

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 9th December 2015
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

Jack Rudram	(JR)	Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Jean Cook	(JC)	PC Ronald Thompson	(RT)
Pat Pollok-Morris	(PPM)	PC Adam McCrerie	(AMC)
Gordon King	(GK)	George Wilson	(GW)
Olivia Birch	(OB)	Mike Yendell	(MY)
Brian Fleming	(BF)	Alastair Macbeth	(AMB)
Linda Duncan	(LD)	Alastair Moore	(AM)
Jim Duncan	(JD)	Ruth Chappell Fleming	(RCF)
Jayne Burnett	(JB)	John Brown	(JBr)
Andrew Nicholson	(AN)	Rosemary Brown	(RBr)
Peter Knox	(PK)		
Maggie McCowan	(MM)		
Tim Lamb	(TL)		
Fiona Baker	(FB)		

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
1. Apologies:	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Cllr George Freeman, Cllr Robert MacIntyre, Cllr Maurice Corry, Angelina Wassell, Ronald Sandeman and Edna Muir	
2. Declarations of interest:	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Guest speakers:	<p>3a. PC Ronald Thompson: (RT) introduced himself and talked through the incidents that Police Scotland has dealt with in the area during the last 2 months. Full report can be found at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The issue of antisocial behaviour at the Rosslea Hall Hotel was raised and that the Police have been in attendance on several occasions. RT will pass on the comments to Insp Wylie and anticipated that the Police would drop by when weddings were on, in order to show a presence.</p> <p>3b. Cdr James Leatherby: (JL) Provided a written report prior to the meeting which can be found at Appendix 2.</p>	
4. Minutes of meeting held 10th October 2015:	4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 th October 2015 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed JD, Seconded AN.	

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

5a. Flooding at Stuckenduff: This is an ongoing issue, no comments received from Councillors

MC
monitoring

5b. Broadband: Nick Davis, Convener of Cove and Kilcreggan CC has supplied the details of a useful contact, who has promised to provide up to date information on the delivery of Fast Fibre Broadband in our area.

Action JC to
post info on
website

5c. Antisocial Behaviour at Rosslea Hall Hotel: There are 2 separate ongoing issues with the Rosslea Hall hotel, that of antisocial behaviour of patrons predominantly at wedding celebrations and the excessive use of fireworks. Antisocial behaviour appears associated with guests from occasional weddings who make excessive noise, arguing in the gardens and there are reports of some litter on the Spit. There is also the question of uncontrolled parking in the vicinity of the hotel. Neighbours are concerned for their safety and disturbance of their peace. Complaints have not always been treated sympathetically. The use of fireworks is lawful provided that it is occasional and complete by 2300. In the case of firework displays 3 to 4 times per year would be considered reasonable. The manager of the hotel has acknowledged that fireworks are an issue and has indicated that he will be taking no more bookings for fireworks next year. He will, however, have to honour bookings already made. The hotel send emails to people who have requested prior warning of fireworks; this has helped but the exact timing of the fireworks is important so that residents can prepare their pets. A range of complaints has been received on social media and emotions are running high. A suggestion has been made to the hotel that 'quiet' fireworks are available and that this could present a possible compromise. The following was proposed:

- Antisocial behaviour. This should be dealt with by the Police. Additionally, a letter to be written to the Rosslea Hall Hotel to ask for improvement in the standards of security at events, copied to local Police office.
- Fireworks. A letter to be written to the Hotel and copied to the Head Office. This should set out the concerns of the community, ask for dates of events involving fireworks that have already been booked and reiterate the possible use of quiet fireworks.
- If there is no sustained improvement then AN will consider seeking advice from the Licensing Committee about the concerns of the Community Council".

Action JC

Action JC

5d. Closure of Rhu Post Office: Concern continues over of the future of the Rhu Post Office and rural post offices in general. The CC has already sent letters in support of retention of the office. The long term future of the local office depends on our continued support which will include responding to any reviews, reports and meetings that arise. Everyone is to be encouraged to use the local Post Office.

6. Planning Matters:

6a. Ardenconnel Sports Field: There is a proposal by the MOD to develop the ground known as the Ardenconnel pitch. The land is owned by the MOD. There was a meeting with RN and their pitch designer on Thurs 3rd Dec attended on behalf of R&SCC by JR, PPM, JD & TL, 3 'neighbour' representatives MY, JB & RB, and Neil McNicol (Rhu Amateurs). The plan is to lay a 3G surface, enclosed with fencing (4m high along sides and 6m at the ends) and erect floodlighting on 15m high standards. There was some uncertainty about the provision/upgrading of changing facilities and the surface would not be suitable for all sports. Predicted usage by military personnel is 2 to 4 evenings per week and occasional weekends. A limited survey of local people had been undertaken and to date 27 people objecting and 7 supporting, some with reservations. The following concerns were raised at the meeting:

- Increased noise and disturbance to neighbouring properties during construction and use.
- The Rhu Gala would have to be relocated.
- Increase in light pollution affecting properties overlooking pitch.
- Impact of alterations to drainage systems as area prone to flooding.
- Whether the highly engineered structure is in keeping with the intent of the Conservation Area.
- Exclusion of organisations that have previously had access to the area, eg Scouts, local children.
- Limited parking facilities, poor access and traffic concerns on the approach road.
- Although the facility would be available for use by sports clubs the booking fees would be potentially high and regular or block bookings would not be taken.
- The facility is predominately for use by the Navy but will be available to local groups when not wanted. The R&SCC sub group recommend that an objection should be submitted on some or all of the grounds outlined above. The majority voted in favour with 1 abstention and no objections.

Planning Subgroup to submit objection.

6b. Lochside Care Home: R&SCC objected to the proposed development on grounds of parking, height and access. The planning committee had 50 objections by 18 Nov. A public hearing will be held in the Rhu Community Hall on 11 Dec at 1030. The public will be permitted to speak if they have submitted comments on the website and registered a wish to

Speak on arrival to meeting. JMR, PPM and TL will attend and speak. By 18 Nov it is believed that the developer had offered to reduce the overall height by 1.2m and increase the area available for parking.

7. Other Matters:

7a. Tree Protection Across The Community: The TPO order for Blairvadach has been provisionally approved for 6 months and is expected to be ratified. TPOs are subject to planning and the Planning Committee will conduct site visits. Requests for TPO can be submitted with photographs but it is stressed that Health and Safety may override a TPO. No hedges or fruit trees will be covered by TPOs but all trees are protected in the Conservation Area.

JB and JR to continue to monitor

7b. Horticulture/Open Spaces: The rose beds are currently in good order albeit with limited blooms. A suggestion was made to use some of the CC funds to sponsor new stock. Although it is believed that the Council would maintain the Barge Memorial Garden it is currently looking un-cared for.

Ongoing

8. Consultations:

8a. Review of Scottish Planning System: The Community Council made a joint submission with The Helensburgh Community Council Strategy Plans Group, The Helensburgh Study Group and The Helensburgh Green Belt Group. Alastair Macbeth wrote an excellent paper which can be accessed on the website, under Archived Consultations.

8b. Planning our Futures: Argyll and Bute Council launched a consultation at the end of October on changes to the services it delivers and the ways in which it works. A briefing document can be found on the website, under Active Consultations, and hard copies are available at the Council Offices. Plans to cut Special Needs funding have been shelved. Individuals are encouraged to respond.

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

9a. AMB, Helensburgh Resident: Brought attention to the large steel container that has been placed in the Ardencaple Plantation. This object was subject to planning permission which was refused in 2014. If an enforcement order had been issued for its removal, then it could have been removed by contractors and the expense billed to the land owner. This did not happen. As the container is not on the R&SCC area any objection raised by R&SCC would be on the grounds that it could adversely affect the area. A second Planning Application has been made for the structure with the deadline for representations 25th December, but anything submitted up to 5th January will be allowed. The size of the container is considered excessive for its use of initially storing camping gear and now believed to be for woodland management equipment. There are also concerns as to the ownership of the land it appears that 2 separate planning applications have been made by different people but with similar addresses. It was proposed that PK would draft objections on behalf of the

CC. The repeat planning application, after a refusal, is another example whereby due process has been followed by a lack of enforcement by the Council.

Action PK

10. Treasurer's report:

10. Treasurer's Report: The report circulated with the agenda was correct at time of circulation. However LD updated the report as of 9th December.
Accounts as follows:

Opening Balance.	£ 2,185.18	
Income	£ 100.00	Received grant for seat
Expenditure:		
Spanglefish Gold 2015/2016	£ 24.95	
Mailboxes	£ 12.00	Pending
Printing	£ 35.00	Pending
CC funds.	£ 1,738.23	
Seat funds.	£ 475.00	Awaiting A&BC invoice
Funds available in bank	£ 2,213.23	
Cash in Bank	£ 2,260.23	

11. Correspondence:

11. Correspondence had been circulated as and when it was received.

12. Website and related issues:

12. Website: The website traffic has increased and 2 significant additions have been made to the menu. There is a News section which is highlighting issues of particular local interest and a live calendar of events. It intended that newsletters will be published, approximately fortnightly, containing a summary of the news. AM said he was having difficulty viewing on his smart phone. It was pointed out the viewing in Landscape solved the problem.

13. Members' Reports:

13a. AN informed the CC that Rhu Church has a New minister, David Young, starting on Tuesday 15 Dec. Services during the Christmas period will be published in the local press.

13b. JB announced that her sister is on the Parent Liaison Committee at Rhu School.

13c. FB has retired from the gala committee.

14. AOB:

14. AOB - Nil.

15. DONM:

15. The next ordinary meeting will take place at 1930 on 10th February 2016 in the Community Hall.

Appendix 2:

Report supplied ahead of the meeting by Community Inspector Coleen Wylie

- 24/10/15: Police received a report of a theft of money from a wallet contained in the locker room at Rhu Football Club.
- 25/10/15: A garden shed was broken into at a property in Armadale Road, Rhu where gardening equipment was stolen.
- 06/11/15: The driver of a motor vehicle was charged with speeding near to the Rhu Inn.
- 06/11/15: Damage to a traffic mirror was reported to police at a property in Glenarn Road, Rhu.
- 12/11/15: Police received a report that a boat trailer had been stolen from Rhu Marina within the previous six months.
- 18/11/15: Police received a report of a smashed window at Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club, Rhu.
- Police have also received a report of a bogus telephone call to a local resident where a sum of money was fraudulently obtained via telephone. **Can residents be reminded to be aware of suspicious telephone calls where persons are either looking for money or bank details, and never provide any information either via telephone, online or to cold callers to your home as genuine companies will not request information in this manner.**

Appendix 2

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

JL provided the following report ahead of the above meeting:

- **Rhu (Ardenconnel) Playing Fields.** As previously advised, although there is no change of purpose for either the pitch or the changing rooms, formal Planning Permission has been sought because the proposed development includes the addition of lighting and fencing. It is known that some objections have been lodged with Argyll & Bute Council through this process.
- **The Armed Forces Community Covenant.** It is understood that 3 local bids for Armed Forces Covenant Fund (AFCF) money, including one from Argyll & Bute Council (ABC), were successful at the recent meeting of the National AFCF Panel, totalling £288,000 of awards. It is expected that further details will be available from ABC's Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Maurice Corry, by the time of the Community Council meeting.

Post meeting Note from Maurice Corry

Successful local bids to From AFCF

- Rhu and Shandon Community Centre: £20K for a new heating system
- Helensburgh and Rhu Sea Cadets: £15K for a minibus.