

**Minute of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
12th February 2025
Location: Rhu and Shandon Parish Church**

IN ATTENDANCE:

RSCC:

GUESTS

John Mc Gall – Convenor	(JM)	Cdr Jon Fletcher MBE RN HMNB	(JF)
Jean Cook-Secretary	(JC)	Cllr Maurice Corry	(CllrMC)
Arnol Bretman	(AB)	Laura Freeland	(LF)
Allan David MacFadyen	(ADM)		
David Lang	(AB)		
Hilary Lancaster	(HL)		

1. APOLOGIES:

Received from Jeannette Loram(JL), Rob Stuart (RS), Nick Barton (NB), Fiona Baker(FB), Calum McNichol (CMcN), Cllr Mark Irvine, (CllrMI), Cllr Shonny Paterson.(CllrIP), Shellie Montgomery(SM)

We have had resignations from Sally Grummitt, David Whitham and Thomas Baylem.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

3. GUEST REPORTS:

a: Report from Police Scotland. Completed by PC Craig Cormack
The Police Report is posted on the website.

In summary there were 31 calls to the Police between 10/12/2024 and 5/2/2025. There were no crime Reports raised neither for serious or organized crime nor for acquisitive crime. There were 8 relating to road safety in the Rhu area. Most were dealt with by way of fixed penalty notices. There were 2 for vandalism, one relating to drug possession and one for assault... There were 3 missing persons and 2 relating to child protection.

The public is encouraged to publicise any suspicious circumstances either in person or anonymously via 0800 555 111 or Crimestoppers-uk.org online.

b: HMNB Clyde.

Nothing to Report

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 11TH DECEMBER 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true record
Proposed by HL and seconded by AB.

Agreed unanimously.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Item 5

- **DEFIBRILLATOR SIGNS.** Sheenagh Nelson is hopeful that the signs will be erected soon,
- **BREAKWATER AT RHU SPIT:** This action is ongoing
- **SHORT TERM PARKING AT BRAE SHOP.** The current owners do not wish to pursue this
- **Notice Board:** The contract for the building and erection of the Notice Board has been given to a recommended builder for an inclusive price of £1000.
- **Nine people took part in a Beach Clean on Saturday February 8th.** The amount of plastic on the beach was horrifying. Apparently the storm stirred up plastic debris from the sea bed. The next three beach cleans are scheduled for February 22nd, March 15th and April 5th. Our thanks again to Clare Dickson for taking charge.

From 7c.

- All supporters of the Christmas Event have been thanked.

The problems with the lights were discussed. The initial problem was that the main junction box was not water tight. The lights themselves appear to be functioning properly and have a 2 year warranty, but more checks will need to be made with the connectors. If necessary the supplier of the lights will be contacted.

There is a problem with drainage of water down Church Road finding its way onto the village green. A&B do not accept that the recent road surfacing is responsible for this problem and are unwilling to do anything to rectify it.

JMcG and AB will investigate.

- **Drains.** In a reply to a request, Roads and Infrastructure said that “all gullies and culverts are cleaned on a cyclic schedule twice a year with the next scheduled cleaning for Rhu and Shandon is set for July”. They said that they respond reactively to any reports of blocked gullies or culverts, and anyone aware of any issues that need their attendance should use the online reporting tool [Report it/Argyll and Bute Council](#) and they will arrange a reactive clean as necessary.

From 10, A supporting letter has been forwarded to Andrew Nisbet.

END OF MATTERS ARISING

6. PLANNING MATTERS

25/00185/PP: It was noted that this Planning application has been lodged by Ardencaple Farm for 6 holiday units and a spa to be housed in old shipping containers, including the formation of an access and parking area and a septic tank

and soakaway. This is not in Rhu and Shandon.

7. FORESTRY AND RELATED ISSUES

- **BLAIRNAIRN**

RDS forestry have sent us updated maps which will be posted on the website They will shortly their plans SF their plan. We will be asked to comment then and again when it is submitted as a formal planning application. Could everyone look at the documents on the website and make any comments to RS, JMcG or AB?

- **Alternate Haulage route**-There has been no action since May 2024 when Adam McLean (AM) asked us not to contact any of the parties involved as negotiations were at a delicate stage. JMcG reported that the issue is still under consideration and AM is prepared to meet again in the near future. CllrMC will arrange a meeting in the Civic Centre. In response to a question about [Gresham House's British Sustainable Infrastructure Fund Portfolio](#), AM explained that this is a separate division but he will provide us with the contact. This fund is providing money to pay farmers in England to restore biodiversity on grassland.

8. CULVERT ISSUES IN SHANDON.

Chapelburn area. Consultants are looking at **this**. West Coast Cutters have a contract for the toe ditches. A culvert maintenance plan is not yet available. Liaison between with Network Rail and the MoD is ongoing but the fence problem still exists.

Water running across the A814 and collecting in several places both on the A814 and the cycle path is causing problems for motorists and residents. After even moderate rain the A814 is dangerous, particular at the entrance to the Briars, down the hill from Blairvadach and opposite the end of Aros Road.

We have had two representations from residents whose properties are being damaged by flooding; the occupants of Ardgare Lodge and of Oakbank. Both are dissatisfied by the responses from Roads and Infrastructure and both are proposing to take this further with insurance companies and solicitors. CllrMC offered to contact both and see what he could do to help

9. UPDATE ON ARDENCONNELL WOODS.

Report by Fiona Baker (Chair RSCT and Ardenconnel Wood Steering Groups) in absentia.

The RSCT constitution has been approved by the Community Right to Buy Team at the Scottish Government and is now being submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator with an application to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

RSCT's bank account has now been opened and we will soon be collecting the pledged funds. Our solicitor, Harper McLeod, are liaising with the Luss Estates solicitor to carry out all the due diligence.

Many conversations with potential partners are ongoing and progress being made on creating a website and logo and we are investigating funding opportunities. A newsletter to those on our mailing list will be issued shortly, if you would like to be on the mailing list please contact Fiona or RSCT(rhushandontrust@gmail.com).

10. LOCAL PLACE PLAN. Report by Fiona Baker and Nick Barton In absentia.

Rhu and Shandon Community Survey (Local Place Plan)

Key dates

Launch of online and paper survey: 8 February 2025
Community consultation at Rhu and Shandon Parish Church Hall on
Thursday 6 March 3-8pm
Friday 7 March 3-8pm
Saturday 8 March 10am – 5pm
Consultation closes 8 March 2025

The date of the presentation to community of the completed draft LPP before submission to Argyll and Bute Council will be confirmed.– date TBC
The submission to Argyll and Bute Council is June 2025

Report

Nick Barton and Fiona Baker have been working closely with Rhu and Shandon Community Trust/Ardenconnel Wood Steering Group (one and the same) with Rob Stuart leading for RSCT/Ardenconnel Wood. RSCT secured the assistance of 6 days of free assistance from Community Enterprise under the Accelerate Programme to develop the survey and create the survey form, identify key stakeholders etc. Community Enterprise will be analysing the survey responses and producing a report as part of this assistance.

The survey is seeking to gather much wider community views than a LPP which is primarily concerned with land and buildings. A section of the survey relates specifically to Ardenconnel Wood. Other local institutions; Glenarn, the Church, Rhu Hall have been invited to have posters at the community engagement events. We suggest Shellie Montgomery is invited to have a poster on road safety issues at the event.

The community engagement event will entail A1 size posters on the particular themes of the survey with post it notes for participant to write their views and ideas on and stick to the poster. This information will then be collated and added to the survey results.

Nick and Fiona will write the LPP based on the survey and consultation results. It is hoped that the process will generate more information about a range of issues that are outwith the scope of the LPP. This community feedback will assist RSCC, RSCT and the Ardenconnel Wood project in identifying and taking action on community concerns and aspirations. It might be that a Community Action Plan (CAP) can also be produced but we need to gather the information first.

Please can all CC members circulate the [flyer](#) to their local networks and encourage people to fill in the survey. Paper copies are available but on line is preferred as it is easier to analyse.

At the community engagement event we need all members of the CC to be in attendance over the three events – on a rota – to help facilitate the consultation. We need 6 people for each 2 hour session. This will involve a person manning each poster and encouraging conversation and for people to write down their views on the post its. The facilitator should also keep a notebook to write down any observations – not everyone will want to write on post-it notes but they might have quite a lot to say and we need to try and gather as wide a range of views of possible for this to be truly representative of residents.

There will be a briefing for CC members before the event but reading the survey will familiarise members with the main themes.

- Village Identity and priorities
- Homes and development
- Environment and nature

- Active travel and transport
- Social and Cultural activities
- Ardenconnel Wood (covered by AW group)

The LPP is the most important document the CC can produce on behalf of our community as it feeds into the next Local Development Plan (LDP3), which determines development areas and attendant budget strategies for the next decade once LDP3 is adopted.

Copies of the rota were circulated and completed at the meeting

11. SAFETY ON THE ROADS IN RHU AND SHANDON

To the question on when the community would be consulted on speed limits in our community, A&B replied that it is the Officers' view that the Scottish Government's 2025 timeline for the implementation of 20mph limits is ambitious. A Project Officer will be appointed and A&B will engage with the Community Councils and Elected Members.

The proposal by Shellie Montgomery to conduct a traffic survey was welcomed as was the proposal to fundraise to contribute to the cost of hiring speed testing equipment. It was agreed that the Community Council will donate £400 towards this cost.

It was agreed to ask Shellie to conduct her data collection at the Consultation events for the LPP.

It was also agreed to contact Cove and Kilcreggan CC on this matter as they had had some experience.

ACTION JC

There is an ongoing National Speed Review underway with closing date 5th March. This involves reducing the national speed limits on single carriageways from 60mph to 50mph and increasing the speed limits for HGV both on single and dual carriageways. Details are on the [Active Consultations](#) page of our website.

LF made the following three points, relating to safety on roads in Rhu and Shandon.

1. Near misses on Pier/Station Road.

A near miss car accident at bottom of Pier Road and details of accessing Police Scotland reporting system on 101. The call made mid week, mid afternoon.

LF feels that all near miss incidents involving pedestrians and/or vehicles on any road in Rhu or Shandon should also be reported online to A&B Roads Department and an incident number recorded.

It was clear that due to operational pressures experienced by Police Scotland it took a long time to get through. i.e 20 mins for the call to be answered and the repeat message to hang up and call later if a police presence was not required. The 101 call took 44 mins.

She intends to advise A&B Roads Dept (RIS) of her two experiences in the last week and to ask them to confirm their view as to whether it is STILL believed that

Pier/Station Roads are safe. Collecting evidence appears to be key and has been for years. People will not log incidents if system to report is too cumbersome. She fully appreciates the huge pressures faced by Police Scotland and RIS and the need to prioritise responses.

2 Scottish Government Initiative to reduce speeds on Scotland's Road.

LF felt that the street map of Rhu posted on R&SCC website was not fit for purpose. It was sent by Argyll and Bute with the statement “please bear in mind this is subject to further assessment and at this point nothing has been agreed.”

LF said that there appears to be confusion about the SG initiative, how it is being rolled out by A&B RIS and who has decided the confusing proposed 20mph/30mph/20mph signage as you drive through the village's short internal network of roads. She asked why some councils managed to get safety measures in place in 2020 and we are only just starting? She felt Sherrie's determination to address issues on A814 would complement the SG initiative.

3 Argyll&Bute Council Review of RIS /Findings/ New interim Head of RIS.

Following the inspection/review in 2024 by a team from Me Too Consultancy, a Stage 1 response has been put in place. The new Interim Head of RIS Stephen Hall, who was also part of the review team, advises that the Stage 1 implementation has been undertaken and he is now progressing Stage 2.

LF advised that the online meeting of Environment Development and Infrastructure Committee answered many of her questions about the Government's speeding initiative. Funding has been secured for another A&B Project Officer to progress work already done last year.

MC reported that Stephen Hall is keen to look at a percentage of communities, particularly with unique road issues which might require acknowledging their needs beyond a desk top approach. LF felt that with all the difficulties being faced with RIS perceived lack of support to listen to our concerns, it might be that a new post holder coming with fresh eyes could provide the help and support we have been asking for over a long number of years.

MC suggested contact is made with Stephen Hall to meet with our Community Council as a matter of some urgency.

This was welcomed by the CC

ACTION CllrMC

12. TREASURER'S REPORT: David Lang

The change to online banking is still ongoing

There has been donations of £112 since the last statement. The Balance in the account is £5021.86. There are still amounts pending from the Christmas Event.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- Hannah Carmichael STV. Is keen to hear about ongoing issues and wishes to be added to our mailing list, It was agreed to suggest to Shellie that we contact STV about the traffic survey.

- A&B Budget Survey is closing on 14th February. It has been advertised in our Newsletters and on our website.
- **Broadband Survey Consultation.** The Post Codes in our area which benefit from the R100 upgrade have been added to the website and will be in the next Newsletter, Some postcodes are excluded. Householders can write to the Scottish Government to ask why their property is excluded by following the link below.
[https://r100forms.evolutive.co.uk/\(S\(vnd2wpwkakyvz3vs2elz1v5b\)\)/default.aspx](https://r100forms.evolutive.co.uk/(S(vnd2wpwkakyvz3vs2elz1v5b))/default.aspx)
- **Play Park update**
Lesley Morrison has met with Hugh O'Neill.
A total of £50,000 is available to
 - Replace Matting under the net swing or consider grassed rubber matting
 - Replace the flooring under the swings and ensure the swing frame is secured properly (Consider Grassed rubber matting)
 - Replace the red metal pole with a spinner or giro spiral
 - Repair the zip slide ramp to include anti slip bars
 - Add a wheelchair accessible roundabout with associated upgrading of the ground works to facilitate wheelchair access inside the park
- **Bank of Scotland Closure**

Jackie Baillie MSP has arranged a meeting at 11am on Monday, February 17th, at Helensburgh Parish Church (meeting rooms).
There will be a presentation from Cash Access UK, a representative from the BoS and someone from Link.
We are invited to send a representative. JMcG will confirm his attendance.
- We have been asked by Cove and Kilcreggan to comment on their LPP by 5th March.
This was circulated on February 5th. ADM will look at this and report back.
- Great British Spring Clean taking place between 21st March and 6th April. Since two of our scheduled Beach Cleans are scheduled within that period, it was agreed that we formally reply and say we are taking part. I have cleared this with our organizer Clare Dickson.
- **GLENARN GOING FORWARD.** Supporters and interested parties are invited to a meeting on March 27th in the Community Hall.
- There is an ongoing National Speed Review underway with closing date 5th March. This involves commenting on reducing the national speed limits on single carriageways from 60mph to 50mph and increasing the speed limits for HGV both on single and dual carriageways. Details are on the [Active Consultations](#) page of our website.

14. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

FROM CllrSP: In pursuing the police regarding increasing their presence near the primary at specific times, Insp Bart Simonis has said that he will ensure he will see what he can do and will use social media to encourage improvement on our roads.

FROM -CllrMC:

- Budgets will be voted on at the end of the month.
- CllrMC suggested a meeting with the new head of roads following the appointment. The Closing Date for applicants for the post is 5th March.
- The Visitor Levy consultation closing date is 10th April. It is the decision of each local authority whether to introduce the levy. Details are posted on our website
- Plans are underway to move equipment from the damaged Leisure Centre into the library and Victoria Halls. The pools will open first and it might be as early as the beginning of April..
- The Helensburgh Pier Company has been formed.

15 PUBLIC QUESTIONS : None

16.MEMBERS REPORTS: None

17. AOB:

- Lover's Lane has been blocked by a fallen tree. This should be reported to A&B.

ACTION AB

- Homeowners are responsible for cutting overhanging hedges, If residents feel they cannot approach the offenders, A&B should be informed.
- It was agreed that the Gala team be invited to have a poster at the LPP.

ACTION JC

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

This is scheduled for April 9th in the Church Hall.

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