RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 10 September 2026, at Ralston Community Centre

Present: Allan Thompson (Chair & Treasurer), Simon Hall (Secretary), Grace Berry, Robert Elliot, Bill Gray, Rod McLelland, Alan McNeill, Alison Scott.

In attendance: Cllr Graeme Clark, 1 resident interested in joining the Community Council.

Apologies: Cllr Neill Graham.

Not in attendance: Cllr Jennifer Adam, Scott McFarlane, Ashleigh Pieraccini, Sandra Porter.

Action

Welcome from the Chair: Allan welcomed all to the meeting. Ralston Community Council wish to pass on their condolences to the family of Bill Whyte. We greatly appreciate the many years that Bill served on the Community Council, he will me greatly missed.

Police Report: None provided. Ralston Community Council appreciated the police presence at the Community Fun Day in August.

Councillor's Reports: Cllr Clark: Paisley Grammar: The £85.5m new school opened on time and on budget. Some early challenges with McGills busses being full, however the Council have discussed with McGill's and the current bus services have sufficient capacity. Work continues on the new road. The school has great facilities, some of which are available for community use. Museum: £68.7m building works are complete, OneRen now undertaking the fit out. Anticipating opening in 2027. Bin Rota: The new rotas are in place, residents can contact Councillors if any issues are encountered. Pavement parking: The Council conducted site visits to Atholl Crescent, Duchray Drive, Dunchurch Road, Roffey Park Road and Buchlyvie Road to consider possible exemptions, however none were granted. Hawkhead/Seedhill Survey: Survey has been conducted, requested timescale for results. Sustainable Communities Fund: Now open for funding applications.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Proposed by Alison Scott, seconded by Robert Elliot.

Matters arising from the minutes: Hawkhead Junction: Cllr Clark believes the assessment to adjustments to the traffic lights, will be included in the Hawkhead/Seedhill survey. Funding for Improvements prior to CAT: Rod investigated and the Pavillion fits the criteria to be considered, and asked about whether the heating, windows, roof and astroturf could be considered. Cllr Clark will meet the Officer to understand what a successful application might look like. **Cllr Clark**

Secretary's Report: Since the last meeting, 88 emails had been received, 11 circulated. Emails of note: Disabled Persons Parking Places Consultation: Map shows existing/proposed/to be removed parking places – no changes in Ralston. Consultation open until 16 September. Draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan: Details investment priorities for affordable housing. None proposed for Ralston. Paisley Grammar: Resident emailed after their child couldn't get on the bus when school started, passed on details of Councillors. Defibrillator Guardian: Bill Whyte had a role to monitor the Defib pads and battery and order new ones as needed. Allan will discuss with Sonia about someone from the church taking this role, which the Community Council continuing to pay for its upkeep. **Allan Thompson**

Treasurer's Report: Bank Balance as at 10 September: £38,114.66.

Ralston Activities: Rod advised following National Lottery funding, we have added 7 new classed at a subsidised rate of £10 for 10 weeks, including Couch to 5k, Dance Fit, Line Dancing, Tai Chi, Walking Football and Yoga Sculpt, this is on top of the usual classes at £30 for 10 weeks. Enrolments opened on Monday, with over 400 applications so far. Expected income of approx. £10k, expected expenditure of £13k (excess will be covered by National Lottery funding and previous income balances). Meeting with OneRen: Hadn't received a response following the meeting earlier in the year, until today. Funding: We have been advised by the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing fund that we can apply for a further £7k for 1 year by the end of October. Awards: If we were to receive an award for these programmes, it would support future funding applications. Rod has applied for one award and will consider applying for the Provost's Community Awards next year.

AOB: Ralston Community Council AGM: Our AGM takes place next month, where we will be looking for a new Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Community Fun Day: Was a great event, though it seemed quieter than usual. Disappointed that 3 stallholders didn't attend. Graffiti: Noticed an increase recently. Electric Bikes: Noticed a recent increase in irresponsible use. Police have an ongoing campaign. Local Partnership meeting: Cllr Clark nominated as Chair. Playpark improvements being considered, Ralston Play Park planned for 2028/29. St Mirren Training Ground: Laying new astroturf pitch. RCC Events Calendar: Rod and Bill have kept the calendar on the website up to date. Hamilton's Garage: Looking increasingly run down. Encouraging improvements were included in the Local Place Plan. Allan to share the plan with Councillors to consider how to proceed. **Allan Thompson Cllr Clark, Cllr Graham**

Date of next meeting: Thursday 8 October 2026 at 7:30pm, in person at Ralston Community Centre.