

**DRAFT Minute of the
Rhu and Shandon Community Council
13th August 2025
Location: Rhu and Shandon Community Centre**

IN ATTENDANCE:

RSCC:

GUESTS

John Mc Gall – Convenor	(JM)	Cdr Jon Fletcher	(Cdr JF)
Jean Cook-Secretary	(JC)		
Fiona Baker(FB),	(FB)		
Arnold Bretman	(AB)		
Allan David MacFadyen	(ADM)		
Rob Stuart	(RS)		
David Lang	(DL),		
Scott Weir	(SW)		

1. APOLOGIES:

Received from Hilary Lancaster, Nick Barton, Cllrs Maurice Corrie, Mark Irvine & Iain Paterson

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. GUEST REPORTS:

- a. **POLICE REPORT.** Emailed by PC Craig Cormack. The report is posted on our website. In summary, there were 37 calls to the police.

Crime Reports raised: one each for fraud and theft, two for vandalism, one for threatening and abusive behaviour, one for assault and three for drug possession. There were seven related to road safety and road crime, five of which were dealt with fixed penalty notices and two for a vehicle failing to stop

b: HMNB Clyde. Report by Cdr JF

- There are no significant events to report.
- The problems with culverts are progressing slowly. Clyde Coast Cutters have been contracted. The work is expected to be completed by Christmas.
- Captain Paul Barker is working on reducing the car journeys to the Base. Improving active travel routes is an essential part of this. Councillor William Sinclair, A&B Armed Forces Lead is involved.
- Cdr JF will attend the next meeting of H&LCPG on August 19th.
- Cdr Nick Stewart (CdrNS) is taking over as Base Executive Officer in September.
- Cdr JF hopes to attend the next CC meeting along with CdrNS.

The MOD is concerned with reducing the number of car journeys to the base. Residents of Rhu are concerned with reducing the volume of traffic travelling on the A814. One way to persuade commuters to use the A82 rather than the A814 would be to improve the junction of the A817 and the A82, ideally by means of the installation of a roundabout.

At her recent surgery, JM raised this issue with Jackie Baillie.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 11TH JUNE 2025

The minutes were accepted as a true record

Proposed by DL and seconded by RS

Agreed unanimously

5. **MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

- The Notice Board has been erected and is in use. RS will contact the contractor about a suitable heading, similar to the one on the nearby Church board.
- Defibrillators. The Rotary Club is still working on this. However we have posted the location of the three local public defibrillators on the Notice Board. Ardencaple and the Rosslea Hotels both have defibrillators and it will be confirmed that these two organisations are willing to have these two locations added to the list.

ACTION JC

- Post meeting update from Laura Freeland on the remedial work needed on the stepped footpath between Laggary Park and Torr Crescent. Raymond Kane has confirmed that he will schedule his team to carry out the necessary improvements works as soon as possible consistent with other scheduled commitments.

END OF MATTERS ARISING

6. PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning group submitted an Objection to Dilmun and a Representation to Dalarnie. These were circulated and will be posted

25/01280/PP&25/01260/LIB: DEVELOPMENT OF COURTYARD INCLUDING ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSE, RESTORATION OF EXISTING GARAGE AND FOLLY STRUCTURES.

Given the problems of drainage and runoff in Shandon and the extra turnoff traffic that this further development of the property would bring to an already very dangerous section of the A814, it was agreed that the Planning Group would consider this application.

Action Planning Group

7. FORESTRY AND RELATED ISSUES

- Timber Transport. The agreed letter on issues resulting from the diversion of traffic due to the closure of the lower section of Pier Road was sent to Raymond Kane and Mike Page (MP). The reply from the former included "we will always endeavour to permit works within the carriageway out with the noticed timber extraction periods discussed, to minimise any and all associated hazards". He added that the previously undertaken works were done without their knowledge or consent.

MP replied immediately to say that, in future, as soon as they hear anything from Argyll and Bute, they can change their plans to accommodate. He asked how the timber transport is going from our point of view; i.e. do we have any specific complaints or problems that they can address?

In the discussion which followed, it was noted that there ought to be contingency plans in place, in case an accident closed Pier or Station Roads. There have been reports of a couple of unloaded trucks going up Pier Road before 6am and there have also been several reports of loaded trucks exceeding the 20mph speed limit. The latest report was on 11th August. It was agreed that this information be relayed to MP and the community reminded of the details in the Timber Transport Management Plan and asked to report contraventions. The issues of safety are paramount and the report of a mobility scooter and loaded timber truck on the road at the same time was chilling. It was agreed that a reply should be sent to MP. The letter should also ask for an update on progress with the promised gate through the plantation and on the removal of the escaped Sitka spruce from Aldoniag Glen the land west of Highlandman's before they grow too large for easy removal. A reply noting these issues will be sent to MP.

ACTION JC

RB reported on the correspondence with Kirsty Sweeney regarding the cutting down of laurels near Ardenconnel House reported at the last meeting. Laurels are invasive but they are not on the Invasive Species list and with trunks in excess of 30cm are trees and therefore subject to the TPO. It was agreed that a reply should be sent from the Community Council.

ACTION RS AND JC

- It was noted that the Shandon Woodland Group is now functioning. A map has been produced, path clearing working parties have been in action and a botanical survey has been conducted.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP

A report on the first meeting of the group was made available by DL.

There has been a problem with the recordings of speeds through Rhu and this is being addressed. DL has had a discussion with the chairman of Arnprior Community Council on his experiences with Stirling Council on the adoption of 20mph speed limits in the villages in Stirling. The role of the Project manager in the Roads Department and the funding was critical to the progress that has been made. A Project Manager(PM) has been finally been appointed in A&B and Hugh O'Neil (HO'N) has confirmed that the PM will contact us. It was reported in the local press that the first areas to be dealt with will be the Isles, because of potentially inclement weather in the winter period. We expect that the group will work with the MoD on active travel. It was reported that one of the two drainage problems associated with Blairvadach has been fixed. A future important issue is a further push for pavements on Pier Road.

9. UPDATE ON RHU AND SHANDON COMMUNITY TRUST

The confirmation of boundaries has delayed the finalisation of the purchase.

It is hoped that a concert can be held in the woods on Wednesday 26th September.

This first event for the community will be in conjunction with Cove Park with funding from ABCAN. Details later.

10. UPDATE ON PLACE PLAN

This is expected to be completed by 7th September.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

The transfer to online banking is now complete.

Balance on account at 4th Aug 2025 - £3,703.25.

Payments since 31/3/2025. Bank of Scotland now charging £4.25 / month admin fee.

11/06/2013	ICO - Data Protection Fee	£47.00
11/06/2025	Bank Service charges	£4.25
18/03/2025	Rhu Traffic Survey	£400.00
10/07/2025	Bank Service charges	£4.25
20/01/2025	Notice Board	£1,000.00

Receipts since 31/3/2025

25/06/2025 Administration grant (500.00+ 0.10 x 1,678 (Regulatory Support Service funding of 0.10p / head) £667.80

The bank service charge will affect all Community Councils. It was agreed to write to Melissa for advice.

12. CORRESPONDENCE- important items have been circulated as they arrived.

There are four active consultations posted on our website.

The most important is from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. This is about the service to be provided from Helensburgh Fire Station. There is an open meeting in Victoria Halls on Tuesday August 26th from 6pm to 8pm in the Victoria Halls. Booking is advised.

SFRS.publicinvolvement@firescotland.gov.uk. It was agreed that the Community Council will submit a response to this. Feedback to JC please by the end of August.

ACTION: MEMBERS OF R&SCC

13. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

None

14. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

15. MEMBERS REPORTS

ADM: ADM is concerned about the future of both the Church and the Community Centre. This view is shared by the Community Council but all three groups are separate entities, each run by their respective committees. As such it would be inappropriate for any one of these entities to interfere with any other, although of course we will support both the Church and the Community Centre where we can.

FB: FB will attend HLCPG on Tuesday 20th August. A summary of important issues has been sent ahead of the meeting.

Barge Garden: There is a sycamore tree which is leaning at a dangerous angle. The ownership of the garden is in question. FB has written to David Haggerty to ascertain ownership.

JC: Following the siting of Ospreys in our area, Alastair Moore has been in contact with Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Officer. The latter has met with MP and a representative from Euroforest who gave assurances that they will liaise with him prior to future phases of harvesting. In addition the process is ongoing to recruit a Wildlife Crime Officer at Helensburgh Police Office.

JC: The toilets in Helensburgh are closed again. Cllr MC will investigate this.

JC: The cables have resurfaced on the spit. BT will be contacted.

ACTION JC

AB: The date of the Christmas Light Switch on will be Friday 28th November. This will not take place unless volunteers can be found to support AB. We appeal to the community at large to contact AB if they can help.

If we can get sufficient help, the Gala will be held on 13th June 2026. Again we need volunteers; this time to join the Gala Committee.

16. AOB

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

October 1st at 7pm in Rhu Church Hall