

**DRAFT Minute of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
11th June 2025
Location: Rhu and Shandon Parish Church**

IN ATTENDANCE:

RSCC:

GUESTS

John Mc Gall – Convenor	(JM)
Jean Cook-Secretary	(JC)
Fiona Baker(FB),	(FB)
Arnold Bretman	(AB)
Hilary Lancaster	(HL)
Allan David MacFadyen	(ADM)
Rob Stuart	(RS)
David Lang	(DL),
Nick Barton	(NB)

Laura Freeland	(LF)
Shellie Montgomery	(SM)
Cdr Jon Fletcher	(JF)
Maurice Corry	(CllrMC)

1. APOLOGIES:

Received from Cdr Cllr Mark Irvine, Scott Weir

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. GUEST REPORTS:

a. **POLICE REPORT.** The report is posted on our website.

In summary, there were 33 calls to the police.

Crime Reports raised: 2 for fraud, 2 for vandalism, 4 for conduct towards the police and 8 related to road safety and road crime.

Most of the latter were dealt with by way of fixed penalty notices.

b: HMNB Clyde.

- The new First Sea Lord, General Sir Gwyn Jenkins is the first Royal Marine appointed to the role.
- A multi-billion pound redevelopment of Faslane. Clyde 2070 has been announced with the initial £250 million of funding over three years to support jobs, skills and growth. Starting in the early 2030's, the Vanguard class will be replaced by Dreadnoughts, which carry Trident 11 ballistic missiles.
- The AUKUS (trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States) submarines will be based on the Clyde.
- Project Euston will see the creation of a new Floating Dock at the north end of the base.
- The problems with Chapelburn Culvert are ongoing with new quotes for the work being sought.
- The issues with the fencing in Shandon are still ongoing
- The Navigation marks for entry into the Gareloch are fully functional again

- JF will provide a DIO contact for the Botany Survey
- JF has been receiving complaints for base personnel about the speed of traffic at the cycle path near the Peace Camp.
- JF has received complaints from base personnel about the cycle path above the football pitch in Rhu. It is overgrown and not safe for a bike and pedestrian to use together. This is forcing active commuters to the base to use the A814.
- The cycle path from the main 814 to Maidstone Road is overgrown, impacting on those cycling to the South Gate.
- The base intends to survey the ingress and egress of traffic at peak times in order to get ahead of the increase in traffic expected in the 2070 plans.
- JF will engage with the Armed Forces Champion to discuss base active commuters.
- The repair/replacement of the Rhu Spit Breakwater is not included on any works schedule up to 2030. DHI(Depute Head of Infrastructure) intends to place warning signs in the interim period.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9TH APRIL 2025

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

Agreed unanimously.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- The Notice Board is progressing
- A thank-you card was sent to Liz and John Fraser for the gazebo
- Defibrillator signs. Message from John Macpherson, Lomond Rotary Club to say that he has asked Transport Scotland, and Bear Scotland to confirm that they have no concerns with the signage or the locations. I have been working on this since September 2021. Cllr MC offered to take this up.

Action CllrMC

END OF MATTERS ARISING

6. PLANNING MATTERS

25/00558/PP: Erection of dwelling house and associated works.
Garden Ground of Dilmun, Ferry Road, G84 8NF.

ADM left the hall for the discussion of this item.

SEPA has requested a deferral. They want an increase in the freeboard. Also the right of way must be maintained during construction. The plan is to put in two speed bumps on Ferry Road before and after the newly created passing place.

This structure is going to dominate the end of Ferry Road. It will be very close to the Radar Station but the MoD is not a consultee.

The Planning Group will consider this application.

Action Planning Group

24/00888/PP: Partial Demolition, refurbishment and change of use of care home to form residential apartments, and erection of 4 dwelling houses.

Approved December 2024

25/00576/PP: Erection of dwelling house, formation of vehicular access and associated works

The Conservation Officer has suggested rotating the building.

Roads have approved subject to conditions.

NB from the planning group will look at this.

Action NB

25/007211/TPO: Proposed Felling of two trees Ardenconnel House. Approved

24/02065/TPO: Proposed felling of 15 trees. The CC objected on 7th March. The application was amended on 26/5/2025 with the submission of a revised Tree Report. A&B are likely to approve this.

25/00715/PP: Erection of dwellinghouse with integrated garage and entrance walls/gates.

Garden Ground of Dalarne, Pier Road.

The Planning group will look at this.

Action Planning Group

- The Community Council has been approached about an neighbour dispute involving the cutting of a large hole in a Cherry Laurel 'hedge' which is over 30ft high and has been maintained immaculately by one neighbour for nearly 50 years. Because the garden grounds of Ardenconnel house have not been maintained, this laurel hedge has not been maintained in any sense of the word from one side. Essentially these are Laurel trees and therefore one could argue that they should be subject to the TPO in the conservation area. It was agreed that RS should write to Kirsty Flanagan and point out these facts plus query the extensive removal of such a large bank of trees in the bird nesting season and without any wildlife assessment.

Action RS

7. FORESTRY AND RELATED ISSUES

- Timber Transport: The harvesting Contractor put his machines on site on 15th April and harvesting started within two weeks. Due to a collapse sewer and a collapsed gas pipe, Pier Road was closed to traffic. For several days at the

beginning of June, the trucks used Manse Brae and Caldwell Place. The number of trips was reduced to 3 per day during this diversion. The road will have to close again for a permanent repair. Mike Page from Scottish Woodlands has said that he will stop haulage during the repair time if he is given sufficient notice. Communication is clearly the problem so it was suggested that a letter be written to Raymond Kane and Mike Page asking them to consult prior to the next planned closure of the road. When this happens No Parking Signs should be placed at the bottom of Manse Brae.

Action JC

8. Road Issues in Rhu and Shandon.

A meeting was held with Hugh O'Neill on 14th May. This was summarised in the Convener's report for the AGM. JM reported that Hugh O'Neil is now aware that the Base supported a reduction in speed, but that Average Speed Cameras were prohibitively expensive. The reason that A&B are lagging other councils in imposing speed restrictions is due to restructuring within A&B.

Concern was expressed that Roads and Infrastructure have designated road junctions on Station Road as passing places in an attempt to justify that this road is adequate for the 44ton timber lorries.

The jet patching which has taken place to repair some of the ruts in Station Road is inadequate and a waste of money. It was noted that in places, this road is a danger to walkers. This has been reported to A&B

- **SPEED THROUGH RHU VILLAGE:** The two week survey has been conducted. The data will be discussed at the next meeting of the Environment and Infrastructure Group.

Two interesting facts emerge from the survey; about 50% of the traffic would have been liable for a speeding ticket and the highest speed recorded was 72.5mph.

- FB has responded on behalf of R&SCC to a list of questions circulated after the last HLCPG on Transport in A&B. It was agreed that she would share this with JF.

- Stepped Walkway between Laggary Park and Torr Crescent. LF reiterated the need for this and outlined the provided an update on the progress in working with Raymond Kane, Roads and Amenities. Agreement has been reached that remedial work is necessary. Funding issues are now being addressed. LF provided

a [report](#) after the meeting.

9.UPDATE ON RHU AND SHANDON COMMUNITY TRUST. [Report](#) circulated by FB

It is hoped that the purchase of Ardenconnel Wood will be finalised by the end of June once the various boundary and land ownership issues and tree safety works have been resolved. Of note is the fact that Argyll and Bute have confirmed that they own the path from Quarry Knowe to Manse Brae. There will be a logo and branding session on Tuesday June 17th in Rhu Hall from 7-9. On 22nd June the Trust are working with the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland to deliver a botanical plant identification study day which will involve a field trip to the wood. The Inaugural AGM will be held once the purchase of the woodland is completed.

10 PLACE PLAN: [Report](#) circulated by Nick Barton

The new deadline for submission is July 2026. We expect that Draft 1 of our plan will be completed by the end of July 2025. A further public consultation of the plan will take place in early September with the final plan being submitted to A&B in the Autumn.

It was noted that A&B has hired a consultant to look at aspects of the green belt prior to LDP3.

11.TREASURER'S REPORT: Circulated by David Lang

Balance on account at £4,490.95. There have been no movements in the account since April meeting.

12: CORRESPONDENCE

- Review of proposed amendments to current scheme for CCs: Closing Date 22nd June.

The papers for this are posted on the website under [Active Consultations](#). It was agreed that members should look at this.

Action: members of CC

- Developing an ecosystem restoration code for Scotland. Closing date 29th June. Scottish Government Consultation. No action.
- Health related emails. I get at least 4 a week and only post in the Newsletter that I consider important. This was accepted by the members.
- Email from Friends of the Earth: Ahead of the international climate talks in November we received a petition to sign urging government to pass a law to hold companies to account when they fail to prevent environmental harms - like deforestation and human rights abuses in their supply chains. It was agreed that no action should be taken.

13. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS. CllcMC

- CllcMC expressed satisfaction that the meeting to discuss the future of Rhu Hall had been so well attended.
- Three tenders have been issued for the repair of the Leisure Centre. He expected that the Pools would be open in a few months, ahead of the rest of the building.
- He made some suggestions for improvements in the cycle way from Helensburgh to the South Gate which would negate the need for the dangerous crossing of the A814 in North Shandon.

14. PUBLIC QUESTIONS: NONE

15. MEMBERS REPORTS

- JC . Post meeting: Beach Cleans were held on April 5th and June 7th with 12 and 11 participants, organised again by Clare Dickson, who borrowed flags to advertise the event from the Grab Trust. JM puts up the poster and Clair advertises the event widely.

The schedule for the rest of the year is as follows: 9th August and 6th September at 2pm, 25th October at 10am.

- Water Blitz Earthwatch Europe 25-28 April. JM, HI & JC sampled all burns and culverts exiting into the Gareloch in Rhu and Shandon.

16. AOB: None

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

August 13th
Location: Rhu and Shandon Community Centre

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