

# Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Rhu and Shandon Community Council

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 1930  
Location: Rhu and Shandon Church Hall

## Abbreviations:

<b>A&amp;B (C)</b> Argyll and Bute (Council) <b>ATTG</b> A&B Timber Transport Group <b>HMNB</b> His Majesty's Naval Base <b>LDP2</b> Local Development Plan 2 <b>MDP</b> Ministry of Defence Police <b>PAS</b> Planning Advice Scotland	<b>RSCC</b> Rhu and Shandon Community Council <b>SSPCA</b> Scottish Society for Protection of Cruelty to Animals <b>TPO</b> Tree Protection Order <b>TTMP</b> Timber Transport Management Plan
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## In attendance:

<b>RSCC:</b> Fiona Baker-Convener and Chairman <b>FB</b> Andrew Nicholson – Vice Convenor <b>AN</b> Jean Cook – Secretary <b>JC</b> Alastair Moore <b>AM</b> John McGall <b>JM</b> Susan Castle <b>SC</b>	<b>A&amp;B Councillors:</b> Cllr. Maurice Corry <b>CllrMC</b>  <b>Public:</b> Jan Crawford <b>JCr</b> John Fenney <b>JF</b> Dawn Thatcher <b>DT</b> Sam Milne <b>SM</b> Claire Kennedy <b>CK</b> Pamela Wood <b>PW</b> Grace Alexander <b>GA</b>
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Topic	Minute	Decision/ Action
<b>1. Apologies</b>	<b>RSCC:</b> Thomas Baylem <b>TB</b> ; Linda Duncan – Treasurer <b>LD</b> ; Jim Duncan <b>JD</b> ; John Clarke <b>JCI</b> ; Tim Lamb <b>TL</b> Linda Black <b>LB</b> , Kate Smith <b>KS</b> , Laura Freeland <b>LF</b> , Olivia Birch <b>OB</b> , <b>A&amp;B Councillors:</b> Cllr. Ian Shonny Patterson <b>CllrIP</b> Cllr. Mark Irvine <b>CllrMI</b>  <b>Guests:</b> Mark Fitzsimmons <b>CdrMF</b>	
<b>2. Declarations of interest</b>	FB restated her interest in planning applications involving Ferry Road and Rhu Lodge	
<b>3. Guest reports:</b>		
a) <b>Police Scotland</b>	Received from Caroline McDonald. One crime, a traffic offence on Aros Road. One male issued with prosecution and 40 incidents reported, including intruder alarms, road traffic collisions, suspect persons, assistance to members of public, concern for persons and calls to the children unit at Blairvadach.	
b) <b>HMNB Clyde</b>	No report due to personal reasons.	
c) <b>MDP</b>	No report	

<b>4. Minutes of the previous meeting June 8<sup>th</sup> 2022</b>	The minutes of the August meeting were declared to be a correct record. Proposed by AN; seconded by JM.	Agreed unanimously
<b>Item 7a Quarry Knowe</b>	<p>Moved forward in the agenda</p> <p>Independently two residents brought their concerns to the attention of the CC.</p> <p>JCr was concerned with parking and road safety and DT with the general lack of maintenance in the whole area. The path down to Manse Brae is now dangerous for parents with buggies and there were reports of falls due to its surface.</p> <p>FB met with residents and prepared a comprehensive report, which was circulated to the Community Councillors and local councillors. The issue is complicated because of the number of agencies involved; A&amp;B Council for roads and path to Manse Brae, ACHA for Housing and Environment, Luss Estates for the surrounding woodland and Dunbritton Housing Association.</p> <p>CllrMC proposed that he meet with the residents to see the situation for himself. The residents agreed to form a Residents Association and one of them will be co-opted onto the council.</p>	CllrMC will meet with residents on Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda:</b>		
<b>5a</b>	<b>From 5e Peace Camp</b> Following a long discussion of the state and history of the camp and unwillingness of A&B to enforce the laws which apply to the rest of the community, MC reiterated his intention to try to get some resolution to the outstanding issues.	Action MC
<b>5b</b>	<b>from 5f Rhu Ellen Cottages</b> Post meeting from CllrMC. He has spoken to Mark Calder and he will look at the problem as soon as possible and get equipment to clear the problem.	
<b>5c</b>	<b>From 6e: Bowling Club Demolition</b> Nothing to report	
<b>5d</b>	<b>From 7b Torr Farm</b> The revised Management Plan has not been provided yet. RSCC has advised A&B Council that the TPO for Torr, Aldonaig and Aldonwick Glen should be progressed in full.	
<b>5e</b>	<b>From 6d: 22/01556/TPO: Proposed Felling and thinning of trees, at Darkwood Woodland</b>  On 22 <sup>nd</sup> August the CC made a representation on the planning portal with copies to Scottish Forestry, Kirsty Flanagan, Roads and to Iain Catterwell, On 23 <sup>rd</sup> August consultation requests were sent to Roads, the Biodiversity Officer and ourselves. <b>The Application is Awaiting Decision.</b>	

<b>5e continued</b>	<p>Extract from Roads Dept representation; they require</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A TTMP</li> <li>• Evidence of consultation with the community</li> <li>• Information including to tonnage of extraction &amp; haulage vehicles used</li> <li>• Identified access and egress (new or existing)</li> <li>• A roads condition survey</li> <li>• Evidence of communication with the Argyll Timber Transport Group</li> </ul> <p>The Biodiversity Officer had no objection to the proposed thinning but required prestart checks for red squirrel by a suitably qualified person and any appropriate mitigation is implemented.</p> <p>The Forestry group at RSCC welcomes what seems to be a change in procedure by Planning</p>	
<b>5f</b>	<p><b>From 10 Correspondence.</b>  August 10<sup>th</sup> An email highlighting clutter in Rhu village was sent to Jim Smith and Tom Murphy. The fliers on the lampposts and the advertising banner were both quickly removed and we were told that contractors had been approached and quotes were expected in the near future to repair the barriers. The orange temporary barriers are still there. We requested an update on October 11<sup>th</sup>.</p>	
<b>End of Matters arising</b>		
<b>6 Planning Matters</b>		
<b>6a Rhu Lodge</b>	<p><b>Rhu lodge application for variation of conditions 21/02709/PP Ferry Rd Change of conditions</b>  No change</p>	
<b>6b Demolition and rebuild of Workshop</b>	<p><b>19/02479/PP and 22/00520/CONAC</b>  Both have been approved. CllrMC indicated that he would investigate this. It was agreed that PAS should be invited to use This pair of applications as a basis of a training course.</p>	<p>JC to contact PAS  Action by CllrMC</p>
<b>6c Duneira</b>	<p>A Planning Contravention Notice has been issued to the owners</p>	
<b>6d</b>	<p>No other significant planning matters</p>	
<b>7a Quarry Knowe</b>	<p>Considered earlier</p>	

<p><b>7b Defibrillator signage</b></p>	<p>JC has re-stated the request, first made in 210915-000250, for two new signs to alert the community to the defibrillator installed on the wall of the Rhu Football Club, following a request for clarification from Raymond Kane of Roads and Infrastructure Services.</p> <p>A&amp;B finally said that they approved the siting of the signs, but Budget Constraints meant they could not fund them. They were unable indicate what the cost would be.</p> <p>We have written to Sheenah Nelson for advice. It was agreed that the cost of the signs could be recovered from the grant received by the Community Council for the organisation of Health evenings. Because of Covid, only one has been held and there is still money left in the grant,</p>	<p>Await reply from Sheenah Nelson</p>
<p><b>7c Forestry</b></p>	<p>The forestry sub-group (FB, JM, LF, AM and TB) had a meeting with Scottish Forestry, Scottish Woodlands and Argyll Timber Transport Group on 6 September. A&amp;B C were invited but were unable to attend at short notice. The presentation, given by JM, has been circulated as has the agreed minute of the meeting.</p> <p>The following resolution was agreed at the meeting:</p> <p>All representatives at this meeting, RSCC, SF, SW and ATTG agree that RSCC and the local community have legitimate concerns with the current haulage route and every effort will be made to secure a new route that does not make use of village roads.</p> <p>Mike Page advised that any haulage of aggregates to form the road tracks across Letrault &amp; Stuckenduff would take place in late November at the earliest but is subject to approval of an EIA determination by Scottish Forestry</p> <p>It was discussed and agreed by all SW, SF, ATTG, &amp; R&amp;SCC, that a further meeting was required before the next phase of work envisaged for November.</p> <p>FB has still to meet with Patrick Colquhoun and Simon Miller from Luss Estates to discuss the wind farm road / forestry and related issues.</p> <p>The formal complaint, prepared by FB, to Scottish Forestry concerning the communications of Scottish Forestry and Scottish Woodlands has still to be finalised and sent.</p> <p>A detailed comparison of the new and old Operational Plans for the Stuckenduff/ Letrault plantings is still to be undertaken</p> <p>It was agreed that another meeting should take place in November</p>	<p>Another meeting to be arranged before end of November,</p> <p>FB will report back following the meeting with Luss Estates</p> <p>FB will send the agreed formal complaint.</p> <p>A comparison of the old and new Ops plans will be undertaken by the Forestry group.</p>
<p><b>7d Aldonaig</b></p>	<p>There are still sheep on the farm, and reports by dog walkers of dead or injured animals. Reported several times, without it seems much effect to SSPCA. Al Taghi's lawyer sent a registered letter to Waheed Totahyl, giving him until 15<sup>th</sup> September to quit the farm and move animals and garbage. This has had no effect. Advice has been sought from Craig Callaghan, Amenity Enforcement Officer for A&amp;B.</p>	<p>The CC will continue to monitor the situation</p>

<b>7e Bin Collections</b>	This issue is still unresolved and is further complicated by the inability of Mrs Fairley to drive. The solution arrived at by CllrMC is unacceptable to the residents. The latter is still hopeful that A&B can be persuaded to schedule a collection from the house.	CllrMC approach A&B again on the issue of house collection
<b>7f Empowering Educators</b>	<p>The Community Service Committee decided at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> August that the proposed Collective Leadership model as consulted will not be progressed. There is general agreement that the consultation was flawed and very expensive. Tracy Mayo, a Parent Councillor from Mull has called for an independent enquiry into the Council's existing practices and structures. The CC is inclined to support this. CllrMC felt that lessons have been learned and the enquiry at this stage would be an unnecessary expense.</p> <p>RSCC sent a letter to Iona CC saying we supported the short term inquiry. The CC took the view that whilst the Council has withdrawn the proposal, the manner in which the 'consultation' was handled was seriously flawed and while the Council might say they have learned lessons we felt it was important that residents of A&amp;B were reassured that the Council really has learned lessons, by way of an inquiry into procedures, and that they are accountable to the public and this is not just brushed under the carpet. This matter has resulted in a huge breach of trust and reputational damage to the Council who need to act transparently in addressing what went wrong to win it back and reassure residents it will not make the same mistakes again.</p>	
<b>7g Ongoing Issues for Information</b>	A list of these has been sent to members of the new Council.	
<b>8 Consultations</b>	SPT Regional Transport Strategy 2022-2037 closing date 28 <sup>th</sup> October Large document, outlining this is inked on the News page of the website	Individual Responses. The Consultation will be highlighted in a NL
<b>9 Treasurer's Report</b>	Changes since the August meeting. Admin grant of £663.50 has been received and there was expenditure of £25 for hall hire.	
<b>10 Correspondence</b>	Circulated by the Secretary as they arrive	
<b>11. Councillor's Reports</b>	CllrMC is undertaking a survey of the ownership of all land in Argyll and Bute.	
<b>12. Public Questions1</b>	None	
<b>13 Members Reports</b>	JF reported that the toilets in Rhu were not being closed at night and the male toilet had been vandalised	JC to report
<b>14 AOB</b>	Arrangements for the village Christmas tree. The Duncans who have co-ordinated the operation for several years will provide advice.	Alastair Moore and Susan Castle agreed to be responsible
<b>15 Date of next meeting</b>	Inaugural Meeting to be arranged. Next regular meeting is December 14 <sup>th</sup> The venue will be agreed at the Inaugural meeting.	