

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 14 March 2019 in Ralston Community Centre

Present – Allan Thompson (AT), Alison Scott (AS), David Dougan (DD) , May Fernie (MF) , Ian Rae (IR), Sandra Reynolds (SR), Fergal McCauley (FM), Hugh Sherry (HS).

In Attendance – Police Officer Bruce Heron, Police Officer Jamie Birch Cllr Neill Graham (NG), Cllr Jim Sharkey (JS), 1 resident, 2 residents applying to join RCC.

Apologies – Bill Whyte, Carolyn Ward, Bill Gray, Rod McLelland, Simon Hall, Cllr J Adam – McGregor.

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

Police Report - Police advised there were 3 reported crimes since last meeting, 1 breach of the peace which has been detected, 1 vandalism and 1 IT crime. It was said by RCC member that graffiti had appeared along Glasgow Road especially at Barshaw Park, Strathmore and further along Glasgow Road. Police will make colleagues aware.

Councillors Report – JS said last week saw the end of Fair Trade fortnight. Visitors from Cambodia visited a mill and were given a dyeing vat to take home. He said there was a peace vigil today and this will be a monthly event and he extended an invitation to all to attend. He said there was a review of polling districts and it appears to mean little change for Ralston. He also advised the new budget had been agreed including new Council Tax rates. It was hoped that some of the £2.3m budget for Community Centre refurbishments could go to supplying curtains or blinds for Ralston Community Centre. It was said that this centre frequently runs out of toilet rolls due to funding.

NG advised PGS had received good report. He said litter problem on Penilee Road will be dealt with by end of March.

Cllrs were asked about resurfacing of Penilee Road. NG will ask if this is on list of planned works for this year and, if not, will ask for it to be added. A resident expressed his extreme disappointment regarding this problem including the fact he had not received a reply to an e-mail he sent to RCC approx. 280 days ago. RCC Secretary will investigate.

Cllrs were advised that the gully at start of Darvel Cres is collapsing. JS will follow up. RCC member raised matter of planning regulations re the banners at SMFC. JS said a meeting is planned to discuss where the criteria lie re this issue and he will attend this meeting. It was noted that SMFC did not require planning permission but other companies have. It was noted that the “respect our neighbours “ banner at SMFC was no longer there.

RCC member raised ongoing issue re trees in Allanton Ave and that fact that pavements were resurfaced when not required and nothing done about the trees. Chairman will contact Ken Gray of Renfrewshire Council for an update re the survey that was carried about this problem.

RCC member asked about problem of street lights shining into people's homes. JS said they have been adjusted. Same RCC member said he had not noticed this and had been told by Council that adjustment would never be required. He feels the Council can do whatever they want and show no respect for the needs of residents.

Macasphalt -The problem re Macasphalt continues regarding noise and now the smell of burning tar. The noise starts before 6am and also happens at weekends. JS has raised this issue and been told there is no evidence re noise. He was asked if the company has prior knowledge of visits by Council officials as Council had said notice should be given. JS said they do not receive advance notice. It was said that a possible solution could be installation of an acoustic fence. It was also said that, in the past, residents had been provided with noise measuring equipment by the Council. JS noted the residents wish support of RCC and potential contact made with Chief Executive of the company. He will continue to pursue this ongoing issue.

Bins – NG said the recent problems have been resolved. JS said he had been told that the recent changes in collections had been too ambitious. He feels recycling should not be forced on people. RCC member said a bin lid could not be closed fully due to amount of refuse and the binmen had removed a bag and left it behind but this action will simply roll on to the following weeks. Another member asked if this is the decision of the binmen or the instructions they are given. JS has spoken to head of relevant Department & was told the situation is not helped by disenchanted staff.

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

Matters arising from previous minutes - Secretary advised that the minutes say 20 mph faded sign on road was in Bathgo Ave but should have said is in Darvel Cres. Cllr Graham advised he had sent apologies for last meeting which were not minuted. This was due to them not being forwarded to RCC secretary at the time but now noted.

Secretary's Report – Secretary advised that all relevant communication received since last meeting has been circulated.

Rebecca Kowalski has intimated her resignation from RCC due to other commitments. Rebecca was one of the longest serving members of the Community Council and thanks were expressed for her many years of work for the community. Rebecca has said she will be happy to help out on an ad hoc basis eg delivering flyers.

Treasurers Report - FM advised a current balance of £2444.35. Expenditure since last meeting was £34.00.

Website - The 3 RCC members involved in this have a meeting 21/3 with the developer for a training session. As has been said before, more contributions such as photos of the area would be very welcome.

Guest Speaker – Allan Cameron of Home Energy Scotland gave an overview of what their service provides i.e. free impartial advice re saving on energy costs, energy efficiency, solar panels, wind turbines. Calls to this service are free and confidential. In reply to a question, he replied they do not recommend particular companies for work in peoples' homes. In response to invitation from RCC chairman, he said he will be happy to have stall at this year's Games event.

Guest Speaker – Maurice Corry, MSP arrived unexpectedly and told the group of his background and the topics he is involved with in particular Service veterans. He noted the excellent new centre at Barrhead Road/Hawkhead Road. He issued a general invitation to all to visit Scottish Parliament.

AOB - Chairman advised that the annual Games event will not be held in June as hoped as the funding meeting at Council will be held too late to consider the funding required. A new date will be discussed at the next meeting of Games Committee. Chairman raised an issue of bogus workmen at an address in Woodend Drive but the resident has chosen not to press charges. Everyone is reminded to be vigilant. Chairman will e-mail Community Police officers.

Volunteers were invited for the Spring clean-up event and 6 hands were raised. Members were asked of any particular questions/topics for the Hawkhead Road developers who will be at next meeting and these were – nearby roads becoming rat-runs, school & GP or health centre provisions, road access, road crossings which Cllr JS said would have to be lit, displacement of existing housing, public transport, access to railway station. IR reiterated that the Access Only signs at Newtyle Road are not mandatory simply designed as a deterrent.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 11 April 2019 at 7.30pm in Ralston Community Centre.