh & Lomond North. Councillors would not necessarily be working in areas where they have in depth local knowledge. There would be less distinction between rural and urban communities and those living in sparsely populated regions would lose their voice. GF recommended that the status quo should be maintained until the outcome of the proposed Islands Bill was known as this could avoid the need for a second review in a short period of time. JR presented a draft letter in response to the consultation which contained the views of the CC. It was agreed that the letter should be sent without change.

Action JR

8b. CPO Annual Review – Possible Work: It was considered that people involved in the Community Payback Scheme could be involved in local flowerbeds and the like but it was pointed

out that they cannot be used to conduct tasks normally undertaken by the council. JR to send in response to consultation.

Action JR

9. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:

9a. AB: Reported that there has been some success by residents cutting back hedges that are overhanging footpaths in Rhu but there are still some problem areas. Pier Road adjacent to Laggary Park, and Church Road.

RM stated that residents are responsible for keeping the footpaths clear of overhanging branches from their properties and GF added that letters have been sent recently requesting householders to take appropriate action. JC will put a note onto the website and ask PPM to speak to residents.

Action JC and PPM

9b. KG. Raised the issue that the non-skid surface is worn out and breaking up at the corner near the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club. There are potholes and the road markings are unclear. Overall the surface is in a dangerous state and is in need of repair.

RM to pursue.

10. Treasurer's report:

10. Treasurer's Report: The report circulated with the agenda was incorrect. LD briefed the true state of accounts. The only changes to the accounts since the last meeting are £24.95 for Spanglefish Gold 2014/2015 and £105.00 for the printing of Japanese Knotweed leaflets. Accounts as follows:

Opening Balance.	£ 2,315.13
Income	£ -
Expenditure	£ 129.95
CC funds.	£ 2,185.18
Seat funds.	£ 375.00
Closing Balance	£ 2,185.18

11. Correspondence:

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

- On behalf of the CC, JC has written in support of a new heating system in the Community Centre.
- Alcohol Licensing consultations – No action will be taken by CC at this time, but they will be informed of the recommendations resulting from the consultation. and will keep a watching brief.
- Consultation on the Integration of Health and Social Care. Individuals are encouraged to respond via the link on the website. Deadline is the end of November.
- Planning our Future – Consultation regarding planning for future savings. Deadline December 1st.

12. Website and related issues:

12. Website. It was agreed to add the mobile friendly version of our website, provided by Spanglefish. This will cost £29.95 per year, an increase of £5 on the adfree version we have

Action JC

currently. Proposed JC, seconded LD. A meeting of the website committee will be held to discuss facilities before the next meeting.

13. Members' Reports:

13a. AN informed the CC that Rhu Church has a New minister, David Young, starting in Jan/Feb next year. He is currently working with Strathclyde University. Once he is in post he will be able to start recruiting an assistant.

A visitor to Rosslea Hall complained, via the Feedback page of the Community Council website, that she was kept awake by the Church bells. Correspondence ensued between the Manager at Rosslea Hall Hotel and AN and it was confirmed that it was the chiming of the clock rather than the bells which were causing the problem. This was met with little sympathy by the Community Council. The clock is maintained by A&B Council on behalf of the community. The question was asked whether the bells could be silenced between midnight and 6 o'clock. History indicates that residents in Rhu are in favour of maintaining the chimes. The manager of Rosslea hall will approach A&B Council.

13b. JB announced that she was no longer the chair of the Parent Liaison Committee at Rhu School but will continue to take an interest.

13c. PK told the CC that he is expecting that the trees at Highlandman's Wood are to be felled in the next year. The timber will be removed by road and the only access is via Station Road and Pier Road in Rhu. This will inevitably cause problems on the roads and access to the footpaths on the hill may be restricted. He was asked to determine exactly what areas were to be felled, how the wood was to be transported out, what roads would be closed and the timescale for the work.

Action PK

13d. MC reported that there are a number of armed forces covenant grants in force. There has been a good response from various organisations and the next round of allocations will be in December.

The Battle of Jutland commemorations will be commencing on 14 May 2016. A Drumhead Service will be taking place in the square in Helensburgh led by the RN.

Rhu Hall management are up and running which should secure the future of the facility.

13e. RM said that he would take up the road issues and reiterated that the Ward Boundary changes were not wanted by Councillors.

14. AOB:

14. AOB - Nil.

15. DONM:

15. The next ordinary meeting will take place at 1930 on 9th December 2015 in the Community Hall.

Appendix 1: Item 3a

Guest speaker, Inspector Coleen Wylie CW emailed this report after the meeting

Reported Crimes

- Theft from private premises 15-18/08/15
- Vandalism & Assault at private premises – female charged.
- Female charged with behaving in threatening manner following incident in Shandon on 23/8/15.
- 2 juveniles charged with Common Assault after incident in Rhu on 6/9/15.

Incidents Rhu & Shandon

- 20/8/15 - Fire services attended minor domestic fire at house in Rhu, no injuries and minor damage only.
- Male bitten by dog, no complaint and suitable advice given to victim and Dog warden informed.
- 13/10/15 – Vehicle removed as No valid insurance held.
- 14/10/15 – Report of horse on road, safely returned to field.
- Complaint of speeding on A814 through Rhu towards Helensburgh

We continue to focus on Road safety, and local officers along with colleagues from Road Policing Unit at Dumbarton will continue with Speed checks throughout the area and reinforce road safety messages via local media/Twitter.

Bogus/Cold callers – following a few recent incidents in the division, reminder to all residents to be wary of cold callers. If in doubt do not allow them into your home or provide any personal information. Call 101 if concerned or visit the Keep Safe page of Police Scotland website for more Crime Prevention advice.

The mobile police office is now back operational, PC Alison Kane will be visiting some of the more rural villages throughout the area.

PC Peter Sinclair is the new Wildlife Liaison officer, and will work alongside MDP officers, local Angling clubs and rural communities.

Appendix 2: Item 3b

GUEST SPEAKER 2 – CDR JAMES LEATHERBY (JL) – REPORT

JL provided the following report ahead of the meeting:

- **Exercise EVENING STAR 2015 (ES15).** This major but routine Nuclear Reactor Emergency Response Exercise, held on 2 Sep 15, was deemed by the Nuclear Regulators to be a satisfactory demonstration of both the Base's On-site and Argyll & Bute Council's Off-site emergency plans. The next such large-scale exercise will take place in 2018.
- **Exercise JOINT WARRIOR (JW).** The current exercise (JW152) started on Fri 1 Oct and will last until participating vessels finally disperse from Faslane on about Mon 19 Oct 15. There are likely to be a significant number of ships either at anchor or berthed alongside in the local area again on that final weekend.

- **Rhu (Ardenconnel) Playing Fields.** Formal Planning Permission is being applied for, through the chosen contractor. While there is no change of purpose for the pitch or the changing rooms, as previously advised, there will be new lighting and fencing involved in the proposed development.
- **The Armed Forces Community Covenant.** The first meeting that will involve the new Base Executive Officer (BXO – Commander Jim Hayle) is scheduled to take place on Thu 8 Oct 15.
- **Environmental Issues – Japanese Knotweed.** The patches of Japanese Knotweed identified on MOD land in the vicinity of the railway line just above the MacKenzie Married Quarters estate, as reported at the last meeting, have been passed to a contractor to be addressed appropriately. In order to ensure that the Base is able to operate a controlled and consistent approach on such matters in future, it is requested that any other patches identified on local MOD land are reported to Mrs J Kennedy of the Estates Department (Tel: 01436 674321 Faslane Ext 7285).
- **Environmental Issues – Lloyds Register Quality Assurance.** The Base was successfully recertified last month against ISO 9001(Quality Management Systems) and ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems).