RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 11 September 2025, at Ralston Community Centre

Present: Allan Thompson (Chair), Fergal McCauley (Treasurer), Grace Berry, Alison Scott, Bill Whyte.

In attendance: Cllr Graeme Clark,

Apologies: Simon Hall (Secretary), Scott McFarlane, Bill Gray, Heather Masterton, Rod McLelland, Cllr Neill Graham.

Not in attendance: Cllr Jennifer Adam

Action

Welcome from the Chair: Allan welcomed all to the meeting (including former CC member – Robert Elliott, who may be re-joining the CC.

Allan confirmed that May Fernie has resigned as indicated before the summer break. May will be a huge loss to the Community Council and will be greatly missed. Huge thanks to all that she has done for the Community (including the Art Club and all the support at the Community Fayre days).

Simon Hall (Secretary) and Fergal McCauley (Treasurer) are resigning at the October AGM. Both of whom will be a great loss to the CC. We will need to fill these key Office Bearer roles asap.

Police Report: No police in attendance/No report forwarded.

Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Clark:

- Updated us on the plans for the former Paisley Grammar school site. The main building's façade will remain because it is listed be and the wings will be removed with most of the surrounding building. The sight will become flats, similar in height to the ones surrounding those at either side and the back of the site.
- Current on road parking issues have been raised but, there are still zero new exemptions.
- Potholes generally are an ongoing issue, especially on the Penilee Road hill.
- Scott McFarlane talked at the Leadership Board meeting about next years (one day) Wellness Festival which he will be organising alongside Renfrewshire Council.
- IJB are meeting this week to decide about Ralston Day Care, which is (confirmed) as being at risk of closure, along with many others

Cllr Graham: Sent an update from the Council regarding the type of weedkiller currently being used. The Council explained that they are in the process of sourcing new product

Minutes of the previous meeting: Proposed by Fergal, seconded by Alison.

Matters arising from the minutes: Speeding on Glasgow Road was highlighted as worsening and in response we advertised that we would be publicising the issue and arranged a photoshoot. Very few people attended the event however Allan did get interviewed and it was highlighted with a local news station. We had several residents contact us to say they had issues on their roads too and we now know the problem is larger than our initial concerns. Unfortunately, we are only aware of the police attending (with speed detectors) once since the matter was raised. We are currently considering a petition and will ask for local support for canvasing.

Secretary's Report: Since the last meeting, 74 emails had been received, 10 circulated. Emails of note: Paisley Museum re- opening expected to be in the second half of next year. CAT Expressions of Interests: Ralston Community Sports Centre: Gleniffer Thistle Football Club wish to restore the football pitches and create a full programme of activity in the sports centre for community use. Ralston Community Centre – Ralston Out of School Care wish to develop the centre and to offer a full programme of activities for community use. Invitation to Community Ownership Roadshow, Wednesday 17 September, looking at the practicalities and benefits of community ownership of land and buildings. Social Tea Dance: Ballroom, Latin, Jive, Sequence - Now meeting in Ralston Community Centre, Tuesdays 1-3pm. Glasgow Road premises: Resident concerned regarding the dilapidated and worsening state of the property (former Hamilton's Garage). Local Development Plan Participation Statement: consulting ahead of publishing the full 2025 Development Plan Scheme later this year. Closing date - Friday 26 September 2025. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland: Two campaigns - 1. 'National Telecare': Encourage customers that use a telecare device such as personal alarms, pendant alarms, lifeline devices and home care monitoring systems, to take action to ensure that their equipment is compatible with the new digital technology. 2. BT Connected-Together: Encouraging friends, family, colleagues, neighbours to support vulnerable members of the community through the switch from analogue to digital landlines by January 2027. Draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan consultation open until 19 September. Use of glyphosate on street curb: Resident raised concerns about its use. Marie Curie new Companion Volunteering opportunity at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, to support people in their last days of life.

Treasurer's Report: Fergal advised that since the June meeting there was £340 income and £4442.88 expenditure on the main account, resulting in a current balance of £22,394.02. Wellbeing Fund: There was expenditure of £2080 leaving balance of £4091.50. Games account balance after £3669.23 spend is £955.77. Planters current balance is £3220. Total bank balance of £35,411.29.

Ralston Activities: Rod emailed to advise that: Spring programme: finished in June. Autumn Programme: Booking system went live on 25 August; to

date we've had 240 enrolments, 9 of the 13 classes are full. Classes start on 1 October, for 10 weeks until early December. After school drop-off Trial Classes: Planning on 3 classes, 9-9.45am through November: Mondays (Power Yoga), Wednesdays (HIIT) and Thursdays (Buggy Fit). Emily Jackson, a local qualified instructor, will take the classes. Advertised through Ralston PS Facebook groups (Rod to discuss with Heather), Emily will advertise, we'll also promote on our website and Facebook pages. Rod will discuss a booking system with Simon. Classes are not covered by the CMHWB fund, they will cost £720 to run. If we charge £20 for the 4 week block (£5 per class), then we'd need 36 participants to cover costs (12 per class), any shortfall met from our main fund. Alternatively to encourage participation, we could meet the whole cost and make them free. If we get a good uptake, we could run 10 week blocks alongside our current programme from January. CMHWB Application: Applying for 2 years of funding totalling £19k. Submitted an initial note of interest last month, which was approved and we'll submit the full application by 1 October. The remaining funds in our CMHWB 2025 account should cover most of the instructors' fees for the forthcoming Autumn program.

Rod McLelland

Local Place Plan: Allan advised that Local Place plan was launched (after 2 meetings over the early summer) at the Ralston Community Fayre. Our Local Planner, Nick was present, with his colleague, Alex and they were pleased with the response form Ralston Residents, and we got off to a great start. We have until the 21st September to complete the Local Place Plan survey. Every home in Ralston has been issued with a paper survey which can also be completed online by the entire family (it is not one per household).

AOB: Defibrillators: Bill W advised that the defibrillator battery in the Community Centre needs replacing (the battery at the church should last till the end of 2027). A new battery costs £260. Both defibs need replacement pads in November, at £66 each. Total cost £391. Ralston in Bloom: Rod emailed to advise that the planters continue to look good. We've received funding for Ralston in Bloom for at least the next 2-3 years. Ralston Seniors: Bill Whyte gave us an update on Ralston Seniors, which is going very well, and is thanks to support from St Marks Church. Ralston Community Fayre: on the 23rd August was a great day. The weather was fine, and the inflatables were very busy (due to the new wrist band scheme resulting in more rides for less money. We fully intend on doing something similar again next year. The DJ and clown manged to entertain all of us, and the much younger residents. Thanks to all the organisations who helped us. It couldn't have taken place without all the community support. CAT applications: are only at the 'note of interest' stage and we will be consulted with soon.

Date of next meeting (AGM): Thursday 9 October at 7:30pm, in person at Ralston Community Centre.