

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 11th April 2018  
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)  
Jim Duncan (JD)  
Linda Duncan (LD)  
Peter Knox (PK)  
Tim Lamb (TL)  
Andrew Nicholson (AN)  
Jayne Burnett (JB)

Guests/Public:

Cllr George Freeman (GF)  
Cdr James Leatherby RN (JL)  
Adele McGookin (AM)  
PC Jeanette Speirs (MDP) (JS)  
PC Ashley Bainbridge (AB)  
Kirsty Moyes - A&BC (KM)  
Rhona Gold – A&BC (RG)  
PC Kieran Cameron (KC)  
Kevin Johnstone (KJ)

Topic	Minute	Decision/ Action
<b>1. Apologies:</b>	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Fiona Baker, Derek Hall, Maggie McCowan, and Cllr Iain Paterson.	
<b>2. Declarations of interest:</b>	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3. Guest speakers:</b>	<p><b>3a. Police Scotland.</b> KC presented the police report which can be found at Appendix 1 to the Agenda on the website. Police Scotland attended a total of 37 incidents in Rhu and in Shandon during the period from 14 February. In addition, horses had been seen loose and grazing on the verge at the side of the A814 this is believed to be in contravention of the owner's bail conditions.</p> <p><b>3b. Cdr James Leatherby:</b> Presented the brief for the Naval Base and the report can be found at Appendix 2 to the Agenda. TL had represented the CC at the Clyde Local Liaison Committee meeting at the end of March. This was JL's final Community Council meeting and he introduced Adele McGookin who would be representing the Naval Base at future meetings in his place. The Convenor welcomed AM and thanked JL for his support over last number of years.</p> <p><b>3c. PC Jeanette Speirs MDP.</b> JS had nothing of note to report and there were no questions from the CC.</p> <p><b>3d. KM and RG Supporting Communities Fund.</b> RG gave an overview of the Supporting Communities fund which was formerly known as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Grant which is connected to The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Argyll and Bute Council is changing how it distributes its grants to local community groups and third sector organisations, giving local communities more of a direct say in how the funding is allocated. This is a pilot project running for 1 year and feedback is welcomed. A website has been created specifically for the pilot project: <a href="http://www.abpb.co.uk">www.abpb.co.uk</a>. This year, projects to be funded will be decided by participatory budgeting. This means that officers will score applications to the fund, make recommendations to Councillors at Area Committees who will agree which projects will go</p>	

**Topic****Minute****Decision/  
Action**

forward to a public vote. Members of the public will have the final say on which projects receive funding by voting in April 2018. Voting closes midnight on 30 April. The fund was open this year to community groups including community councils and parent councils, who could apply for a maximum of £2,500 per project. KM described how the voting works and explained that there is £28,200 available for projects in Helensburgh and Lomond. There will be public meetings to explain the process, one of which will be in the Rhu Village Hall. In addition to the on line voting form there is a paper version. Voters need to be over 16 years old. The voting system recognises different people by name and date of birth and you can have as many sessions as you like but the system will only take your last session as your vote. OB asked if you need to live in the area. KM – postcode is required but you don't have to be on the electoral register. JR said as funding will be allocated by the number of votes received so it appears that areas with a greater population have an unfair advantage. KM - the key message is that people are not being asked for their project of choice but to decide how the funding is distributed. KJ said that he has voted and the idea is to spread the money around. It can be promoted on Facebook and thinks that it is a good project. TL said that Route 81 is disadvantaged because it is a youth group and therefore its members cannot vote. They will need to try and get their parents to vote. GF confirmed that he remained a sceptic because of the absence of any weighting factors based on community population size and the potential cost of the exercise. He was of the view that this discriminated in favour of the larger towns and against the smaller rural communities. All six Community Councils in his Lomond North Ward had concerns about the voting system. Cllr Gary Mulvaney has expressed concerns at the recent Area Committee meeting at how much it was costing to distribute £28,000. In the past applications were submitted to the Area Committee that decided on the distribution of funds. PPM thought that participatory budgeting was unnecessary and paying lip service to Scottish Government policy. RG closed reminding people that this is only a trial, the team are not doing anything irresponsible and are trying to evaluate the concept of participatory budgeting.

**4. Minutes of meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018:**

4. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed JB and Seconded OB. The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

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5. Matters arising from minutes not otherwise on the agenda:	<p><b>5a. (5c) Laigh Balerno Turbines 16/02662/PP.</b> JR was monitoring the development and had nothing to add. He will continue to monitor.</p> <p><b>5b. (5d) Spoils on Footpath between Armadale Road and Torwoodhill Road.</b> JD reported that residents had taken matters into their own hands and have had a handrail installed at their own expense.</p> <p><b>5c. (5d) Road surface, road markings, footpath and lighting at Upper Torwoodhill Road.</b> IP had previously agreed to look into the matter but there was no update as he was not present at the meeting. Post meeting update. Message from Gerry O'Hare via IP: Water issues will be resolved prior to surface dressing on this road in April/May.</p> <p><b>5d. (6a) Helensburgh Waterfront Development.</b> One consultation regarding the swimming pool development has been held with a further 2 planned on 30 April and 14 May in the Victoria Halls between 11am and 7pm. JD said that he thought that the plans are rather disappointing and JC described it as 'a shed on the shore' rather than an iconic building. TL thought that the building may not be able to withstand the exposure to the elements on the site for many years. There was a feeling that the consultation was a formality and seems to be a <i>fait accompli</i>. JR suggested that the CC should be represented at the next 2 sessions and that comments should be sent to and coordinated by JD.</p> <p><b>5e. (6b) New Submarine Training Facility.</b> TL and Nigel Miller (Helensburgh CC) attended the second Public Pre-Application Consultation held for representatives of Community Councils at the end of February. There was little to take away from the meeting other than that it would be a large development, set down from the main road and would be well screened. No further action required.</p> <p><b>5f. (14b) Tree Preservation Order.</b> The Argyll and Bute, Blairvadach House, Shandon, by Helensburgh, Tree Preservation Order Number 01/18, is in force. The order details 25 individual trees by species and sets out the legal requirements of the order. JB presented a pack containing all of the information. JR thanked JB for her efforts.</p>	Action all CC Members
6. Planning Matters:	<p><b>6a. Planning Matters.</b> There were no significant planning applications in the last 2 months.</p>	
7. Consultations.	<p><b>7a. Update on The Licensing (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2007.</b> AN has looked into the Licensing Procedures and found that there is a procedure on line to request a licence. These licences are issued with conditions attached, eg street traders are not permitted to sell items within 100m of a shop selling the same item. The Council is consulting on proposed changes to a number of conditions that can be attached to licences. JR asked AN to look at the information and see if the CC needs to comment. The consultation closes on 6 June.</p>	AN to discuss with GF off line.

**7b. Other consultations:**

- Bank Closures. Consultation closes on 13 April.
- Future of Public Services. Consultation closes on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Meeting in Victoria Halls May 1<sup>st</sup>, where you can meet the engagement team. Registration is required. Details on the Consultations page of our website.
- Scottish Fire Service. Consultation closes 14th May
- Police Scotland. Ongoing; results updated quarterly.

**8. Other Matters:**

**8a. Results of Community Council Elections.** 10 of the current Community Council will be returning with one new member – Linda Black. The outgoing CC relinquishes its authority on 25<sup>th</sup> April and the incoming CC forming at the inaugural meeting on 15th May 2018.

**8b. Rhu Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA).** The grant of £3400 has been received and should have been spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March but the CC has verbal agreement to retain the grant for the time being. The proposal for the CAA will need to be presented to the Area Committee and this is expected to happen during the summer. The CC needs something in writing (email would be sufficient) to confirm that the grant money can be retained until needed. The 'Conservation Area' road sign at the northern end of Rhu, has collapsed and JC was asked to write to the Council to get the sign repaired.

Action JC

**8c. Pop Up Stations: Appendix 4.** JR, PK, LD and JC met with Ross Greer, Green MSP for West Scotland, regarding the prospects for train stations in our area. Rhu and Shandon were identified as locations where the £2M of funding to investigate new stations could be spent. Visits were paid to the station sites in Shandon and Rhu but the thinking was that the proposals to commence reusing the stations were unlikely to succeed. The results of the Pop-up Station Survey are at Appendix 4 to the Agenda. The survey was inconclusive and there was insufficient response to the survey for the CC to form a view. KJ suggested a better solution would be to alter the bus route to go through the village rather than along the A814. JR considered that there was no motivation to continue pursuing this cause. No further action required.

**8d. Beach Clean April 15<sup>th</sup> 2pm.** The beach clean planned for 4<sup>th</sup> March was postponed and will now take place on Sunday afternoon at 2pm. PK has arranged for equipment to be available and asked if people could bring their own gloves. On the environmental issue otters have been seen on the beach in Shandon and a kingfisher was spotted on the pond.

**8e. Sewage Works in Rhu.** The next stage involving new sewer pipework laid in the Gareloch Road (A814) from Junction of Armadale Road to Artarman Road and a twin septic tank located in green space at the entrance to the Marina, will be started next week, and is expected to take approximately 4 months. JC has put the plan on the website. JC also completed a Scottish Water survey on 'Turquoise' and earned £30 for the CC. Scottish Water have been asked to confirm that when the present work is complete, there will be no other untreated sewage outfalls into the Gareloch or Rhu Bay.

Awaiting  
Response.

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	<p><b>8f. Timber Harvesting.</b> PK has not received a response from Campbell Divertie regarding deconflicting the timber lorry movements with school run times. PK will continue to pursue.</p>	Action PK
	<p><b>8g. Cycle Route and Access Road from The Briars to Queens Point.</b> Nothing has happened in the last two months. Ross Greer has promised to lend a hand. GF advised that if people were not happy they should use the formal complaints procedure as this will force the Council to investigate and respond.</p>	
	<p><b>8h. Future of the Bowling Club Site.</b> KJ has submitted an enquiry to Luss Estates regarding the future use of the Bowling Club site. The enquiry has been logged as received by the estates manager. Eight people have expressed an interest in forming a committee with regard to re-developing the former Bowling Club as a social hub. Ideas include having a café, social club, pool table, keep fit, indoor bowls, men's shed, drop in groups and projects for all ages. The first meeting will take place next week and anything received from Luss estates will be passed on. Trustees of the Bowling Club will be contacted to establish the current situation. The initial idea is in its infancy and is open to debate and the committee will be engaging with the whole community but taking care not to encroach on things that are already going on. The existing building is falling apart and should be replaced. Lottery funding may be available to assist provided that key markers are in place. The committee is mindful that close neighbours need to be actively engaged and that consideration given to screening, noise insulation and timing of activities. This was considered to be the most positive action for the future of the site so far.</p>	
	<p><b>8i. Update on Peace Camp.</b> BM was not present at the meeting and so unable to give an update. It was reported at the last meeting that Sandra Davies, acting Major Applications Team Leader, had confirmed that members of the PPSLC have agreed that it would not be expedient for the Council to take enforcement action on the site, but that there were some structures on the site that would require a building warrant, and the site is currently the subject of an investigation by the Council's Building Standards Service.</p> <p>GF had submitted an FOI request and had received a redacted briefing note. GF had challenged the redaction and the challenge was partly upheld with another section of the briefing note being released. He had been informed that it would cost in the region of £680 to provide him with copies of all the email correspondence on this subject. GF confirmed that he would now be appealing the redaction of part of the briefing note with the Information Commissioner.</p> <p>JR said that the original allowance was for 10 caravans on the site, and now there are 14 caravans and 17 other structures. There doesn't seem to be any compliance with fire regulations and there was a suggestion that electricity was being unlawfully used. JC said that all we were asking is that they comply with the rules. GF said that he would update the new Community Council.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note: BM has forwarded information that she has received. This matter is ongoing.</p>	

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	<p><b>8j. Update on Local Defibrillators.</b> A new defibrillator will be installed at the front of Blairvadach Outdoor Centre. The unit has been fully funded and will not need the CC's proposed donation. JR suggested that A&amp;BC should be asked to install a sign indicating its position.</p>	
<b>9. Treasurer's report:</b>	<p><b>9. Treasurer's Report:</b> The treasurer's report can be found at Appendix 3 on the website.</p>	
<b>10. Correspondence:</b>	<p><b>10. Correspondence:</b> Correspondence is circulated as and when it is received.</p>	
<b>11. Website and related issues:</b>	<p><b>11. Website:</b> JC reported that three Newsletters have been sent out and that website usage has fairly constant with 2500 pages viewed in 1000 sessions.</p>	
<b>12. Councillors' reports:</b>	<p><b>12. Councillors' reports:</b> Nothing further to report.</p>	
<b>13. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak:</b>	<p><b>13. Opportunity for the Members of the Public to Speak.</b> KJ pointed out that some of the hydrant covers were missing, believed stolen, from the footpath on Smugglers Way. He also reported that the road surface, where Smugglers Way changes to Aros Road, has a defect which could affect the control of vehicles and that the road surface is breaking up. Additionally there is a dilapidated caravan in Lineside Walk which is causing a mess in the location and asked if it could be removed. Residents are advised to log these matters on the A&amp;B website.</p>	
<b>14. Members' Reports:</b>	<p><b>14a. JB</b> Thanked everyone and said that she would be moving on to new things</p>	
	<p><b>14b. TL</b> said that he has been involved with other clubs and pointed out that the Data Protection rules have changed. JC was asked to contact Charles Reppke for advice.</p>	Action JC
	<p><b>14c. OB</b> said that she would be attending the Community Heritage meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April on behalf of the CC.</p>	
	<p><b>14d. JC</b> noted that there are people that would like to set up a walking group in Rhu and Shandon. There may be funding and advice available for anyone who may be interested. This could be included in the way ahead for the Bowling Club.</p>	
	<p><b>14f. GF</b> said that he had enjoyed working with the current CC and is looking forward to working with the new CC.</p>	
	<p><b>14g. JR</b> Thanked those leaving the CC for their assistance in the past and also thanked those who will be forming the new CC.</p>	
<b>15. AOB:</b>	<p><b>15a.</b> Nil.</p>	
<b>16. DONM:</b>	<p><b>16.</b> The meeting will be the Inaugural Meeting of the new Community Council and will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 15 May 2018 in the Community Hall.</p>	