

**Minute of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
9th October 2024
Location: Rhu and Shandon Community Centre**

IN ATTENDANCE:

RSCC:

GUESTS

John Mc Gall – Convenor	(JM)	Cdr Jon Fletcher MBE RN HMNB	(JF)
Jean Cook-Secretary	(JC)	Meja Vesterlund SWT	(MJ)
Fiona Baker	(FB)		
Arnold Bretman	(AB)		
Allan David MacFadyen	(DM)		
David Lang	(DL)		
Hilary Lancaster	(HL)		

1. APOLOGIES:

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

2. CO-OPTION OF HILARY LANCASTER

The proposal notice was circulated on 25th September. It was seconded by AB and carried unanimously.

3. DECLARATIONS OF interest:

None

4. GUEST REPORTS:

Extra item :Saving Scottish Red Squirrels

MJ from the Scottish Wildlife Trust is the Monitoring and Control Officer for Argyll, Trossachs and Stirling. She explained that there was strong possibility that red squirrels could re-colonise Rhu and Shandon if greys are removed. She wanted help in trying to encourage the public to report grey squirrel sightings. It was agreed that we would publicise this in our newsletter. JF agreed to put MJ in touch with the Pest Control officer in HMNB Base. Two possibilities for publicising further afield were suggested by FB; the Friends of Duchess Wood AGM and the next Big Conversation, organised by Plastic Free Helensburgh. MJ left the meeting at this point.

a: Report from Police Scotland.

This was provided by PC Kelly LeCore and is posted on the website. In summary there were 42 calls to the police. Ten Crime Reports were issued; for possession of controlled drugs, for attempted extortion violent crime with one of common assault reported to the Procurator Fiscal. There was one search warrant executed, plus 8 concerns for missing persons. The public is encouraged to publicise any suspicious circumstances either in person or anonymously via 101 or Crimestoppers online.

b: HMNB Clyde.

The highlight since the last meeting was the visit of the King to thank the Submarine Service for their services to the country. He met with submariners and their families and went onboard a Vanguard.

JF provided a brief insight to the plans for HMNB CLYDE 2070 that will enable the transition from VANGUARD to DREADNOUGHT submarines and the introduction to service of the AUKUS class of submarine. HMNB CLYDE Establishment Management Plan predicts a growth of circa 7460 (current) to 11735 (2070).

The Culvert Working Group will be meeting again in Shandon. The first meeting is planned for 14 October.

Parking is still a difficult issue for the Base; efforts are ongoing to try to reduce the reliance on private cars. Any inappropriate parking by Base employees should be reported to JF.

The area by Woodlea Crescent has been cleared and is likely to be used by contractors.

The state of the breakwater at Rhu Spit is ongoing.

It was pointed out that the drainage from Aldonaig farm and Ardenconnell Woods affects Naval housing as well as Ardenconnell House and Mews. Naval Housing is the responsibility of DIO. The Culvert Working will be alerted to this problem.

In answer to a question about KangaRhu, JF reported that there is no change in the DIO decision to repossess the property.

Following on from the discussion at the last meeting Audrey Baird is designing a sign which will include instructions that cut or fallen trees should not be removed from the woodland unless this is essential to clear a blocked path, since fallen timber contributes to vitality of the woodlands. JF did not object to the sign including a map of the ancient woodland.

JF left the meeting at this point after contributing to items 6c, 8b & 8e reported later in the minutes.

c: MDP No Report.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14TH AUGUST 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true record
Proposed by FB and seconded by DM

Agreed unanimously.

6. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA.

- a. **SPEED THROUGH RHU VILLAGE:** There has been no reply to the letter written to Roads & Infrastructure (R&I) but Cllr ISP is meeting with Head and parents of Rhu primary school on this matter. Iain said that he has been an advocate for average speed cameras for some time and has been lobbying for them since 2021 to be installed on the A82 Loch Lomond road, where they have now been installed. It was pointed out that it is not just the speed on the A814 which needs to be controlled. Whenever there are any temporary traffic lights in the village, Aros Road, Smugglers Way,

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Lineside Walk and Pier Road are used as a way of avoiding the hold up and become a race track. It was agreed to write again to R&I to lobby for a reduced limit on these roads also.

ACTION JC

- b. **CLEARING OF CYCLE PATH FROM AROS ROAD THROUGH WOODLAND.** Before writing the letter I went to check the path and found that it had been cleared apart from a stand of knotweed. From Jon's map this actually MoD land. We understand it was cleared by Brian Murdoch. It was agreed that we should write him a thank-you note.

ACTION JC

- c. **BREAKWATER AT RHU SPIT:** Taken out of order before JK left the meeting.

This action is ongoing

ACTION JF

- d. **DEFIBRILLATOR SIGNS:** Sheenah Nelson said that money for signs has been obtained from Morrisons and allocation will be discussed at the next meeting of Lomond Rotary Club.

AB suggested that the locations of the 5 local defibrillators be displayed on a single piece of paper and posted around the village, since not everyone has access to the app where these locations are listed. This is in addition to the directional signs on lampposts. This was agreed.

ACTION JC

- e. **SHORT TERM PARKING AT BRAE SHOP.** Message from Cllr MC that this is still ongoing

ONGOING-ACTION CLLRMC

- f. **NOTICE BOARD:** Made contact with preferred builder-ongoing- he is a busy man.

ONGOING-ACTION JC

- g. **KNOTWEED SURVEY OF RHU AND SHANDON.** Undertaken and landowners informed. More on this in Correspondence

- h. A Thank you card was sent to Rosslea Hall for organising the family day in August.

END OF MATTERS ARISING

7. PLANNING MATTERS

- a. 23/01276/PAN: Installation of a 50MW battery energy storage. Ongoing, despite very negative submission from Roads about Access.
- b. 24/00888/PP: Partial demolition, refurbishment and change of use of care home to form residential apartments, and erection of 4 dwelling houses. . There has been no response to the road safety issues raised in our submission.
- c. Other Planning Applications .None

8. OTHER MATTERS

a. FORESTRY MATTERS AND RELATED ISSUES.

Phase2 of the felling in Highlandman's and Torr. This still seems to be behind schedule.

Management Plan for Torr Woodlands:

No action since last meeting.

Action Forestry Group

Luss Estates South Long Term Forest Plan-Blairnairn. The CC have been asked to comment by Scottish Forestry.

Action Forestry Group

b. CHRISTMAS TREE AND RELATED ISSUES

No further helpers have been identified but planning by AB is going well. . New Lights at a cost of £697.97 have been purchased. A new junction box is still needed. The Risk Assessment and Management Plan has been approved. The loan of the stage and speakers is still ongoing with A&B.

JF confirmed the contact at the base for the tree and JF will investigate the possibility of the loan of fencing. This item was taken out of order before JF left.

AB outlined the arrangements for the evening and emphasized that help would be required in setting up, supervising on the night and dismantling after the event. DL offered to join JM and JC. AB is documenting all aspects of the organisation of the event to ensure that any future organizer will not have to start from scratch.

c. LITTER BIN ON RHU SPIT:

There have been several reports of the bin not being emptied according to schedule. No reply to my request for a larger bin not even an acknowledgment. Cllr MC has written to Tom Murphy to support our request.

d. GREAT WATER BLITZ

8 members of the community tested every burn that flows into the Gareloch and all but one result was uploaded onto the results map which is posted on our website.

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Only three outlets showed any pollution; Linnburn, MoD Culvert, Ardencaple Hotel.

It was agreed that we will take part in this again in the spring and try to get more of the community involved.

e. CULVERT ISSUES IN SHANDON.

Before he left the meeting JF reported that the culvert working group in the base were still considering the issues concerning the toe ditch in Shandon. There has been no reply from Commodore Malkin with regard to who is responsible for toe ditch in Shandon. A reminder has been sent.

Post meeting note: On September 25th Dave Whitham, DL and JC met with George Morrison, Area Team Leader, Roads and Infrastructure to discuss the ongoing flooding from Blairvadach. The latter now appreciates that the volume of water has increased both by the current weather patterns but significantly exacerbated by the removal of so much vegetation by builders. He is planning to put a camera down the stone drain at the entry point to see where it goes before deciding on the best options.

f. BEACH CLEANING.

A beach clean organised by Clare Dickson was held on September 14th. Another is scheduled for this coming Saturday. John has put up the banner and Clare has advertised in Helensburgh Advertiser.

g. LOCAL PLACE PLAN (LPP)

FB and Nick Hornby are attending a meeting on October 10th.

h. CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OF ARDENCONNELL WOODS.

At a community meeting held at 6pm before the Community Council meeting, it was agreed that the lease to buy option, agreed with Luss Estates for £30k would be pursued. This is independent of the Community Council, but clearly concerns us since it involves the Community.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

Last statement =5548.67

Since then there has been a debit of 697.93 for Christmas lights

Leaving CC funds of £4488.30, Christmas lights Fund £132.81 and PPE grant of 229.63

I.e. a total of £4850.74

10. : CORRESPONDENCE

- Invitation from Williamson Trust inviting CC to undertake Community Research Projects. Deadline 5th Dec. No action agreed on this.

- Invasive Species event at Cove Park on November 1st 4-8. Several members of R&SCC has signed up for this. We are invited to log all instances of invasive species. It may be too large a task but we can certainly make a stab at listing as many as possible.
- We have reported the cables which have resurfaced on Rhu Beach to BT
- Email from Norman McNally, Helensburgh Community Council asking for our support in the battle again a supermarket on the pier in Helensburgh. It was agreed that we as a community council will do this. FB agreed to draft a letter. Individuals are also encouraged to contact A&B Councillors as well as officials at A&B since it has been said that they believe that the only folk who feel strongly about this issue are the Helensburgh residents. There is a petition which individuals can sign.
<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-supermarket-on-helensburgh-s-waterfront>
- Information from Planning Democracy on their winter Webinar Series on Biodiversity in Planning. There is one webinar per month starting on 6th November. The information will be circulated.

11. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

CllrMC reported ahead of the meeting that arrangements were in train for the nursery to relocate in Rhu and Shandon Community Centre, with the McColl room being used from Monday to Thursday and the main hall on Fridays. There is also the garden and new sandpit too and all WC facilities and kitchen. Anne King wants to confirm her wish to move there and is working on the necessary paperwork to do so with the Care Quality Commission and ABC, Education Department. CllrMC spoke to Anne last week and she confirmed that she is working towards confirming an agreement with the Rhu Community Hall Committee led by their Chairman, Sue Thornley, with whom he spoke and who supported the move there by KangaRhu Nursery. Sue was very positive subject to everything being agreed. It should be recognised that R&SCC are supportive of this move as are the Naval Families Federation, Vicky Brindley.

CllrIP reported that he has a meeting scheduled with the head and parents of Rhu Primary regarding speed in the village. Reported above in Matters Arising 6a.

12. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** None

13. **MEMBER'S REPORTS:** None

14. **AOB:**

- AB reported that a Great White Egret has been spotted in Rhu Bay. It has been seen in Shandon also.
- FB: We have received a request from a PhD Student whose thesis is on the relationship between the Base and the local community. It was agreed to invite the student to our next meeting to explain his research and

what he wanted from the community.

Action Jean Cook

•AB and others. Bad Parking in Helensburgh.

This is rife, particularly on Sinclair Street. It was noted that a parking ticket was handed out to a motorist who parked badly outside the Bank of Scotland. It was recognised that when the 2 hour parking limit on the pier comes into force in January this will mean that more people will be forced to park on the streets in Helensburgh.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

December 11th at 7pm in Rhu and Shandon Community Centre.

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