

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

RSCC:

GUESTS

John Mc Gall – Convenor (JM)
Jean Cook-Secretary (JC)
Fiona Baker (FB)
Arnold Bretman (AB)
Allan David MacFadyen (SG)
Nick Barton (NB)
Dave Whitham (DW)

Cdr vice Cmdr Jon Fletcher HMNB (JF)

1. APOLOGIES:

Received from Thomas Baylem(TB), Sally Grummitt, Jeannette Loram, Calum McNicol Rob Stuart, David Lang, Cllr Maurice Corry, Cllr Mark Irvine, Cllr Ian Shonny Paterson, PC Kelly LeCore

2. DECLARATIONS OF interest:

DW- Secretary of Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club

3. GUEST REPORTS:

a: Report from Police Scotland.

This was provided by PC Kelly LeCore and is posted on the website. In summary there were 5 Incident reports and 4 Crime reports since the last meeting. There were two reports of deer on the road in Rhu. One was hit by a car and killed.

b: HMNB Clyde. Commander JF introduced himself as the new Base Executive Officer. BXO.

In answer to an issue raised at the last meeting about illegal felling of trees for firewood in the ancient woodlands bordering Aldownwick Glen, Cmdr JF circulated maps showing the extent of MOD and Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) land in the area. Understandably he would not be drawn on whether either organisation would support R&SCC if they applied for Tree Protection Orders (TPO) on significant trees. He felt that erecting No Felling notices would be acceptable.

JF then asked why the speed through Rhu Village was not 20mph, given the volume of traffic and the size of the heavy vehicles using the road. According to National Traffic Data in 2016 there was a daily average of 8,278 vehicle movements per day on the A814 at Rhu; it is likely that this average to have increased since then. Following a discussion it was agreed to approach Argyll and Bute on this matter. Post meeting note: There is a [Scottish Task Group](#) for 20mph speed limits, which have been widely implemented in several council areas including Edinburgh, Fife and the Scottish Borders.

Action JC

JF reported that parking was a major problem on the Base and encouraging cycling

was important. He reported that he had been approached by Base cyclists about the state of the cycle path through Rhu It was agreed that A&B would be asked to undertake some maintenance work on the path.

Action JC

AB asked JF about the state of the breakwater on Rhu Spit.

Commander JF to investigate.

c: MDP A report from Drew Omand stated that the bollards beside the Peace Camp act as a security measure and show the boundary of MoD land. One fly tipping of wood since their erection was reported and promptly removed.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12TH JUNE 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true record

Proposed by FB and seconded by AB

Agreed unanimously.

5. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA.

- Lagarie. After a request to Planning for an update on the conditions within the approval, Jim Crawford reported that the reply that that there has been no progress.
- Defibrillator signs: Sheenah Nelson, from Heartstart said that Helensburgh Garelochside Rotary is looking into funding. She reported that 4 of the publically Accessible Defibrillators(PADs) had been deployed in local incidents in 36 hours, emphasising the importance of the availability of PADs
- Short term parking at Brae Shop. Ongoing, confirmed by CllrMC today
AB raised health and safety issues and was asked to contact CllrMC directly.
- Notice Board. An email was sent to preferred builder. Post Meeting Note. Contact has been established and planning permission will be progressed.

Action AB

Action JC

6. PLANNING MATTERS

- a. 23/01276/PP: Construction and Operation of a battery energy storage system with ancillary infrastructure. In response to an email from David Moore to the agent stating that the former was minded to refuse because of unacceptable impact on the green belt, the agent responded with further documentation justifying its location. Roads have been asked to comment and objections are still coming in. It was agreed that we should make another response refuting the inaccuracies in YLEM's claims.

Action: Planning Group
- b. 24/00888/PP: Partial demolition, refurbishment and change of use of care home to form residential apartments, and erection of 4 dwelling houses. Our Objection has been sent to Planning and is posted on our website. NB expressed the view that he was not in principle against houses on the site provided they were of high quality, but the agreed that the main problem was access and egress given the volume and speed of the traffic on the A814.
- c. Other Planning applications .None

7. OTHER MATTERS

a. FORESTRY MATTERS AND RELATED ISSUES.

Phase2 of the felling in Highlandman's and Torr. This seems to be behind schedule. This may be due to the current price of timber or the number of harvesting jobs on sister properties. There have been unconfirmed reports that fuel tankers have been seen going up the hill.

Management Plan for Torr Woodlands: FB reiterated the view that the Management Plan was inadequate. From the last meeting, FB felt that the issue should be pursued and there were no dissenters.

Action Forestry Group

b. Christmas Tree and related issues

Members of the Christmas Event Group: AB Chairman, JMcG, JC. Further helpers will be sort from the community and from the rest of the CC. It was agreed that a Christmas event was highly desirable this year, since the Rhu Gala did not take place

AB has identified replacement lights and it was agreed unanimously that £697.97 should be used from the lights fund.

- c. **Litter Bin on Rhu Spit:** At the end of July the bin was overflowing. It was reported by Alastair Moore and JC on Monday morning. By Thursday it still had not been uplifted. It is supposed to be emptied on Monday and Thursday. On Friday morning Alastair went to Blackhill and got agreement that the bin would be uplifted that morning, I have asked for a larger bin. CllrMC has been in touch with Tom Murphy on this matter.

d. Culvert issues in Shandon. Report from David Lang

- Ardchapel burn has now been now cleared by MOD
- MOD and network rail are in the process of agreeing ongoing maintenance and clearance of the toe ditches
- Flood study - Longer term flood solutions being worked by:-Fiona.Howard, Mark.Calder and George Morrison from Argyll and Bute and CllrMI, At the meeting DW and JC offered to join the culvert group

e. KNOTWEED SURVEY IN RHU AND SHANDON

The logging of outbreaks of Knotweed is ongoing. The location of outbreaks will be collated and information sent to landowners. There are other invasive species in the area.

Action JC

f. BEACH CLEANING.

Lynda Baylem is moving to England. She has initially scheduled the next Beach Clean for August 24th. She has organised monthly Beach Cleans for the last year which involved, choosing a date, notifying the Helensburgh Advertiser and putting up the banner in the week of the clean.All but one of the cleans were on a Saturday morning.

There were no offers to take over the organisation. FB offered to approach plastic Free Helensburgh.

Action FB

g. LOCAL PLACE PLAN (LPP)

It was agreed that this is important. FB wearing her Destination Helensburgh hat is a member of the Helensburgh Community Council LPP Steering Group. She has produced an extensive initial list of issues for consideration. The LPP is concerned with land and buildings and the Community Action Plan with everything else. The protection of the green belt designation of Empress Fields was discussed. Doubt about whether the latter was in Helensburgh CC or R&SCC was raised and JC offered to send everyone a map confirming its location within Helensburgh. It was recognised that all members of the Community Council would need to contribute to the LPP as well as the community at large, but that it would be more productive to restrict the initial discussions to a small group. It was agreed that FB and NB will form the nucleus of the LPP Steering committee.

Action JC to send R&SCC boundary map to all members.

Post meeting note: It was agreed, post meeting, that FB will serve as the official representative of R&SCC on the Steering Group of HCC LDP.

h. LDP3.

It was agreed to shelve this until the LPP is further advanced.

i. ABCAN seed grant

It was decided not to apply for this.

8: Treasurer's Report

There have been no changes since the June meeting

9: CORRESPONDENCE

- Red Squirrel initiative. Scottish Wildlife Trust has appointed Meja Vesterlund as the Monitoring and Control Officer for our area. Folk asked to report sightings of grey squirrels in our area, since they carry the squirrelpox virus which is lethal to reds but does not affect greys. Information is posted on website and was included in a NL and on the FB page.
- Kelly LeCore (Group 3 Response) new police contact based in Helensburgh. She hopes to come to the December meeting
- Second Great UK Water Blitz.20-23 September, organised by Earthwatch.

It was agreed that we should take part in this and encourage the community to join us. FB and JC have applied for testing kits and it was agreed to ask for multiple kits to distribute to the community. It was suggested that we try to sample every burn which comes down the hill. Angela Anderson has offered to help coordinate this.

Action JC to apply for multiple kits

- We get sent Information on Mental Health Training courses and related issues. Ie applied suicide prevention skills training. No action has been taken on these, since only items which are of general interest are posted.
- Friends of the Earth. We have been asked to publicise a petition to convince Kier Starmer to make a legal right to a healthy Environment one of his top priorities. This will not be publicised as this is political.

- Rosslea Hall are arranging a family day on Sunday 18th August from 12pm to 4pm, in part, they say to make up for the cancellation of the Rhu Gala this year. It was agreed that the CC should send Rosslea Hall a thank-you letter.

ACTION JC

10: COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS. None.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS: None

12. MEMBER'S REPORTS: None

13. AOB: None

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

October 9th at 7pm in Rhu and Shandon Community Centre.

The minutes of meetings are posted on the website
www.rhuandshandoncommunity.org