

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of AGM on 7 October 2021, online via Microsoft Teams

Present: Allan Thompson (Chair), Alison Scott (Secretary), Simon Hall (minutes), Bill Gray, Rod McLelland, Bill Whyte, May Fernie, Catherine Gooding.

In Attendance: Cllr Neill Graham, Mark Fulton (KHC President), 1 resident.

Apologies: Fergal McCauley (Treasurer), Sandra Raynolds, Cllr Jennifer Adam-McGregor.

Action

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

Appointment of Office Bearers: Nominations for position of Chairperson:

Allan Thompson. Proposed: Alison Scott, Seconded: Simon Hall.

Nominations for position of Vice Chairperson: None.

Nominations for position of Secretary: Alison Scott, Proposed: Allan Thompson, Seconded: Rod McLelland.

Nominations for position of Treasurer: Fergal McCauley, Proposed: Allan Thompson, Seconded: Bill Gray.

Minutes of previous AGM held on 9 October 2020: Proposed: Allan Thompson, Seconded: Alison Scott.

Matters Arising: Allan highlighted that Defibrillator training and Trees on Allanton Avenue were discussed at the last AGM, but paused due to lockdown. We will now relook at these.

Chair's Remarks: Last AGM Stephen Quinn, Director of Children's Services attended our meeting to tell us about the new Paisley Grammar school on the Chivas site. October was about some covid related issue with bollards at Penilee Road and discussions about the new vaccine Centre. Issue with lighting at St Mirren were consequently on hold and may only now be getting dealt with. In November we were advised that the Covid cost to Renfrewshire had exceeded £10 million. Vitality classes was an agenda item because many residents were upset that these may be stopped by RLL. This is still an unanswered issue. Post lockdown. It was decided to trial a CC Newsletter which was a huge success; encouraging us to do a Summer Edition. We were made aware of some Christmas (socially distanced) street parties. Lockdown saw an increasing number of cyclists (on pavements) at the same time as an increase in people walking. There was also an increase in speed on Glasgow Road being regularly reported. Covid vaccines, Flu jabs and the most recent guidelines for the Christmas period featured in December. The new year saw some issues with bin collections and a water problem on 2 streets, which were all resolved in a timely manner. We also received complaints about the new school meals menu,

which we were eventually updated on several months later as a covid issue. The uptake of vaccines was very much on the agenda. It was agreed around about this time that a better way to manage to access to Honeybog Hill might be through a concerted effort with all three counsellors. Although this was a good idea at the time it wasn't executed. The issue with dressing was raised and we decided to invite someone from the Roads department along pre-Christmas to highlight the issues as we saw them from the previous year. This was actioned. In February made aware that a petition from Ralston parents regarding nursery places was upheld and that the council would now consider policy giving priority to children within walking distance of the nursery. We also had representatives from the council attending to make us aware of the national planning framework (a long-term planning strategy through till 2050). Essentially communities will have more influence and control over what happens in their area. We were also advised at this time that Honeybog Hill is not recommended/not to be taken forward as a development site. March saw us plan for a Summer Newsletter. Only a few weeks later we had been briefed on plans from Kelburne Hockey to apply for a transfer of Ralston Community sports centre to them (CAT) and we were able to show their proposal in our newsletter. Maintenance at the playpark at the Community Centre was discussed and we applied for a partnership grant, which was successful. Potholes had been highlighted as an issue and around this time nearly half were repaired but it is still an ongoing issue. Volunteers, including some CC members did a litter pick to help the issue at Arkleston Road. Issues with street lighting were reported. Rod proposed the idea of 'Ralston in Bloom' and we were awarded a grant for this and we have recently had confirmation that we can have 3 planters from Renfrewshire Council. In May we had a presentation from Kelburne HC about their proposed application. Originally a 25–30-year lease but later amended to 50 years. It was explained from the start that there would be an impact on football but that access and usage to residents would not change. Their application, we were told would have to show strong community benefits. June updates included that meetings with the football clubs highlighted an issue with numbers quoted, by Kelburne HC to the CC to be misleading (more users than had been told). We were also informed that it was likely that Gleniffer Football might also submit a CAT. This would be ongoing during the summer recess.

Secretary's Remarks: This year we have moved to a new email address for all official RCC business: admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org

Annual Accounts: The audited annual accounts for 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 were submitted. Proposed by: Allan Thomson, Seconded by: Bill Whyte.

Guest Speaker: Mark Fulton, President of Kelburne Hockey Club:

Kelburne Hockey Club believe that their plan will improve the current situation, making it a centre that the community can be proud of. The current facility is underutilised and we want to breath life back into it. We are aware of the challenges of the proposal and the impact it has on football, we want to work together – there must be compromises on both sides. We are confident that we can fix the drainage and make the grass suitable to play on. In addition there are nine other pitches locally that can be used. Some would like us to build a hockey pitch on the grass, however this would cost over £1m (rather than £600k), plus the football pitches only have 2-3 years of life left, so would need to be replaced soon. We are aware of the public's concerns, and want to address these. We would like to give further updates at future meetings. A resident asked when the CAT had been submitted: Mark stated it was about two weeks ago. Where will the £600k come from? Mark stated £75k would be raised by members, plus funding from Council, Sports Scotland and other partners. May asked what evidence you have for the facility being underused: Mark said the pavilion is open limited hours and the grass rarely used; whereas we'd have the facility open 8am - 10pm. Rod asked whether grounds staff would be employed to maintain the grass pitches? Mark confirmed they would. Cllr Graham asked how the facility would be staffed between 8am-10pm? Mark said there would be a mix of volunteers and paid staff.

Date of next AGM: October 2022.