

**Minute of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
13th December 2023
Location: Rhu and Shandon Community Council**

IN ATTENDANCE:

RSCC:

GUESTS

John Mc Gall – Convenor	JM	Cllr.Maurice Corry	CllrMC
Jean Cook - Secretary	JC	Nick Barton	NB
Laura Freeland	LF	Robert Stuart	RS
Jeannette Loram,	SG	Jim Crawford	JCr
Alastair Moore	AM	Moira Burke	MB

1. APOLOGIES:

Received from Thomas Baylem, Cllr Mark Irvine), Cllr Iain Paterson, Drew Omand (DO), Jim Duncan, Arnold Bretman, Sally Grummitt, Cdr Peter Noblett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

NONE.

6C.OTHER SIGNIFICANT PLANNING MATTERS: THIS ITEM WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

Residents JCr and MB, attended the meeting on behalf of some 16 objectors to Planning Reapplications

- 23/01502/PP. Erection of a dwelling House and formation of new vehicular access on the Land between Lagarie Lodge and Lagarie House.
- 23/01503/LIB: Formation of new vehicular access through the existing stone wall

JCr outlined the main issues: In summary the footprint of the proposed one and a half storey house and the negative impact it will have on the B listed Lagarie House. The proposed access using a newly created driveway through the existing wall onto the A814 will result in the removal of trees which should be protected by a TPO presently in place within Lagarie Estate, and the application is also within the Rhu Conservation area. The attendees claimed that the front wall is listed. Doubt was cast on ability to achieve the splay without the removal of trees.

It was agreed that

- R&SCC would write to Planning to ask when the updated tree report and the Suds report will be posted.
- The applications will be passed to the Planning group for comment.

3. GUEST REPORTS:

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

The police report has been received, circulated and posted.

In absentia, AB wanted it reported to the police that on two occasions he has followed logging lorries down Pier Road, travelling at over 30mph and then in excess of the 40mph limit past the Ardencaple Hotel. He reported this to A&B and was advised that this was a police matter. JC offered to inform the police. LF stated that AB should do this since he had the details of the breaches. LF outlined the general procedures which should be followed if breaches of the TTMP or dangerous driving by timber vehicles is observed. After some discussion, given the original request from AB, LF was asked to inform AB that he should inform the police.

Action LF

b: HMNB Clyde.

Nothing to report

c: **MDP Report**

No formal report but DO wanted it noted that

- drones are still a concern for the Base and
- Police Scotland Youth Volunteers will be restarting in the first week in January and would welcome any ideas for how they can gain experience and help the community at the same time.

4. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD OCTOBER 11TH 2023:**

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

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

From 5.

- Management Plan for Torr Farm: Emma Gray from Scottish Forestry has reported “We are in communication with the landowner to work through the remaining points set out for this woodland in the draft management plan. We are aiming to reach a conclusion early next year”.
- Roads and Infrastructure **confirm that** the A814 road in Shandon has been included for consideration for improvement works in next year’s capital budget, which is set in March. Until then they will continue with reactive repairs that are reported to them. The best way to log faults is to use the online reporting tool
- Defibrillator signs: Ongoing

Action CllrMC

- Short term parking at the Brae Shop: Ongoing

Action CllrMC

11 Helensburgh Community Council will be moving forward with initiating a local partnership between Lomond North Community Councils in the New Year.

Ongoing

END OF MATTERS ARISING

6. **PLANNING MATTERS:**

- a. Duneira 22/00053/ENFOC. This matter has been passed to the Enforcement Officer.

Ongoing

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

Ongoing

- c. Other significant planning matters

This item was considered earlier.

7. **FORESTRY ISSUES:**

- a. The December Forestry Report was considered.

Because the two visitors had not seen the Forestry Report, it was read out by the Chairman. The discussions concerned the proposed commercial forest at Letrault and Stuckenduff (L&S). Scottish Woodlands (SW) has been served an Enforcement Order by

Scottish Forestry(SF) because it had carried out road works on Letrault without consent. SW has also been required to produce an updated Archaeology Report as the first was inadequate. An Environmental impact Assessment (EIA) was not required by SF for the woodlands at L&S just the road. It was pointed out that the Issues Logs which lay behind this decision included no mention of the extensive flooding suffered for years by Shandon residents. The new planting, which is ongoing at this time, is in vertical lines down the slope, which will only exacerbate the flooding problems as will the direction of the new road. In addition SW had prevented access to L&S at the eastern border contrary to agreements.

Given the behavior of SW it was agreed that R&SCC should ask SF to revisit the decision not to require an EIA for the woodlands RS on behalf of himself and David Lang, agreed to draft a letter to SF.

Action RS, JC

It was agreed that we should hold a meeting to inform the local community.

JL suggested that it should be a hybrid meeting and the meeting should be recorded. The Marriage room at the Civic Centre was suggested as a venue. JC to investigate.

Action JC

A loaded timber transport truck was observed entering the A814 by the County Hotel. As we did not think that this was a consultation route, this siting was reported to Raymond Kane(RK), who is the contact in A&B for reporting issues involving timber transport. The time and date were requested and supplied.

Post Meeting Note. A reply has been received from RK which included a consultation route map which indicates that as well as the A814, King Street, Princes Street, West Montrose Street, E Abercrobie Street, Golfhill Drive, Winston Road and Old Luss Road are included.

b. Long Term Forest Plan for Luss Estates:

The Community Council submitted a [response](#), highlighting that our main concerns are the protection of the environment (control of INNS, and protection of watercourses and peatland), protection and enhancement of core paths and recreational access, and minimising the impacts of forestry traffic and operations on residents. We expect to be consulted further as the plans develop.

8. OTHER MATTERS

a. We did not consider a campaign to recruit more members.

b. Christmas Lights switch on:

This is reported fully in the Reports Pack. It was agreed that, if we are to repeat the event next year, and given the success of this year's event, it will be difficult not to. a Lights Group should be formed. We will probably need new lights next year. Interested community members should be sought. We will use Facebook and the Newsletter to advertise a search for members the Lights Group.

Action JC & JL

c. Boundary Commission Meeting

JMcG and JC attended a local enquiry meeting on Wednesday 13th December in Clydebank. All speakers were against the following proposed redrawn boundaries. Firstly to move Lomond North to Argyll and Bute and leave Helensburgh in the renamed Dumbarton and Helensburgh constituency. Secondly to split Clydebank by

moving the historic Clydebank Waterfront to Dumbarton and Helensburgh. The Boundary Commission may publish revised proposals in the New Year.

d. BEACH CLEAN:

The Organiser is Lynda Baylem. The attendances at the October and November Beach Cleans were disappointing. Lynda has scheduled the next one for January 13th from 10.00-11.30 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! The meeting Point is at the end of Ferry Road.

9. CONSULTATIONS: DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE

- a. [Democracy Matters](#): Closes February 28th 2023
- b. [Children and Young People Centre for Justice](#): Survey Deadline December 21st.

We will consider the first at the February meeting; the second will be left to interested individuals to respond.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT From SG

Expenses since the last meeting include £100 for the Disco Band at the Lights Switch-On, payment for the website of £78 and £4.18 for more Black Bags for Beach Cleaning.

The lights fund received an anonymous donation of £80 plus £100.78 collected at the Switch on December 1st

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

This has been circulated as it has been received.

From BT. The cables on shore at Rhu Spit. A representative of BT has said that the cables are communication cables and he will consult Argyll and Bute with a view to burying them. The latest update is that BT Subsea have been onsite and inspected/surveyed what is required above the waterline and below for approx. 100 metres. BT Subsea has asked Openreach to confirm if they still have anything running through the cables. Initial reports back from them were they are now all out of service. Once this is confirmed they are looking at two options

- Clear the whole lot (water section too) – comes with potential environmental issues and permitting.

or

- Clear the beach and as far into the water as safely possible on the lowest tide, weighting and burying the ends. We have already approached the local council on this option which has been given permission.

BT will inform us when a decision has been reached.

12. COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr MC.

- Rhu Play Park has been allotted £50K. Suggestions have come from Argyll and Bute on how the money should be spent. It was agreed to consult with the Play Park mothers who are most involved. It was agreed that this money should not be allocated to alleviating the long standing drainage problems in the park

Action JC

- The Block Grant will be announced by the Scottish Government on December 18th
- Extra money to the tune of £1M was raised this year from the private sector and the hope is that this will be £2m next year.
- A&B has received a levelling up grant of £20M which has to be spent by Dec 2024. Ideas on this are being sought.
- The Ballwin Scheme of emergency funding has allocated £24M to Argyll and Bute for storm damage repairs.
- MC announced that he was investigating possible uses for the top “Helensburgh” reservoir, which is actually in Rhu and Shandon. If this were to include a public leisure activity, access would have to be provided from A818, Sinclair Street and this could be incorporated into the alternative timber transport route for Highlandman’s. Torr, Letrault and Stuckenduff. MC announced that he would talk to Adam McLean of Gresham House.
- Fiona Davies is leaving her post as Chief Officer of A&B Health and Social care partnership to take up the post of Chief Executive of NHS Highland.
- The Waverly will be calling at Helensburgh again.
- MC is investigating whether it is possible to reinstate the boating pond at the Skating Pond.
- The problems at Quarry Knowe continue.
- There are problems with drainage in Helensburgh and Lomond generally as there appears to be no maintenance plan, just responses to emergencies. It was pointed out that Network Rail had also caused flooding problems in Shandon due to poor maintenance.

13. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

NB asked how we communicate with the community. The reply was by Facebook, a Newsletter and the website but for the Lights Events it was probably as much by word of mouth.

14. MEMBERS REPORTS:

LF was concerned about the lack gritting on Station Road. MC said he would check.

Action MC

AM raised the issue of the lack of a Notice Board. JC agreed to try again.

Action JC

15. AOB: NONE

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Rhu and Shandon Community Centre on February 14th 2024.

Post meeting Note: RS and NB agreed to be co-opted.