

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 11 February 2021, online via Microsoft Teams

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

In Attendance: Cllr Jennifer Adam-McGregor, Maurice Corry (MSP), Police Officer Michael Hart, Kevin Dalrymple and Sharon Marklow from Renfrewshire Council.

Apologies: None.

Action

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

Police Report: There have been 2 crime reports in the last month: 1 of which was the use of a quadbike on the golf course which damaged some of the greens. Please report these kind of incidents by calling 101.

Councillor's Report: Cllr Adam-McGregor confirmed that an application for building 600 houses at Dykebar was recently rejected. A petition from a Ralston parent regarding nursery places was upheld, the Council will now consider a policy giving priority to children within walking distance of a nursery. The renovation of Abercorn Street footbridge is due to be completed in the spring. In addition there will be a new cycle bridge between Paisley and Renfrew. The Council had a target of reducing CO2 emissions in 2019/20 by 36%, but actually achieved a 60% reduction. This was achieved in a number of ways, including installing solar panels in 21 schools and care homes, and increasing the number of electric vehicles by another 24 cars. Team-up to Clean-up continues to grow across the region.

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

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:

School meals: carried forward to the next meeting, Alison will follow up.

Potholes on Bathgo/Darvel: These have been reported, but not fixed yet. Cllr Adam McGregor will find out progress and update Alison.

Newsletter: The company delivering the newsletter for us restarted the delivery after the new year, but failed to deliver to every house, they have given us a small refund as compensation. We will not use them next time. At our next meeting we will discuss the frequency of the newsletter and when the next one will be produced.

**Alison Scott
Cllr Adam-
McGregor**

Secretary's Report: Since the last meeting, 28 emails had been received. 19 were not circulated: 10 regarding various council board meetings, 1 weekly planning list, 1 about the Yearnstone Project, 2 litter complaints, 1 about tickets for the Scottish empty homes conference, 1 about recycling centres closing for upgrades, 1 about information required in the CC website (sent to chair and those responsible for the website), 1 Digital transformation of building & planning warranty application system, 1 Street trader application. In addition, due to the recent weather Brown Bin collections have been cancelled this week and will be collected in 2 weeks time. Also a survey regarding improving green transport was posted on our website and Facebook page.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer advised that since the last meeting there was an income of £30, a partial refund of the newsletter delivery; and expenditure of £167.99, for defibrillator batteries, resulting in a current balance of £2,309.80.

Guest speakers: National Planning framework: Kevin Dalrymple and Sharon Marklow from Renfrewshire Council delivered a presentation about the 4th National Planning Framework for Scotland, which is currently being consulted on. This sets the Long-term planning strategy up to 2050. Key changes at that this now includes national policy, which should avoid duplication across Local Authorities, and will allow Councils to focus on local priorities. This also forms part of the development plan for Local Authorities, so national strategy will be a key consideration when planning applications are assessed. Also communities will have more influence and control over what happens in their area. Communities can prepare a 'Place Plan' with proposals for their area, this would then feed into the national plan. Several local communities have done this, Foxbar won an award for their plan to connect their area more effectively and get a medical centre. Lochwinnoch have a plan to rejuvenate their green areas, Houston are developing their walking and cycling connections, Spateston have also developed a plan. A question was asked about planning applications for Honeybog Hill, Sharon confirmed that the reporter's recommendation is that this is not taken forward as a development site. A question was asked about the plans for Paisley Town Centre to become more residential, Kevin confirmed that plans were in place for this before the pandemic, which will now need to be reviewed and refreshed.

Honeybog Hill: The community Council could fund a kissing gate at approx. £500 plus installation each. Although multiple accesses are preferred, we aim for one initially, potentially at Tilney Road. Cllr Sharkey had suggested a coordinated approach, with Councillors and Community Council agree the way to proceed and then discussing with the farmer, rather than different individuals contacting separately, he'd also suggested an approach with the Council. Although Covid would prevent meeting at

the moment, Bill will coordinate a proposal with all three Councillors in preparation. Bill Gray will contact Cllr Sharkey to clarify, then discuss with Cllr Adam-McGregor and Cllr Graham.

Bill Gray

St Mirren Lights: The Council are unable to use the data previously gathered, as only some houses were surveyed, and access can't currently be gained to the other properties due to Covid. Cllr Adam-McGregor will approach St Mirren to discuss the progress that they have made. There have been no further complaints regarding the use of the St Mirren drone.

Cllr Adam-McGregor

Yearnstone Project: Lochwinnoch CC are supporting a project to re-wild their greenspaces, working with the Change Sub-committee. Further information will come from the CC Forum.

AOB: Ideas for Barshaw Park: Friends of Barshaw Park are looking for ideas of things that could be done to encourage greater use of the park. For instance the area where the donkey's used to be could be used as a community garden. A £5,000 grant has been awarded for a 24ft wicker dinosaur to be installed, possibly near the playpark.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 11 March 2021, 7:30pm (online).