RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 8 October 2026, at Ralston Community Centre

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

In attendance: Cllr Graeme Clark, Cllr Neill Graham, 3 residents.

Apologies: None.

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

Action

Welcome from the Chair: Allan welcomed all to the meeting.

Police Report: None provided.

Councillor's Reports: Cllr Clark: Renfrewshire Council Budget: Annual accounts presented to Council, which balance this year following cuts and using Council reserves. A £41m deficit is projected next year, which could be reduced to £20m deficit through continued council tax rises. Local Government Reform: Scottish Government have proposed reducing from 32 to between 6-10 Councils. Renfrewshire Council have created a cross party Board to progress this. Hawkhead Corridor Survey: Conducted a traffic survey and received a strong community response. Consultation on possible engineering solutions will be conducted towards the end of the year, including engagement with schools and an open-day. Study will conclude in February, providing recommendations. Golf Drive Trees: Trees are on private land and have a preservation order on them. **Cllr Graham**: Graffiti: Seen a significant increase recently, working to have this removed. Paisley Grammar busses: Discussed with McGill's the potential for a larger bus. Paisley Grammar: Meeting with the Head of Education, following conviction of a teacher, and concerns with how this was handled by the Grammar. Gartmore/Lanfine: Ongoing issues with speeding and access.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Correction: Cllr Clark was nominated as Vice Chair, but couldn't as this must be a community representative. Proposed by Alison Scott, seconded by Alan McNeill.

Matters arising from the minutes: Defibrillator at St Mark's: Sonia has confirmed the person who will look after the defib. Simon will pass details onto Bill's son to make the change. **Simon Hall**

Secretary's Report: Since the last meeting, 35 emails had been received, 3 circulated. Emails of note: Community Council Elections: Due to Local Government elections next year, Community Council Elections are postponed until October 2028. Discover Renfrewshire website: New website promoting attractions, events, outdoor activities and places to stay in Renfrewshire: https://discoverrenfrewshire.com Local Fire and Rescue

Plan: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are consulting on the draft plan until 15 October. Community Heritage and Climate Action: Keep Scotland Beautiful offer free workshops to help communities discover local heritage, learn about climate change and identify short/medium/long term actions.

Treasurer's Report: Bank Balance as at 8 October: £37,042.

Ralston Activities: The Autumn Classes started very successfully last week with 24 classes and over 450 participants . The new classes Tai Chi, Dance Fit, Line Dancing, Sculpt Yoga have all attracted very good numbers, though Walking Football has low numbers. Have taken in a total of £9,010 in fees. With such a large income and expenditure, we may wish to consider an online payment system rather than cash, to protect Rod and the Community Council - we'll have annual costs of around £45k for the 3 blocks, and income of around £36k, with shortfall covered by grants etc.

Ralston Sports Centre: The defibrillator has been renewed, CCTV has been checked and is not working (Cllr Clark agreed to ask that this be included on a report into CCTV across Renfrewshire). No information about a visit to assess heating in hall, it still doesn't work but not necessary until winter. It's important we continue to keep in contact with OneRen to get improvements, perhaps using Capital Facilities Fund. **Cllr Clark**

Ralston in Bloom: As the contractor planted during hot weather, there wasn't a great display. Winter bedding will be purchased in November, the contractor will remove summer plants and plant winter colour.

AOB: Community Centre Lighting: A resident advised that the lighting in the read car park and side lane no longer functioned and the area was unsafe in the dark. Cllr Graham agreed to pursue this. **Cllr Graham** Sponsorship of Ralston Primary Christmas Fayre: The Parent Council has asked the Community Council to consider sponsoring an activity at the Christmas Fayre. We agreed to sponsor £275 for Santa's Grotto. Local Place Plan: Allan will contact Alan Williams to confirm the date of the next meeting with Community Councils to support the development and progression of Place Plans.. **Allan Thompson** Hamilton's Garage: Alison noted that the show room was being filled with outdoor furniture and was encouraged that a new business may soon operate out of there. Ralston Out of School Care: Grace advised that now that Ralston Day Centre is closing, RoSC are interested in taking over the facility. Renovations on Tylney Road: Bill noted that significant house renovations had resulted in debris blocking the path and part of the road, and the lorry that cleared it up blocked the whole road and damaged the pavement/road. Cllr Graham will inspect the damage. Christmas Newsletter: We agreed to produce a Christmas Newsletter, Simon agreed to continue to produce these. **Cllr Graham** Electric Bikes: Alan noted 3 young boys who frequently drive erratically and without safety gear.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 12 November 2026 at 7:30pm, in person at Ralston Community Centre.