

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Wednesday 10th February 2016
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

Jack Rudram	(JR)	Cdr James Leatherby RN	(JL)
Jean Cook	(JC)	Sgt Sandy Johnstone	(SJ)
Pat Pollok-Morris	(PPM)	Edna Muir	(EM)
Gordon King	(GK)	George Wilson	(GW)
Olivia Birch	(OB)	Patty MacKenzie	(PM)
Brian Fleming	(BF)	Ken MacKenzie	(KM)
Peter Knox	(PK)	Alastair Moore	(AM)
Maggie McCowan	(MM)		
Fiona Baker	(FB)		

Topic	Minute	Decision/Action
1. Apologies:	<p>1a. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Cllr George Freeman, Cllr Maurice Corry, Tim Lamb, Angelina Wassell, Ronald Sandeman, Linda Duncan, Jim Duncan, Jayne Burnett and Andrew Nicholson.</p> <p>1b. Ronald Sandeman has resigned from the Community Council which has created a vacancy. This can be filled by co-option at the AGM in June. The co-opted member would then stand for election in the by-election which will take place later in the year.</p>	
2. Declarations of interest:	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Guest speakers:	<p>3a. Sgt Sandy Johnstone (SJ) 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 to the Agenda. JC commented that the Police website was in need of updating for local police information.</p> <p>3b. Cdr James Leatherby: (JL) Provided a written report prior to the meeting which can be found at Appendix 2 to the Agenda. In addition JL reported that Commodore Mark Gayfer has replaced Commodore Mark Adams as the Naval Base Commander.</p>	JC contact SJ
4. Minutes of meeting held 9th December 2015:	4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 th December 2015 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	

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

5a. Flooding at Stuckenduff: This is an ongoing issue, no Councillor's comments received.

MC monitoring

5b. Closure of Rhu Post Office: Concern continues over of the future of the Rhu Post Office and it could close at short notice. There has been difficulty in obtaining contact details for anyone in authority within the Post Office who can provide information on the options available. JR will continue to pursue the Post Office and approach Jackie Ballie. PPM is searching for information on the web to find out about the requirements for running a community post office, and any limitations/restrictions of services they can provide.

JR and PPM

6. Planning Matters:

6a. Lochside Care Home: R&SCC objected to the proposed development on grounds of parking, height and access. The Application for the home went to a hearing and the design had been modified, slightly reducing the height. Access still needs to be improved and parking is to be reviewed. The plan appears to be in line with Scottish Government policy. The CC was invited to remain involved but it was felt that our views are known and unlikely to change. The revised plans have not yet been posted on the Planning website.

6b. Ardenconnel Sports Field: The planning process is now closed for objections and PPLC will consider the application. There is expected to be a public hearing where interested parties will be invited to attend.

6c. Metal Storage Container. A meeting was held on 29th Jan with Howard Young, Morag Jardine, Alastair Macbeth, Nigel Miller and Peter Knox. It is understood that temporary planning permission has not been granted and Protection For Rural Scotland is likely to become involved and the matter is going through due process. JC asked PK to provide a paragraph for the website

PK provide note to JC

6d. Bungalow in Ferry Road. An application has been made to build a bungalow in the grounds of Rhu Lodge. It is understood that the land has been bought by a builder who may wish to develop the site.

BF to monitor

6e. Clashwell Lodge. Planning permission has been given in principle for a dwelling to be constructed in place of a garage and flat. The general opinion was that the proposal is reasonable and no cause for concern by CC.

6f. Laigh Balernock Farm. There are plans for a 30m high wind mast to be placed at Laigh Balernock Farm. It is thought to be for a 'farm scale' turbine. The site is 450 metres East of Laigh Balernock Farm, Station Road, Shandon which places it on the Rhu and Shandon side of the CC boundary. R&SCC will not be objecting at present but will monitor developments. More information can be found in The Lochside Press.

6g. Dobbies Site. Persimmon Housing are proposing to develop the old Dobbies site. There is a housing allocation for 60 units but it is believed that there are plans for 95 units. There is to be a pre-application consultation on 16 March in the Ardencaple Hotel from 1pm to 7pm.

7. Other Matters:

7a. Broadband. There has been no significant progress and no useful information has been forthcoming. A suggestion was made to ask Brendan O'Hara to take up the cause.

JC to pursue

7b. Horticulture/Open Spaces. There was nothing significant to report. The Council do not appear to be interested in the Barge Memorial Garden but it needs to be tidied up and a commitment to keep it tidy. FB suggested that the Community Payback Scheme could be used but they cannot be employed on 'Council Work'. The rose bed at Rhu loos still needs attention. PM said that dog owners and children at the bus stop have no respect for the beds and roses and daffodils are being damaged. She also reported that plant pots had been taken from Watersedge Court. AM thinks that there are some people who would be willing to do the work.

7c. Rosslea Hall Hotel Correspondence. Correspondence between the Rosslea and CC has been circulated.

- **Fireworks:** It is believed that the hotel currently has no bookings for fireworks until November. This has not yet been confirmed in writing.
- **Parking:** This is within the remit of the hotel to resolve. Neighbours are concerned that general access is being impeded and are particularly worried about access for emergency vehicles should the need arise.
- **Antisocial Behavior:** This is between the hotel security, and the police if needed, to control.
- **Noise:** Argyll and Bute Licensing and health departments have received complaints. A noise management plan has been put in place.

A meeting has been held with Don Macgregor (Manager) at Rosslea Hall Hotel on 14 January 2016 attended by the Police, Argyll and Bute Council Licencing (Mr Raymond Park) and Argyll and Bute Council Environmental Health (Mary Watt).

In the discussion, various views were expressed; the CC should pursue the hotel for a response to the last letter; the hotel is operating illegally with respect to the firework displays; the CC has done as much as can reasonably be expected in this matter. A motion, proposed by MM and seconded by PPM, to remove this item from future agendas since the authorities, who have the power to take action, are now involved, was passed (4 in favour, 3 against with 1 abstention). In view of the closeness of the vote, JR proposed that the CC wait for a response to the last letter sent to the hotel, make contact with the three authorities involved, and ask to be kept advised. This motion was passed unanimously.

Action JR & JC

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

8. PM reiterated her disappointment with regard to the daffodils.

9. Treasurer's report:

9. Treasurer's Report: There has been no change to the account since the last meeting. An invoice for the seat has been received but has not yet been paid.

10. Correspondence:

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

- A letter has been received on the subject of the Scheme for Third Sector Grants. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Argyll and Bute Councillors on this issue, encouraging councillors to support proposals which would change the Scheme to allow Community Councils to apply for Third Sector Grants.

Action JC

- A letter has been received from **Paths for All** who are offering individual grants of up to £1500 to help community groups improve, maintain and promote their local community paths.

The funding can be used to:

- buy tools, insurance and materials,
- hire a contractor, plant and machinery,
- install signage and way-markers,
- produce a leaflet or promotional materials.

It was suggested that the CC approach Anne Urquhart to see if there are any paths in our area which could be improved using fund from the scheme.

Action JC

11. Website and related issues:

11. Website: JC is sending out newsletters to let people know what's going on and encouraging the use of the news page on the website. The Whole DATA Reminder Policy, WDRP, adopted by the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers ICANN, requires annual confirmation of the contact details of all Domain Name holders. This has been done, via Calico, where our domain name is registered.

12. Councillors' reports

12. There were no Councillors at the meeting. MC sent a message to say that he would be attending a meeting with regard to Ardenconnel Field and would be updating the CC with any developments.

Councillors would be attending the Council's budget meeting on 11 Feb.

13. Members' Reports:

13a. PPM. Attended the meeting of the Patient's Group. The 'Heart Start' lady, Sheena Nelson, was present. She was asked about the placing defibrillators and Rhu is considered to be within "adequate response time" by the ambulance service but Shandon is not. PPM suggested that Heartstart be invited either to a CC meeting or a public meeting to demonstrate a defibrillator, and arrange training if interest shown. The installed cost would be £1500 if a site in Shandon could be identified.

Action JC and PPM

13b. FB. The Rhu Gala will take place at the RNCYC on Saturday 11th June. Malcolm Pearson has been appointed as Chmn and supported by Gordon Black.

13c. PK. The felling of the Highlandman's Wood, which was scheduled for later this year, has been delayed due to a pending insurance claim. Scottish Woodlands do not expect to start felling this year.

13d. GK. Reported a pot hole and blocked drain on the A&B website and asked for acknowledgement. Acknowledgement was not received so complained. Complaint NOT upheld because a response was sent to email address I supplied (correct) but was returned as undeliverable with the message 'You can't send a message on behalf of this user unless you have permission to do so'. There have been 2 attempts to fill the pot hole and the drain is still blocked.

13e. JC. Commented that the roads in the area are poor and it is incredible that the road between Helensburgh and Dumbarton is in a terrible state considering the length of time it had been closed for repairs just a couple of years ago. The question of what sort of guarantee is given by the contractors when major road resurfacing takes place was raised, and it was agreed that this should be raised with Argyll and Bute roads department in the first instance.

Action JC.

14. AOB:

14. AOB - Nil.

15. DONM:

15. The next ordinary meeting will take place at 1930 on 13th April 2016 in the Community Hall.