

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 14 February 2019 in Ralston Community Centre

Present – Allan Thompson (AT), Alison Scott (AS), David Dougan (DD), May Fernie (MF), Ian Rae (IR), Simon Hall (SH), Sandra Reynolds (SR), Fergal McCauley (FM), Carolyn Ward (CW), Bill Gray (BG).

In Attendance – Police Officer Laura Wyllie (LW), Police Officer Bruce Heron (BH), Cllr Jennifer Adam – McGregor (JA), 2 local residents.

Apologies – Hugh Sherry, Bill Whyte, Cllr J Sharkey.

Welcome from the Chair – AT welcomed all to the meeting.

Police Report - LW said 6 crimes reported since last month and 3 have been detected. One of particular note was that of a bogus workman, this happened in July/August but was only reported last week. AT asked about 3 police cars present at Barshaw Park in the last week, BH said this was regarding a missing boy. IR asked about the ongoing traffic problem in Newtyle Road. LW said traffic police have said the road signs are not legally enforceable. IR asked JA about speed bumps at his address and JA will contact the roads department. JA said a petition could be effective in this matter and BH said a representative of Roads department could attend a CC meeting. AT asked if a speed sign is enforceable, BH said yes but it requires the council to create an enforceable order. MF said the 20mph painted on road at her home in Bathgo Avenue has worn away and asked if it can be repainted. CW asked about an incident in Duchray Drive where police and ambulance were in attendance. LW and BH had no information about this but will check. AT asked police their opinion re Neighbourhood Watch schemes. BH said he was unsure of their effectiveness.

Councillors Report – JA said a lot of budget preparation is underway. She said RCC member Hugh Sherry had attended the Local Partnership meeting which is trying to get young voice representative appointed. The next meeting in March is to agree priorities and a later meeting will discuss grant applications. AT asked how this will affect CC application for Games event in June and JA advised the claim is submitted as soon as possible and a special meeting could be arranged for April. JA said it is preferable for continuity for 1 person to attend these meetings instead of 2 as RCC had planned. AT will ask Hugh Sherry to attend all these meetings. AS asked if this also applied to Forum meetings. AS raised the problems she and her neighbour were experiencing since the new bin rotas were introduced. Cllr Neil Graham had helped with this but it is not yet fully resolved. JA asked AS to e-mail her about it. AT said some of his neighbours said bins were full well before next due to be emptied.

JA said people can request more or bigger bins but it is not clear if there is a charge for this and this needs further discussion. SH said he had applied for this but has not received a reply and JA asked him to e-mail her about this. MF said the BT phone has been removed from the Community Centre and she believes an emergency only line should be installed. JA will discuss this with the relevant person. JA was asked about new blinds/curtains for the Community centre and she will raise this also. DD said cherry pickers had been used to re-adjust lights at St Mirren training ground today but the lights are once again shining on some houses. He had previously been told that these lights would not need to be re-adjusted. JA said she has been advised by a colleague that all issues re SMFC had been resolved. DD said this is not the case and SMFC seem to be able to do whatever they want. AT said the banners are an ongoing issue. MF said the moving of traffic bollards to Bathgo Avenue had created more traffic there but has made the Community Centre car park safer.

Minutes of the previous meeting – Proposed by SR and seconded by FM.

Matters arising from previous minutes - AT said he had contacted Miller Homes regarding the proposed plans regarding their new development and they will attend RCC meeting in March, the other developer may also attend. JA said “Developers Contribution” is part of the development plans and covers things such as roads and schools and she had been told that there would be 2 new roads for access on Hawkhead Road. The complaint re Mac Asphalt is ongoing. AT said he had e-mailed Ken Gray for 2nd time re the ongoing tree problem and found he is off so he will forward to Karen Anderson in Ken’s absence.

Secretary’s Report – AS advised that all relevant communication received since last meeting has been circulated. She said the topic of planning permission re banners at St Mirren training ground will be carried forward to next meeting as Hugh Sherry and Cllr Sharkey not present tonight. AS has emails regarding External Funding workshops and Regulation of Fireworks consultation and can forward these to those interested on request.

Treasures Report – FM advised that the current balancer was £2478.35. Expenditure since the last meeting was £132.55 and the Council’s new Business World accounting system is now working.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – AT said the e-mail received about this explains how to register and a review says such schemes indicate a 50 % crime reduction which means that 50% remain. The scheme includes police and council members as well as residents. They are more likely to be effective regarding high level crime not things such as graffiti. A brief discussion confirmed RCC will not pursue this course. AT said graffiti has appeared at a site in Strathmore Avenue and JA will raise this further.

Community Council Website - BG said our website www.ralstoncommunitycouncil.org had been down for 2 months while being upgraded but has been up & running since 11/2. He advised it is quite basic but is a good platform (Wordpress) and he plans to improve its organisation. There is a training meeting planned in March with the developer.

He has received some content such as photographs for the site but would welcome more. IR said he will look for some info about the annual Games events. BG said BW is also looking for further contributions. BG said an advantage of the new website is that it looks equally good on mobile phones, tablets and laptops.

AOB - Catherine Gooding (resident present) confirmed she will apply to join RCC. Another resident present said he had received a letter from McGills buses re rejection of mobility scooter access although it was outwith the target times. It was confirmed that McGills are not breaking any laws as it is a voluntary not a legal requirement. BG asked what reason the bus company give and DM said they say it is a problem about the centre of gravity of mobility scooters. He will report back to RCC when he has a further response.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 14 March at 7.30pm in Ralston Community Centre.