

**Minute of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
14th February 2024
Location: Rhu and Shandon Community Council**

IN ATTENDANCE:

RSCC:		GUESTS	
John Mc Gall – Convenor	JM	Cdr. Peter Noblett	Cdr PN
Jean Cook - Secretary	JC	Lindsey Young	LY
Arnold Bretman	AB	Jim Crawford	JCr
Sally Grummitt	SG	Moira Burke	MB
Jeannette Loram,	JL	John Davies	JD
Robert Stuart	RS		

1. APOLOGIES:

Received from Thomas Baylem, Laura Freeland, Nick Barton, Cllr Maurice Corry
Cllr Mark Irvine, Cllr Iain Paterson, Drew Omand (DO), Alastair Moore.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

JM, Item 7c-direct neighbour.

3. CO-OPTIONS

Rob Stuart Seconded JL
Nick Barton Seconded JL
Both were approved unanimously.

4. GUEST REPORTS:

a: Report from Police Scotland.

The police report has been received and included in the Reports Pack.
In summary, between the dates of 13/1/24 and 5/2/24 there were 23 Incidents and one
Crime Report. There was one theft by housebreaking which is on-going.

b: HMNB Clyde.

Cdr PN gave a verbal report.

Flooding in the base has been extensive. The North Gate had to be closed several
times. He noted that David Lang from Shandon had been in contact about flooding
which Network Rail say is the responsibility of the MOD. This is being investigated by
the DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) The MoD has formally complained to A&B
about potholes in Woodlea Crescent.

At this point JD, a resident of Station Road Shandon, expressed concern about the state
of the MoD owned site of the twelve demolished houses in Woodlea Crescent which is
being used by contractors. The recent gales have resulted in builders' rubble and large
chunks of polystyrene being blown around the area. These are still around. This site has
been a problem for years but it is worse now than it has ever been in the past. The use
of the site for large construction vehicles is causing problems for the residents of Station
Road, given the width and the bend in the road. Flooding as a result of drainage from
MOD land also occurs routinely near the A814 end of the Crescent.

In addition, there are Health and Safety issues with trees on MoD land overhanging
Station Road. Before Christmas falling limbs from trees on MoD land resulted in the loss
of broadband to Station Road residents for 10 days. After Broadband was reinstated,

falling limbs caused another outage, and there are a couple more trees which still pose a threat of a third outage. After many unsuccessful phone calls to the base, finally the DIO Senior Estates Manager for Scotland in Rosyth provided a telephone number and the trees were viewed and photographed on February 2nd, but no action has been taken. The tree which caused the long break in broadband was finally chain sawed and removed by residents. PN was given the contact details of JD. PN explained that it was hard to get anything done due to all parties being under-resourced.

c: MDP Report supplied by Drew Ormond

- Storms over previous weeks has caused disruption in the area around HMNB Clyde and surrounding roads. MOD Police/Police Scotland have continued to make efforts to control traffic when appropriate for the safety of road users. We can only apologise for any delays on passing/entering HMNB Clyde.
- Internet Safety Awareness - MOD Police Community Officer/ Police Scotland Youth Engagement Officer are working together to engage with local primary schools to deliver a variety of topics they think the Police should be highlighting to pupils. Primarily, Internet Safety for the P5-7's and Road Safety for P1-4. It has been very effective so far.
- Fly tipping has also been on the rise in recent times especially on MOD Land. Increased patrols will continue in the area as well as engagement between Police and A+B Council to reduce this. (Bollards are going to be implemented at St Andrew's Gate to target fly tipping and stop blocking of the gate)
- Police Scotland Youth Volunteers - Any requests from local groups or events that are taking place that you think will benefit our volunteers (ages 14-16) then please get in touch. haining.gallagher@scotland.police.uk or andrew.omand100@mod.gov.uk. Beach Cleaning could be beneficial for PSYV volunteers to be involved in if we can every so often. If you can give me notice of future dates then I am happy to see if we can get a few of the youngsters down to help out.

It was agreed that DO will be contacted before the March Beach Clean

d. Lindsey Young. Newly appointed Engagement Officer for A&B Climate Action Network(ABCAN) Contact details for Lindsey lindsey@act-now.org.uk

ABCAN hubs, four in number, one for each area of A&B, have been created to help A&B residents face the challenges of climate change and give a voice to community led climate action and help to coordinate activities as they work towards net zero. Funded by the Scottish Government and overseen by Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT), Argyll and Bute Time for Change (TfC) and Argyle and Bute Third Sector Interface to help A&B residents face the problems of climate change. The Engagement Officers will coordinate and build on current climate activities. They will deliver carbon literacy training, facilitate climate conversations, provide seed funding for climate mitigation and identify opportunities for partnership working across A&B to ensure that there will be a cohesive approach to tackling climate change. Within the next month there will be a website up and running to give relevant information to organisations and individuals. Meanwhile information is available on the [SCCAN](#) website.

As an instance of possible partnership working Lindsey informed us that Cove and Kilcreggan had purchased a RootWave machine which uses electricity to kill the roots of Japanese knotweed which she had noticed from our website is a problem in our area also.

She also mentioned [Place Standard tool with climate lens](#), we would need to look at the place standard tool as our Place Plan develops. A session using this could be arranged

for the community.

There are several upcoming climate related meeting planned which will be advertised on our website. The first is on 9th March, provided by Plastic Free Helensburgh.

6. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA.

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

23/01502/PP and 23/01503/LIB

Residents JCr and MB attended to request the minor change to the minutes and to ask if there was any further progress. After the last meeting we wrote to Planning to ask about the promised Tree and SUDS Reports. The reply was that they had requested an updated tree survey and the SUDS would usually be something to be conditioned. Planning also said the application would probably go to PPSLC in February. No tree report has been posted and the application did not go to the February PPSLC.

We do not understand the statement about SUDS. No reply has been received to our request for an explanation. Another planning application which was passed had a statement requiring that the SUDS issue be addressed before building started and this has not happened and no details of the SUDS ever appeared on the Planning website. JCr has approached Scottish Water on this without success.

However the planning website is not being updated. Three Representations have been sent two weeks ago which have not appeared on the Portal.

Concerns were expressed about the meaningfulness of our Conservation area.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 13TH 2023

The minor change to the minutes involving the reference to TPO's requested by JCr was agreed.

With this change, the minutes were accepted as an accurate minute of the meeting. Proposed JL, Seconded RS, Agreed unanimously.

6. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA. CONTINUED

From 5.

- Defibrillator signs: Cllr MC has secured funding. It was agreed that we should request 3 signs to be placed
 - 1) On A814 at the Hall Road Junction
 - 2) At the junction of Hall road and Cumberland Avenue
 - 3) At the junction of Cumberland Avenue and Manse Brae

All these should be two sided signs

Action JC to inform CllrMC

- Short term parking at the Brae Shop:
It was noted that the shop has changed ownership. The issue of the short term parking is on-going.

Action CllrMC

- From Item 11 Cables at Rhu Spit

The action planned is to clear the beach and as far into the water as safely possible on the lowest tide, weighting and burying the ends. The local council has been given permission.

The work is scheduled in for between 18th and 29th February subject to availability of

local resources to support, and of course to weather.

- From item 12.

It was agreed to ask Hugh O'Neil to explain the procedures to be followed for the spending of the grant. Provisionally it was agreed that one of the group who live beside the park could represent the community in deciding how to spend the money.

Action JC

- From item 14. Advice was not forthcoming from Planning on where we could locate a Notice Board for the Community Council. After some discussion it was agreed to ask if we could site one next to the Church Notice Board on Manse Brae.

Action JC

END OF MATTERS ARISING

7. PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. Duneira 22/00053/ENFOC.

The Enforcement Officer advised that the owner will apply for Planning Permission in January. If this does not happen and the property continues to be used for STLs, Enforcement Action will be taken. No reply from planning to a request of an update for this meeting.

Ongoing

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

Ongoing

- c. 23/02429/PP: Siting of Portable Cabin on Marina.

It was agreed that the CC should register our concern to Planning about the piecemeal development on the Marina, given that the site is designated for a masterplan.

Action JC

- d. Other significant planning matters.

None.

8. FORESTRY ISSUES:

- a. The February Forestry Report was considered.

It was agreed that plans for a community meeting should be delayed until the result of the Strategic Timber Transport Plan Preparatory Grant is known. The actual nature of the meeting will be agreed nearer the time but it was agreed that it should cover environmental issues in the woodland as well as the issue of safety village roads. LY may be able to help by contacting organisations and experts who have specialist knowledge about peat and rainforests. JL agreed to contact SNH. It is hoped that this meeting will be recorded.

The letter to Scottish Forestry agreed at the last meeting was sent and a reply received. It was felt that this did not deal adequately with nine major points and a

follow up letter has been sent.

b. Consideration was given to the email from Mike Page of Scottish Woodlands received on 5th March. It was agreed that a reply should be sent stating emphatically that the position of the CC is unchanged in that it remains opposed to all timber transportation using Pier and Station Roads.

Action JC

9. OTHER MATTERS

a. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON 2024

The Reports pack includes a response from Alastair Moore. JM circulated a comprehensive analysis of the existing lights. It was agreed that JM and AB would consider the current lights and advise on possible replacement or repair. A decision on whether we would organise an event or just limit the festivities to a lighted tree was delayed.

b. BEACH CLEAN.

Beach Cleans were held on January 13th and February 10th, involving 11 and 5 people respectively. On both occasions a significant amount of rubbish was collected. The Beach Cleans are organised by Lynda Baylem. The next one is on March 16th.

c. BROADBAND IN RHU AND SHANDON

Broadband in the newly converted flats in Blairvadach house is inadequate. It was agreed that the CC cannot take any action on this.

d. EXTRA LITTER BIN AT THE SPIT END OF FERRY ROAD.

It was agreed that we should approach A&B to request this.

10. CONSULTATIONS: DETAILS AND LINKS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

a. [Democracy Matters](#): Closes February 28th 2024

This is part of a wider Local Governance review which is looking across Scotland's vital services to consider how power and resources should be shared between National and Local Government. It was agreed that the CC does not have either the resources or the time to provide a response.

b. Draft customer Involvement Strategy from ACHA: Closing date 19th February 2024

This has been forwarded to the residents of Quarry Knowe. Although it is based on tenant feedback there are sections which are applicable to owners. It is not appropriate for the CC to respond.

c. Budget Simulator for HSCP. Closing date 10th March 2024

We are asked to reduce spending by £11.4 m, which is 3.4% of the total budget. It was agreed that this should be completed by individuals.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT From SG

Full Details in the Reports pack

In summary the balance in the accounts will be £4943.92, after the cheque for the disco band has been debited, of which £830.74 is in the Christmas Lights Fund.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

This has been circulated as it has been received.

- As mentioned in item 4d, on March 9th, Plastic free Helensburgh are organising a Round Table facilitated discussion for anyone involved in doing anything to improve our environment.
- Fiona Baker forwarded the link to a petition to the Scottish Government lodged by Helensburgh Community Council.
PE2074: Prioritise local participation in planning decisions.
It was agreed that this should be publicised and individuals encouraged to respond.
- Invasive Species Week 2024 is 20th to 26th May.
It was suggested that we should try to involve the community in identifying the location of Japanese knotweed in Rhu and Shandon. This will be revisited at our next meeting.
- Post Meeting Note. Jim Duncan formally resigned on January 24th. He had intended to resign at this meeting. I should have sent a formal reply within seven days according to the scheme. Jim has been a valuable member of the Community Council for twelve years and will be sorely missed.

13. **MEMBERS REPORTS:**

JL: There has been serious flooding involving Network Rail and contact has been made with the office of Road and Rail. The runoff from this flood has caused major road damage in Kirk Brae. Cllr MC is pursuing the latter. There are more details in the Report Pack.

JC. More flooding was reported by David Lang and involves Chapel Burn. Network Rail said that the flooding is the responsibility of the MoD. PN has passed the information onto the Culvert Working group which involves several base departments as well as DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation).

14. **AOB: NONE**

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 10th but as this is in the school holidays it was agreed that this should be changed to April 17th.

The meeting will take place in Rhu and Shandon Community Centre at 7pm.