

**Minutes of the  
Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
14<sup>TH</sup> June 2023  
Location: Rhu and Shandon Community Council**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**RSCC:**

John Mc Gall – Convenor	<b>(JM)</b>
Jean Cook - Secretary	<b>(JC)</b>
Susan Castle–Vice Convener	<b>(SC)</b>
Thomas Baylem	<b>(TB)</b>
Arnold Bretman	<b>(AB)</b>
Laura Freeland	<b>(LF)</b>
Jeannette Lorem	<b>(JL)</b>
Alastair Moore	<b>(AM)</b>

**GUESTS**

Cllr Maurice Corry	<b>(CllrMC)</b>
Cdr Peter Noblett	<b>(Cdr PN)</b>
PC Kierron Cameron	<b>(PC.KC)</b>

**1. APOLOGIES**

Received from Jim Duncan, Sally Grummit, Cllr Iain Shonny Paterson, Cllr Mark Irvine

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**NONE**

**3. GUEST REPORTS**

**a: Report from Police Scotland. PC.KC attended**

No Crimes recorded in the period since the last meeting

41 Incidents dealt with by Police Scotland during this period. These include concern for persons, neighbour disputes, assisting members of the public, road traffic matters, abandoned vehicles, lost found property, public nuisance and house alarms.

PC.KC explained why it was impossible for Police Scotland to provide a comprehensive list of all traffic incidents which take place on Pier and Station Roads and the A814. The CC could mount a social media campaign to encourage residents to report all incidents. This will be discussed by the Forestry and Haulage Group and a report will be brought to a future meeting.

**PC.KC left the meeting at this point**

**b:Verbal Report by Cdr PN**

Commander Peter Noblett, the Base XO delivered a verbal report which included noting recent changes in personal with the arrival of the new Naval Base Commander - Commodore Sharon Malkin and new Captain of HMS NEPTUNE - Captain Elaine Boyd, and some recent changes in submarines based here. VANGUARD is back from refit whilst VICTORIOUS has now left for refit in Devonport. ANSON, the fifth of the planned seven Astute Class hunter-killers, arrived from build in Barrow. DREADNOUGHT, the first of the replacement deterrent submarines is due sometime after 2030.

He noted that fewer minehunters are based in Faslane, but noted that two of the Sandown Class remain operating in local waters with a third one deployed in Bahrain. He highlighted the arrival of the new mine hunting support ship RFA STIRLING CASTLE designed to be the mother ship for the RN's new autonomous minehunting capability.

He noted that the infrastructure of the base, dating from May 1968, is showing its age. The increase in personal associated with the new RN Submarine Training Centre will result in the building of an extra

1000 cabins bringing the total to around 4000 by 2025-26.

The water related roadworks are not causing too many problems.

There will be a Families Day at the Drumfork Community Centre, not restricted to Naval personnel on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a Field Gun demonstration just outside South Gate and open to the public will be held at lunchtime on 22 June.

In answer to questions, Cdr PC said that there was not currently an excessive demand for service family accommodation (SFA), and he had no further information about the development of Smugglers Way where 20 residential blocks each containing 4 flats were demolished. When this happened the Community Council were told that the area would be redeveloped as single accommodation units. He also had no update about what the MoD intends to do with the B-listed Shandon House, which is on the Buildings at Risk Register.

It was noted that the MoD has been approached concerning Japanese Knotweed on their land in North Shandon. If anyone identifies the weed on MoD land, they are advised to send a note to the BXO.

JL reported a problem concerning a culvert under the West Highland line which was replaced in 2020 following serious flooding in Shandon over many years. She was advised to send the details to BXO with a copy to JC. It was pointed out that Network Rail have contributed to flooding problems by filling in the gullies beside the railway line in several places.

**Cdr PN left the meeting at this point**

**c:No report from MDP**

#### **4. MINUTES OF APRIL 19TH 2023**

Proposed TB, Seconded AM.

**Accepted unanimously**

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

- Village clutter. A further letter has been sent to Tom Murphy. CllrMC offered to help.
- Bowling Club. It was announced that the Bowling Club has lost its OSPA status in LDP2. No further information about the demolition or the rat infestation in the existing clubhouse.
- Defibrillator Signs. Cllr MC confirmed that he had had discussions on this matter with Richard Horrell of Rotary Club, and expected to be able to source 6 signs.
- Management plan for Torr Farm. No response from Scottish Forestry, [despite a reminder sent to Mike Strachan](#)
- Cables on Rhu Spit. JC has written to Mary Watt, and CllrMC is in communication with the factor of Argyll Estates.
- Quarry Knowe. CllrMC said that an agreement has been reached with ACHA who will deal with the crumbling walls and lighting and white lines in the car park. He will contact Luss Estates again about the broken fences on the path through the woods. It was suggested that yellow lines should be used to stop illegal parking. It was reported that the residents group is actively involved and have had two meetings so far.

#### **6. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a. Planning applications still awaiting decision - no change from April meeting to

23/23/00080/PP. Renewal of Planning permission 19/01573/PP. Change of use of dwelling house(Class 9) to a residential training centre Awaiting Decision

Enforcement order.22/00053/ENFOC. JC has asked for an update on the status of this

- b. Formation of Forest Track The planning website was updated on 7<sup>th</sup> June to Status **Unknown**, Decision **Undetermined Application**. JC has written to .Planning to ask what this means. Work is ongoing on the access road to this Forest Track which is in Highlandman's Forest using an on-site slate quarry.
- c. 23/000615/MPLAN . This is the Masterplan for the Marina. A joint meeting with RNCYC for the community was held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June. The club officials were on hand to discuss their plans. The CC displayed the plans at the Rhu Gala on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Despite an advertisement in the Helensburgh Advertiser and exposure on social media, it became apparent that most residents were unaware of the plans. The CC will hold another drop-in session on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June in the Community Hall and every effort will be made to inform the community.
- d. No other significant planning applications.

## 7: OTHER MATTERS

### a. Forestry issues.

The main concern is the use of Pier and Station road as a haulage route for Forestry vehicles accessing the existing and proposed woodlands behind Rhu.

CllrMC, as promised, has arranged a meeting for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June with a representative of Gresham House, the owners. JM, JC and CllrMC will attend.

At the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 attended by representatives of SF, SW, ATTG, it was agreed that SW will provide details on the in-forest road and consult with RSCC prior to the commencement of delivery of road stone. As reported in 6b, this appears to be imminent. SW will be contacted to confirm that they will honour their commitment..

LF reminded the meeting the use of Pier and Station Road as a timber haulage route through a residential area of Rhu in 2018/19 was highly contested by the community at large and the C.C.

Following a very serious operational breach of the TTMP January 2019 a resident raised a complaint through an elected Lomond North council member who copied this complaint into a very wide distribution list including Jackie Baillie MSP.

Such was the serious nature of the breach; a decision was agreed as follows;

SW will engage with the community by preparing an information leaflet for residents, arrange leaflet distribution through Community Advertiser magazine, Lochside Press and posters displayed in the village.

Prior to the next phase of timber extraction (2023/24), a public Community meeting open to all residents will be held by SW and flyer circulated in advance to advise the community of the timber operations.

It is my opinion it is time this obligation and commitment to be honoured.

**LF to draft letter  
JC will write to SW**

- b. **Aldonaig update.** Some 15 black face sheep with lambs were moved onto the farm on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Subsequently one escaped and was found dead with a crying lamb beside it. David Kerr says they cannot intervene because, as far as the central government authorities are concerned, Totakhyl is the legal tenant and has been assigned a CPH number (County Parish Holding Number). Companies House now displays a First Gazette Notice for a Compulsory Strike off for his company registered at the farm. So maybe he will have to leave by 27th July?

Meanwhile this past weekend the ex-tenant was up on the farm holding scrambler bike races.

- c. **Place Plan.** TB reported that for personal reasons he would be taking an extended break from Community Council business from February 2024 and so felt that it was not appropriate to start work on this until he was back.

d. **Billie Petrie Memorial Bench.**

The Petrie family have intimated that they do not wish R&SCC to proceed with this matter and thank everyone concerned in the community for their kind offer and intention.

- e. **Threat to the Green Belt** (Empress Field) Luss Estates in its 10 year Plan, proposed to attempt to remove the Green Belt Status from this field, with a view to building houses. We informed Luss Estates that we will object. The field has Green Belt Status in confirmed in LDP2 published today.

**8. CONSULTATION: DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE**

- a. Play Park Survey: Closing Date 14<sup>th</sup> July. Details have been sent to the two residents who are most involved

- b. Revised Parliamentary Boundaries: Closing Date 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The proposal is to redraw the boundary between Rhu and Helensburgh and for Helensburgh to join Dumbarton to form a new constituency of Dumbarton and Helensburgh. The rest of Lomond North will move into the constituency of Argyll and Bute. There are no implications on services but our new representative is likely to be based a lot further away than Dumbarton. It was agreed that we should submit an objection to this.

**Action JC**

**The following two consultancies will be dealt with later. Any comments to the Secretary**

- c. Scotland's Pavement Parking Prohibitions: Closing date 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
d. Effective Community Engagement in local development planning guidance Closes 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023

**Action all members on consultations c and d**

**9. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Expenses since the end of year accounts are related to the marina consultation, (£111 for leaflets and advertising), the Gala (£126.40 for the new banner, remuneration for the loan of gazebos and £8 for the prize for the colouring competition and the annual Data Protection fee of £35 by DD.

JM, SC and JC are registered signatories on the accounts.

Post Meeting Note: SG has offered to take over as Treasurer.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

LDP2 released 14/6/2023. The items in this minute affected by this are 5 (the Bowling Club), 6c, the development of the Marina and 7e, the threat to Empress Fields.

It was suggested that due to our low numbers, we should be selective about the issues which we try to respond to. This will need further discussion at a future meeting.

Action JC

11. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

CllrMC reported that A&B had acquired two new bin lorries which should ease the rubbish collection problems in Helensburgh and Lomond. They have also acquired is a new road liner and two pavement cleaning machines.

Crown Estates has provided money for some renovation work on Faslane Cemetery.

CllrMC was very upbeat about the state of local schools and the Council finances.

The request for a restriction on parking opposite the Brae Shop is ongoing, with the Roads Officer suggesting a 20 minute restriction. This will need a TRO.

The duties and responsibilities of Community Councils are being discussed at regional level.

He noted that there were 1000 approved, but unstarted planning applications in the system.

12. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

none

13. **MEMBERS REPORTS**

**JC:** Lynda Baylem has agreed to organise Beach Cleans for Rhu, starting in July.

**TB:** He will act as our representative on the [Active Travel Project](#). The first meeting of this group is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June from 2.00 to 4.00. Active travel. Organiser Rachel Kelly of Icecream Architecture.

Thomas is also involved with the preservation of a walking route through the north end of Empress Field.

**AB:** The flower beds on village green have not been tended. CllrMC suggested that there could be a problem with the supply of annuals. He will look into it.

Action CllrMC

**JM:** The foliage in flower beds at the end of Pier Road is causing a traffic hazard. JM will contact Tom Murphy as will CllrMC.

Action JM & CllrMC

**DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Rhu and Shandon Community Centre on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Following on from the discussions about selectively choosing issues to pursue, because we are so short of members, a "Ways of Working Group" was set up, consisting of TB, JL and JM, to consider this matter..