

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 12 March 2020 in Ralston Community Centre

Present: Allan Thompson (Chair), Alison Scott (Secretary), Fergal McCauley (Treasurer), Simon Hall (minutes), Sandra Reynolds, Bill Whyte, May Fernie.

In Attendance: Police Officer Shaun Thomson, 3 residents.

Apologies: Cllr J Adam-McGregor, Rod McLelland, Bill Gray, Catherine Gooding, Robert Elliot.

Action

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

Police Report: Police Officer Shaun Thomson advised that Police Officer Jack McClure is the new Community Police Officer for Ralston. Last month there were 21 incidents in Ralston, 6 of which required immediate response (in comparison, Seedhill had 236 in the same period). In the last month there were 3 crimes reported – 1 road traffic and 2 violence and disorder, all of which have been detected. Over the last 6 months, there were 32 crimes, 10 of which were detected, those undetected are difficult to detect as there are no leads.

Councillor's Report: No councillors present.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Proposed by Bill Whyte, seconded by May Fernie.

Matters arising from the minutes: St Mirren Lighting: Environmental Protection met with St Mirren and their consultants, who are waiting on information to inform the feasibility of their mitigation options. They have been asked to submit proposals prior to their next meeting with Environmental Protection on 25 March. Concerns were raised that the lighting is currently illuminating nesting birds in the trees, making them vulnerable to attack. It was suggested that the RSPB could be contacted: 0131 311 6500. The potential for the lighting to be a distraction to drivers was also raised as a concern. A resident advised that they contacted Cllr Sharkey in December about this issue, who contacted Frank Hughes in the Council. Allan asked the resident to forward on the chain of emails.

Alison

Defibrillator training: Bill advised that Heart Start can deliver training on defibrillators and first aid, this could happen at our September meeting.

Honeybog Hill: Cllr J Adam-McGregor spoke to the landowner regarding our proposals, however they were not interested in pursuing them. We have been in contact with Scottish Mediation, who can nominate a mediator for us. Both parties must agree to mediation, which costs a maximum of £100/hour. If we wish to proceed, consent to mediation letters will be issued. Check if there is a charge if the other party doesn't consent to

Alison

mediation, then give the go ahead to issue the 'Consent to mediation' letters. It was agreed that mediation would be between the Community Council and the land owner (rather than the Council).

Allanton Avenue Trees: No response from Ken Gray regarding an update, Alison will contact him prior to our April meeting.

Alison

Secretary's Report: Secretary advised that since the last meeting, 21 emails had been received, 5 of which had been circulated. Of those not circulated, 1 was a weekly planning list, 11 regarding various council boards, 1 about the National Planning Framework, 1 regarding Scottish Health and Wellbeing, 1 about Scottish Water and 1 about the Local Energy Community Benefit Toolkit.

The Community Council Forum met in February, the 'Local Place Plan' was highlighted, where the Council seeks to support our 'place' through potentially changing or enhancing areas or seeking to reuse vacant or derelict land. They recommended Community Councils invite Sharon Marklow to a future meeting to discuss further, this was agreed. They reminded Community Councils that CC websites and Facebook pages should be politically neutral.

Alison

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer advised that since the last meeting there was an income of £50 (expenses for attending Local Partnership), expenditure of £29.02, resulting in a current balance of £2761.34.

AOB: The Vitality Class at the Community Sports Centre is closing after March due to low numbers. Cllr J Adam-McGregor spoke to RLL, who advised that they currently run more classes than they are obliged to by the NHS. Members and residents are concerned about the impact of this decision and agreed to contact RLL, asking them to continue the classes for 6 months, while we promote them to local residents. Alison highlighted that RLL are holding a workshop on Monday 16 March 1-4pm at Johnstone Town Hall, where people can discuss their experiences of RLL services.

Bill Whyte

A resident was concerned at the level of dog fouling and asked whether the Council's Community Wardens could be invited to a future meeting.

Alison

A member highlighted that there is a lot of rubbish in the car park and trees surrounding the Community Centre.

Alison

Allan highlighted that he was unavailable on Thursdays for the April, May and June meetings, and asked whether we could meet on a Tuesday instead. This was agreed and Alison would check availability of the Community Centre and advise Anne McNaughton of any changes.

Alison

Date of next meeting: To limit the spread of Coronavirus Ralston Community Council meetings are postponed until further notice.