

# RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting on 12 November 2020, online via Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Allan Thompson (Chair), Alison Scott (Secretary), Fergal McCauley (Treasurer), Simon Hall (minutes), May Fernie

**In Attendance:** Cllr Jim Sharkey, Maurice Corry (MSP), Police Officer Kevin Carter.

**Apologies:** Bill Whyte, Rod McLelland, Bill Gray, Catherine Gooding.

### Action

**Welcome from the Chair:** Chair welcomed all to the online meeting of the Community Council.

**Police Report:** There have been 4 crime reports in the last month, 1 Theft House Breaking (entry to a shed), Theft from Motor Vehicle (no signs of forced entry) and theft of a pedal cycle. There were 31 incidents over the time period and nothing of any concern to the local community. We have initiatives ongoing such as road safety targeting speeding and dangerous/inconsiderate driving, bogus workmen initiatives. The force had a dedicated response to fireworks, and responded to some complaints regarding inconsiderate use of fireworks and anti-social behaviour. We have also been working with retailers too to try and ensure that they sell fireworks responsibly as well as patrols to target and deter anti-social behaviour with fireworks. There were more private displays this year due to the lack of public displays due to COVID restrictions.

**Councillor's Report:** Cllr Sharkey advised the Council meetings have been held through MS Teams. The recent Finance Board advised that the cost of COVID to Renfrewshire has been £10,302,000 so far. Renfrewshire Council will campaign to recoup this in full, rather than it coming from reserves. Cllr Sharkey raised concerns of collusion regarding a contract awarded for the maintenance of the Council's Business World system. Only 3 of a possible 15 companies responded to the contract, and two of those recommended that the third was the best placed to maintain the system. Lighting at St Mirren training ground is still an issue, Cllr Sharkey agreed to follow this up. Access to Honeybog Hill is still an issue, Cllr Sharkey would be happy to meet with Bill Gray to discuss his concerns further. Recycling bin at Community Centre is full and overflowing and is not being regularly emptied, Cllr Sharkey agreed to progress. Bill Gray emailed regarding litter on the verge of Penilee Road, Cllr Sharkey agreed to raise with the Council.

Cllr J Sharkey

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**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Proposed by Alison Scott, seconded by Fergal McCauley.

**Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:**

Vitality classes at Sports Centre: Carried forward to next meeting.

Flu Vaccination Centre: Excellent service from practitioners, but poorly located, as many residents need to take several forms of public transport to get there, Town Halls and Community Centres would have been a better choice. Cllr Sharkey advised that a special meeting of the Council had discussed this and unanimously agreed that these should be more local, this was passed to the RHSCP. Maurice Corry (MSP) advised that the Health Board recognised that they had taken the wrong approach and would seek to learn lessons for future vaccination programmes. He recommended communicating to RHSCP through Councillors what we'd want from them.

Cyclists on pavements: A resident had previously raised concerns regarding the amount of cyclists using pavements, Alison to email details to Police.

**Alison**

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary advised that since the last meeting, 32 emails had been received. 21 were not circulated: 2 weekly planning lists, 16 regarding various council board meetings, 2 Fair trade lecture, 2 Celebrating Renfrewshire, and 1 Free online training for planning scheme.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer advised that since the last meeting there was expenditure of £15.98 and an income of £743, resulting in a current balance of £3224.63.

**RCC Newsletter:** It was agreed that we'd trial a newsletter and see how it's received. Potential content could include: Intro to RCC, festive content, content from our website/Facebook, local interest stories, past photos of the area etc. There are a range of options for distribution, including couriers, and Sinclair Barr. Allan will begin a draft and circulate for comment and ideas for further content.

**Allan**

**AOB: Lights at St Marks:** We'd previously discussed buying more lights. The Council has already put them up, and they will be lit on 5th December.

**Update from Maurice Corry (MSP):** The effects of Covid continue to be a big focus Scottish Parliament, including deaths in care homes, care in the community, access to medical centres/doctors and the length of time areas will be kept in the protective levels. There are concerns about rising cases in some areas, including Renfrewshire. Access to dentists was also raised as a concern, and treatment on the NHS isn't available, but it is if you're willing to pay privately.

**Roffey Park Christmas lights:** Ladies who arranged the street bingo during summer have organised a Christmas lights switch-on.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 10 December, 7:30pm (online).