

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Rhu and Shandon Community Council**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013**  
**Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Jack Rudram (JR)  
 Pat Pollok-Morris (PPM)  
 Jean Cook (JC)  
 Gordon King (GK)  
 Andrew Nicholson (AN)  
 Scott Weir (SW)  
 Linda Duncan (LD)  
 Jim Duncan (JD)

Guests/Public:

Cllr George Freeman (GF)  
 Cllr Maurice Corry (MC)  
 Cdr James Leatherby RN (JL)  
 Sgt David Quinn (DQ)  
 PC Alison Kane (AK)  
 Alan Dundas (AD)  
 Audrey Butler (AB)  
 George Wilson (GW)

Topic	Minute	Decision / Action
<b>1. Apologies:</b>	Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Ronald Sandeman, Martin Ritch, Jayne Burnett, Morven Boyle, Fiona Baker, Cllr Robert MacIntyre, PC Andy Crawford and Mr McGarry – GSS.	
<b>2. Minutes of meeting held December 12<sup>th</sup> 2012</b>	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2012 were considered.	The minutes were <b>approved</b> .
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>	<b>3a. Orwell Lodge: Hole in boundary wall</b>	
	Work to repair fencing at the side of the park complete.	Item Closed.
	<b>3b. The Barge garden</b> Alistair Hope indicated that the Barge Memorial Trust would be unable to help unless there was a specific local project to support, AN offered to contact Alistair Hope on this matter.	AN to contact Alistair Hope.
	<b>3c. Shoptsmart signage</b> MC is working with Mr Ali of Shoptsmart to ensure that the signage is within the constraints of the conservation area. A liquor license has been applied for. The shop is wanted and appreciated in the village	Ongoing
	<b>3d. Muck near Scout Hut</b> A meeting was scheduled in December between RM and Gerry O'Hare. RM was due to report at this meeting.	Ongoing

### **3e. Flooding in the community area.**

It was believed that there is no planned clearing of drains and the council will only respond to reports that drains are blocked.

A letter has been sent to the Council requesting that the drains are cleared and details of schedules for routine drain clearing are published..

An email acknowledgement has been received, promising a full response shortly. It was noted that problems could be reported to the Council. Added after the meeting the contact details are: by phone on 01546605514 or online at <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/report-fault-roador> GF reported that he continued to work with constituents on specific flooding issues in the area of Aldonaig.

Ongoing

### **3f. Japanese Knotweed.**

The task force set up by the Community Council has been published in the press and on our website. GF said that he had asked for the Council policy on the subject. The Director will be producing something for the public, detailing who is responsible, what can be done and advice on destruction and disposal of Knotweed. There was no timescale for the production of information. GF reminded those present that he had obtained support from the Area Committee in August 2012 to a motion requesting that the Council agree a policy on Japanese Knotweed. A further report had been presented to the Area Committee on 12 February 2013 updating members on the actions that had been taken. GF had reminded officers that the Area Committee had requested that a policy be adopted and that this had not yet happened. The Director had confirmed that he will produce a document for the public highlighting who is responsible for Japanese knotweed and the Council's role in this issue. This will include advice on legal issues relating to this issue. There was no timescale for the production of this information.

### **3g. Speeds on A814**

GF reported that the traffic survey had been conducted and, after analysing the results, there is insufficient evidence to support a change of the speed limit between Rhu and the Naval base and there are insufficient vehicles travelling at excessive speed to justify police enforcement. Sgt Quinn confirmed that the figures appeared to confirm this and that there are insufficient vehicles travelling at excessive speed to justify police enforcement. He confirmed that there is little that can be done without firm evidence but the Police will follow up

any specific complaints. Offenders could be taken to court if there is corroboration and people are prepared to give statements and appear in court.

No further action

#### 4. Guest Speakers

##### 4a. Sergeant David Quinn

Reported, that 7 incidents have been reported for further action; 2 Traffic Offences (Drink driving and careless driving), 3 of low level vandalism at Blairvaddich and 2 Frauds.

Calls were made regarding noisy parties, minor road accidents, a burned out excavator (no crime) and absconders from Blairvaddich, the latter usually rounded up quickly.

The Divisional Commander's comments are that the priorities for the new Police Force organisation will be the same as for the Strathclyde force. Livery of vehicles and badging will be different. Priorities will be targeting:

- Antisocial behavior
- Violent crime – intervention tactics successful with reduction of 28%
- Serious and Organised crime – Specialist units engaged
- Counter Terrorism – team liaising with the Naval Base
- Protection of children and vulnerable adults
- Bogus crime
- Road Safety – uninsured and unroadworthy vehicles.

The new Force comes into action on 1<sup>st</sup> April with the Chief Constable based in Fife but there should be no change on the streets. There is very much a focus on local policing and the team is easily contactable through the website and details are also on the R&SCC website.

##### 4b. Cdr James Leatherby HMNB Clyde

JL provided the following updates & reports:

- The Armed Forces Community Covenant (AFCC) exists to redress the disadvantages that the AF community (including veterans and dependants) faces in comparison to other citizens and to recognise sacrifices made. Central MOD funding is made available to Local Authorities to support qualifying initiatives. Locally, a successful tri-lateral meeting took place in Faslane with Argyll & Bute and West Dumbartonshire Councils on Tue 18 Dec 12
- Bids are now being received for funding under AFCC related arrangements managed by Argyll Voluntary Action (AVA), Colquhoun Square, on

behalf of ABC. There has already been some significant success in the form of a £5,000 grant to the R&S Gala Committee to purchase new marquees (with a view to those assets being shared amongst the community)

- The Service Pupil Premium, again AFCC related but funded by the Department of Education, allocates money to schools to provide extra support for Service Children
- The whale that had been sighted locally last year, albeit predominantly in Loch Long, has not yet been seen in 2013.
- The Base continues to be involved with ABC in addressing the local flooding events
- The next Exercise JOINT WARRIOR is expected to be one of the largest ever and will run for just over a fortnight, starting the day after the Wed 10 Apr 13 R&SCC meeting
- A “Stop Trident” mass demonstration and Base blockade event is being promoted to take place at Faslane on Mon 15 Apr 13

## 5. Planning Matters

### 5a. Rhu Marina

JR has written to Howard Young who is in discussion with RMD and CE and still waiting for a Masterplan. GSS wish to redevelop their building but this should be included in the Masterplan. Mr McGarry was invited to the meeting but was unable to attend. A draft Masterplan is in existence but still subject to review, this plan should appear within the next 2-3 weeks. To add weight to the GSS application they have reminded us that they are a major employer, with 50 employees, in the area and considering their options, which may include a move to another area. SEPA are concerned that there is a flooding issue connected with the plan. Further discussion will be had on this subject. JD pointed out that there is nothing to discuss until a Masterplan is presented.

R&SCC will continue to monitor progress and will call an extraordinary meeting if required.

### 5b. Cove Wind Farm

A special meeting was convened on 28<sup>th</sup> January that was attended by interested parties. The minutes of this meeting were attached to the Agenda of this meeting.

The majority of those present were against the Cove Wind Farm Development and a letter, **Appendix 1**, has been sent by the Community Council stating their objections.



bins for Smuggler's way and side roads.

Rob MacIntyre.

**JD** has written to Angus Gilmore re Conservation Charter which controls development within Conservation areas. JD mentioned that Councils are required to produce Conservation Area Charters which publish how each Conservation Area will be safeguarded and enhanced and protected from developments which negatively impact their character. Argyll & Bute Council have not produced a Charter for the Rhu Conservation Area and JD has written, on behalf of R&SCC, to Mr Angus Gilmore at A & B Council on 31/01/13 to request that one is produced ASAP. Apart from an acknowledgement, no response has yet been received.

**ACTION:** JD to follow up and report at next meeting.

**GK** brought up the issue of repairing pot holes. Repairs to the roads are not being carried out to any engineering standard and so any filling of holes does not last. Local half hearted repairs are a waste of manpower, resources and time. There 'repairs' do not sort the problem but generate mess which will need cleaning up if it is not to end up in the drains.

GK asked to contact Cllr Rob MacIntyre..

**14. AOB**

None

**DONM**

**7:30 pm 10<sup>th</sup> April 13 in the Community Hall**