

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

In Attendance: Cllr Jennifer Adam-McGregor, Maurice Corry (MSP).

Apologies: Bill Whyte.

Action

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

Police Report: None in attendance.

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

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:

School meals: Residents had raised concerns regarding the nutritional value of school meals. Alison to forward details to Cllr Adam-McGregor, who will follow up with Council.

**Alison Scott
Cllr Adam-
McGregor**

Potholes on Bathgo/Darvel: Some have been fixed, but others haven't. Several potholes have also appeared on Tylney Road, where previous patches have not held. Alison to forward details and photos to Cllr Adam-McGregor, who will follow up with Council.

**Alison Scott
Cllr Adam-
McGregor**

St Mirren Lights: Cllr Adam McGregor spoke to St Mirren regarding the lights, however as use of the grounds has stopped due to Covid, they are not progressing this at the moment. Cllr Adam-McGregor also spoke with LED lighting companies regarding using funnels, they confirm that these are not normally needed, however the type of LED lighting installed would need to be confirmed in order to progress. Cllr Adam-McGregor will continue to pursue with St Mirren.

**Cllr Adam-
McGregor**

Secretary's Report: Since the last meeting, 25 emails had been received. 14 were not circulated: 11 regarding various council board meetings, 1 Website compliance offer (sent to Allan & Bill G), 1 Digital transformation for planning & building standards, 1 regarding Bin uplifts (not Ralston).

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer advised that since the last meeting there has been no expense, resulting in a current balance of £2,309.80.

Local Partnership: Fergal attended the meeting on 25 February, where there were presentations on the affect that Covid has had on communities. A presentation focussed on the use of community markets to tackle social isolation. ROAR have secured funding for a 'Isolation and loneliness champion', who will seek to roll out these projects across the area.

Honeybog Hill: The Community Council very concerned and disappointed regarding an article in the Paisley Daily Express featuring Cllr Sharkey, about access to Honeybog Hill. The Community Council had wanted to build bridges and negotiate with the farmer, rather than take an aggressive confrontational approach. However this article has significantly set-back opportunities to seek improved access. Cllr Adam-McGregor has spoken to the farmer, who is understandably angry; objecting to the misleading accusation of preventing access to Council land, when that land is not leased to her. Cllr Adam-McGregor has also spoken to the journalist who wrote the article, who was very apologetic for not checking the facts. Cllr Adam-McGregor will continue to talk with the farmer, seeking to repair the damaged relationship. It was suggested that a map could be developed, showing who owns/leases different bits of the land.

AOB: Newsletter: It was suggested that the next edition of the RCC Newsletter could be released in the summer. In preparation for this, we will start circulating possible articles for inclusion. In recognition of the farmer's extensive knowledge of the area, it was suggested that an article could be included talking about how the area has developed over time.

Dinosaur: Friends of Barshaw Park have decided not to proceed with installing the wicker dinosaur. If it were to proceed, Ralston Community Council would be responsible. Several concerns were raised regarding the level of responsibility and liability this would place on the Community Council. Cllr Adam-McGregor agreed to discuss whether Renfrewshire Council could support us, for instance by providing insurance. It was proposed to develop a clear list of responsibilities and liabilities, indicating who would be responsible for which elements. Once completed, the Community Council will take a final decision on whether to proceed. *Post-meeting note: Renfrewshire Council are unable to share responsibility for this, therefore the Community Council have withdrawn from the process.*

Update from Maurice Corry (MSP): Historical Child Abuse and Hate Crime Bills have been passed. By June, most people will have been vaccinated, with boosters being offered in winter. It is unlikely for lockdown to be eased significantly, until 70-80% of the population have been vaccinated. Infections continue a downward trend, however cases are rising in Europe. Maurice expressed sincere thanks for everyone's patience and forbearance.

Play Park at Community Centre: Maintenance required, since there are large areas of mud, puddles and worn patches around play equipment. Cllr Adam-McGregor will find out who is responsible for this park.

Litter: Lots of litter on the verges, where Penilee Road and Arkleston Road border Honeybog hill. Cllr Adam-McGregor confirmed that volunteers had collected 48 bags of litter from Arkleston Road already. The Community Council thanked all those involved in litter picks across the area.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 8 April 2021, 7:30pm (online).