

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of AGM and ordinary meeting on 8 October 2020, online via Microsoft Teams

Present: Allan Thompson (Chair), Alison Scott (Secretary), Fergal McCauley (Treasurer), Simon Hall (minutes), Bill Whyte, Rod McLelland, Bill Gray,

In Attendance: Steven Quinn (Director of Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council)

Apologies: May Fernie, Cllr J Adam-McGregor.

Action

Welcome from the Chair: Chair welcomed all to the AGM.

Proposed Relocation of Paisley Grammar: Steven Quinn, Director of Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council thanked the Community Council for their invitation to the meeting. Mr Quinn highlighted that this is a consultation is to move Paisley Grammar, and are not considering changing the name of the school. He highlighted that questions submitted before this meeting would be included as part of the formal consultation response. Any additional questions during or following the meeting can be submitted through the consultation process. Mr Quinn responded to the questions submitted prior to the meeting:

Have other sites been considered as Chivas is at the extremity of the current catchment area? A number of factors are assessed when considering a new site, including topography, access, catchment area. None of the sites were perfect, however the Chivas site was by far the best fit.

Renfrew Road is very busy location for a school: This is an important issue, if the location is agreed, then this will be considered at the design and development phase. However two High Schools were located in this area in the past and Glasgow Road is also a very busy location.

Close proximity of MacDonalds. What catering facilities will be available?: While we won't prevent children from leaving school grounds, we intend to design the building in such a way that children will want to stay for lunch.

Provision of free school transport: Council is committed to providing free school transport for those with a safe walking route of more than 2 miles.

Many local authorities now combine secondary schools and their associated primary schools on same site. Bearing in mind the condition of both Williamsburgh & Ralston Primary schools, are there any plans to include at least one in the new Grammar school build? This was considered, however it was decided that to just include the Grammar and community facilities.

Perhaps better to consider Seedhill playing fields as new location & incorporate a new- build Williamsburgh Primary or Penilee playing fields & incorporate a new- build Ralston Primary: Ralston and Williamsburgh are both rated B (good) on a 4-point scale (considers condition, suitability and sufficiency) - a rebuild of these schools isn't currently required. Ratings are reviewed every 3 years by the Council and external bodies.

What will happen to current Grammar site after it's moved? If approved, the building and grounds will be surplus to requirements by Children's Services and will return to Communities, Housing and Planning Services to decide future use – this process will include Councillors. No decision has been made on this and there is no agreement with developers regarding the current site. Parts of the existing building will be incorporated into the new building, while others will be given to the museum.

What swimming and other facilities will the new school have? There will be no swimming pool in the new school. However there will be wide range of sports facilities (both indoor and outdoor) as well as theatre facilities. These will be available for the school and the wider community.

What will the capacity be? Current capacity is 940, allowing for future housing developments the capacity of the new school will be 1,200+. Chair thanked Steven Quinn for attending.

AGM:

Minutes of previous AGM held on 10 October 2019: Proposed by: Alison Scott. Seconded by: Rod McLelland.

Chairperson's remarks: This has been a very odd year, where much of what we intended on doing had to be put aside. After the last AGM we discussed what we might do to commemorate VE day 75. We also discussed postponing the Community Games until summer 2020. Issues regarding access to Honeybog Hill were raised again, which are still unresolved. We considered the potential of a Community Council Newsletter. In December concerns were raised regarding the lighting at St Mirren's training ground, which are still unresolved. Concerns were raised regarding the use of St Mirren's drone earlier in the year, which recurred again in September. An events catalogue was launched on the Community Council's website. We looked at installing Christmas lights at St Marks. We planned to arrange Defibrillator training, which has been postponed. Fraser Carlin visited to speak about the Hawkhead and Dykebar housing developments. Worked with the Council to remove and replace a number of trees on Allanton Avenue, which has now been postponed.

Secretary's remarks: Highlighted a number of ongoing issues, including access to Honeybog Hill, the trees on Allanton Avenue and the lighting at St Mirren training grounds.

Annual Accounts: The Annual Accounts for 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 were submitted. Proposed by: Allan Thompson. Seconded by: Bill Whyte. These will be submitted to Renfrewshire Council.

Appointment of Office Bearers:

- **Nominations for position of Chairperson:** Allan Thomson. Proposed by: Rod McLelland. Seconded by: Alison Scott.
- **Nominations for position of Secretary:** Alison Scott. Proposed by: Allan Thompson. Seconded by: Fergal McCauley.
- **Nominations for position of Treasurer:** Fergal McCauley. Proposed by: Bill Gray. Seconded by: Simon Hall.

Date of 2021 AGM: 7 October 2021 (**Note:** This is the 1st Thursday in October, as the 2nd Thursday is during the October half-term).

Ordinary meeting:

Police Report: No police present, will ensure they're invited to next meeting. Report of a house on Tylney Road being 'marked' for a future break-in, this was reported to the Police. – carried forward to next meeting.

Councillor's Report: No councillors present.

Minutes of previous meeting: Proposed by: Rod McLelland. Seconded by: Fergal McCauley

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting: St Mirren Lighting: Ongoing issue, awaiting response from Cllr J Adam-McGregor.

Cllr J Adam-McGregor

Defibrillator training: On hold for time being.

Allanton Avenue Trees: Ken Gray has confirmed this has been postponed for the time being.

Vitality classes at Sports Centre: Awaiting clarification from RLL about whether these are closing or not.

Biodiversity survey: Identified four potential areas: two on Strathmore Avenue and the front/rear of the Community Centre. These have been submitted to Renfrewshire Council as suggestions for consideration for additional areas of biodiversity.

Cyclists on pavement: This is still an issue, will raise with Cllr J Adam-McGregor.

Cllr J Adam-McGregor

Events Calendar: This was removed from the website during lockdown. Events organisers will be contacted to check if they have restarted again.

Bill Gray & Rod McLelland

Secretary's Report: Secretary advised that since the last meeting, 23 emails had been received. 17 were not circulated: 2 weekly planning lists, 11 regarding various council board meetings, 1 Renfrewshire Fund reminder, 1 Scottish Water Newsletter, 1 Info re CC meetings during Covid-19, 1 Brochure of public Christmas lights.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer advised that since the last meeting there was expenditure of £95.94, resulting in a current balance of £2497.61.

AOB: Defibrillator: Treasurer noted that the expense related to replacing the defibrillator pad and purchasing a spare, as it had been used for a resident. The Community Council pays for the replacements because we made the initial purchase (following a donation by a resident). Bill Whyte advised that the person who used the defibrillator called St Marks to let them know. Bill Whyte regularly checks that they are ready for use.

Bollards at Penilee Road shops: The Council moved the bollards after they were installed, to allow for some cars to park.

Location of Flu Vaccination Centre: There was a query regarding the poor location of the centre, as many residents will need to take several forms of public transport to get there. This will be raised with Cllr J Adam-McGregor.

Cllr J Adam-McGregor

Date of next meeting: Thursday 12 November, 7:30pm (online).