

**Minutes of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
11th October 2023
Location: Rhu and Shandon Community Council**

IN ATTENDANCE:

RSCC

John Mc Gall – Convenor (JM)
Jean Cook - Secretary (JC)
Laura Freeland (LF)
Sally Grummitt (SG)
Arnold Bretman (AB)
Alastair Moore (AM)

GUESTS

PC Sophie Canty (SC)
PC Kevin Managhan (KM)

1. APOLOGIES:

Received from Thomas Baylem(TB), Jim Duncan, Jeannette Loram(JL), Cllr Iain Patterson, Cllr Maurice Corry, Cllr Mark Irvine, Cmdr. Peter Noblett (PN)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: NONE

3. GUEST REPORTS:

a: [Report](#) from Police Scotland.

SC went through the report. In answer to a question, she explained that a Recorded Police Warning expires after 3 months and is on file for 3 years.

In answer to a question, SC said the police were aware of the problems in Helensburgh caused by youths from outwith Helensburgh. The Railway Police are cooperating in dealing with this.

In the case of an alarm triggered at night, the advice was to call the local police. SC noted that a Community Policing Team was created last year.

With regard to traffic traversing mini roundabouts, all vehicles must pass round the central markings unless incapable of doing so.

b: [Report](#) from HMNB Clyde

Consideration was given to the report supplied by Cmdr PN.

It was agreed to ask if the new accommodation of 1025 cabins to be built referred to in his report is related to the Structure 22 and Structure 23 Project that the DIO has applied to build at Faslane.

Action JC

c: [MDP Report](#) by email from Drew Omand

The report was considered. No action was proposed.

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AUGUST 9TH 2023:

It was agreed that these were a true record of the meeting. Proposed AM, Seconded SG and agreed unanimously

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA:

From 5.

Fly tipping outside the Peace Camp. A letter was written to Craig Callaghan at A&B and Commander Peter Noblett asking for help in ensuring that future deliveries of wood be made

inside the Peace Camp fence. Craig replied that he would inform the Peace Camp and monitor it as much as possible. For the record, there has been no fly tipping since the clean up in August.

Closed

No progress reported on the items being progressed by Cllr MC; cables on the spit, defibrillator signs and short term parking outside the Brae shop.

Ongoing

No progress on the Management Plan for Torr Farm. A letter and a reminder have been sent to Cameron Maxwell at Scottish Forest who apologised for the delay and said that Emma Gray has taken over from Mike Strachan.

Ongoing

Ways of Working Group

The [Report](#) was considered. It was noted that the Community Council has six vacancies. The report has three recommendations

- Run a campaign to recruit more councillors.
- Provide a written report before each meeting on all significant agenda items
- Record the meeting

The latter two points have been adopted for this meeting.

Ongoing

From 6c. The Appeal to the Scottish Government against the conditions imposed on Application 21/02709/PP for the improvements to Ferry Road has been granted, following a site visit on 31st July by Andrew Sikes from the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division of the Scottish Government. Three new, less onerous conditions have been imposed relating to visibility splays, parking and turning conditions.

Closed

It was noted that only one Short Term Let Licence has been applied for despite the fact that there are at least three units which are advertised. The legislation requires a separate application for each secondary let.

From 8a. The Boundary Commission will publish its interim report on the revised boundaries of constituencies, either later this year or early next. Jackie Baillie advised that no action was appropriate now but we could consider taking some action once the revised proposals have been published.

From 8b.

Condition of the old A814 in Shandon. This past weekend's floods demonstrated yet again that the drainage on this road is in need of a complete overhaul. This, and the resulting surface damage, has been an issue for many years. A&B received £752,750 for the upgrading of paths in Helensburgh and Lomond. We did not hear about this until a couple of days before a decision on which paths to upgrade or create was being taken at the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee. The old A814 was not considered for an upgrade. A letter, circulated

to R&SCC, was sent to all members of the ED&I committee. This letter was not considered at the meeting, I complained about this to the Governance Officer and she explained that my action in writing to all the committee would be considered as lobbying. She suggested instead of writing to particular individuals, communications should be addressed to generic addresses, in this case Roads and Infrastructure. JM recommended that an attempt should be made to quantify the number and severity of the potholes. AB thought that there were worse roads around. It was agreed to ask Roads and Infrastructure how to go about getting this road on the list for an upgrade.

Action JC

The Police Officers left the meeting during the discussion on 8b.

From 11

JMcG and JC attended the Clyde Local Liaison Committee. The new base Commander emphasised the importance of community engagement. Most of the meeting concentrated on assuring the community that all activities at the Naval Base are safe. We were assured that the Defence Nuclear Regulator, who was on site for 48 days in the period from January to March 2023 reported that the conditions were 'adequate'; the alternative is 'inadequate'! The Emergency Planning Zone is being slightly extended so more residents of Shandon will receive the public Information booklet "What to do in a Radiation Emergency". Routine Environmental Investigations are still ongoing.

Closed

END OF MATTERS ARISING

6. PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. Duneira 23/00080/PP: Renewal of Planning permission for a change of use from dwelling house to Residential Training Centre

This has been approved. A letter has been written to Planning to ask if the Enforcement Notice was now active, since we were told that it would not be active until 23/00080/PP was decided.

It was noted that a short term let licence had been applied for and we have asked if the same Conditions would apply to the operation of the property for Secondary Letting purposes. Since the property was not legally operating for short term lets before 1st October 2022 we asked for confirmation that they would not be allowed to operate until their STL licence had been determined.

The Officer we were dealing with, concerning the Enforcement order, is OOO until 16th October so we have asked that another officer respond to us, prior to our meeting This did not happen.

Ongoing

- b. Masterplan for proposed Clubhouse on the Marina. 23/00615/MPLAN.

Ongoing

- c. Other significant planning matters

None

7. FORESTRY MATTERS:

The Timber Haulage and Forestry Group Report was considered.

Several attendees at the meeting on September 7th in the Community Centre expressed dissatisfaction that the organisers were unwilling to talk about the road safety aspects of the transportation of timber. The report highlights that Scottish Forestry have recently awarded Scottish Woodlands a Preparatory Project Grant to assist with scoping the viability and costs of alternative access. The Forestry group suggests that a face to face event with the community be held, probably in the new year, to inform the community of all aspects concerning the woodlands on the hills in Rhu.

Following the weekend floods, concern was expressed about the imminent transportation of the harvesting equipment followed a couple of weeks later by the HGVs and the transportation of the diseased larch trees. The culvert near the junction of Laggary Road and Station Road has failed before; this time a hanging basket was reported to have caused the problem. It was suggested that there may have been subsidence near Barge Gardens.

It was agreed to write to Roads and Infrastructure and Scottish Woodlands expressing our concerns; the latter is included since we were informed on 10th October that Harvesting Equipment will be transported at the end of the week.

An extended discussion took place.

It was noted that we have had an offer from a resident of Rhu who has forestry experience. This will be useful when we get the promised revised EIA.

Post Meeting Note: Pat Pollock Morris, who is part of the team who tend Barge Garden, has inspected the walls of the burn which runs through the garden and declared it safe.

8. OTHER MATTERS

a. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON:

Until the date of the delivery of the tree and confirmation of the A&BC loan of the equipment (as happened last year) have both been confirmed, the date of the Switch-On could not be set. It was agreed SG and JL will organise the Santa's Grotto and decisions about gifts, charging, hours of operation have still be agreed. Santa has agreed to attend. Arrangements have been delegated to the committee, spearheaded by AM.

LF asked how many people he expected to attend the event this year. He responded around 400. LF expressed surprise due to size of site.

LF also asked about risk assessments required for this type of event. She was assured it was covered by A&B Council. LF asked if this could be checked.

It was agreed that we should try to confirm the date of the delivery of the Christmas Tree with the MoD

Action JC

b. BEACH CLEAN:

The Organiser is Lynda Baylem. The attendance at the September Beach Clean was disappointing. Lynda has scheduled the next one for October 21st at the usual time of 10.00-11.30. As usual Lynda will arrange for this to be promoted in the Helensburgh Advertiser and it will be advertised on our Facebook page, website and in the Newsletter. Please come along if only for half an hour!

9. CONSULTATIONS: DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE

a. Democracy Matters: Closes February 28th 2023

There have been two webinars using Teams for this Scottish Government consultation. There

were technical difficulties due to the resources required for teams. There is to be a [link](#) on Community Council website to the audio of these meetings(not confirmed)

Ongoing

10. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Bank of Scotland contact details have been changed.

The balance in the account is £4941.18 including £650 in the 'Christmas Lights' fund. The only expenditure since August is £4.45 for Black bags for Beach Cleaning.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

This has been circulated as it has been received.

- West Lothian Joint Forum of Community Councils has proposed a National Association of Community Councils. In addition, Helensburgh Community Council is hoping to create a mutually supportive partnership with the six local Community Councils. We need to decide if we are interested in either or both.

A local partnership was supported and this information will be conveyed to Helensburgh Community Council.

Action JC

12. COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

No councillors present and no reports received.

13. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

None

14. MEMBERS REPORTS:

JC attended a webinar on Funding. The most useful outcome was the information that the presenters would be available to provide help to members who are applying for funds. The main points will be made into an audio pack which will be posted on the A&B website.

15. AOB: NONE

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Rhu and Shandon Community Centre on December 13th 2023 at 7pm