

# RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting on 13 May 2021, online via Microsoft Teams

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr Jim Sharkey, Cllr Jennifer Adam-McGregor, Police Officer Kevin Carter, Mark Fulton - President of Kelburne Hockey Club, plus a local resident.

**Apologies:** Catherine Gooding.

### Action

**Welcome from the Chair:** Chair welcomed all to the meeting, especially a resident who is interested in joining the Community Council.

**Police Report:** PO Kevin Carter advised that there have been 42 incidents and 11 crime reports in the last month, mainly public nuisance/disorder or traffic offences. A traffic initiative around Hawkhead, Arkleston and Glasgow Road resulted in several vehicles charged for speeding. Police have increased presence in Barshaw park, these plans will continue over the summer. Police have been clamping down on licenced premises selling to kids. Cllr Adam-McGregor raised a previous suggestion of requiring licenced premises to put different stickers on bottles, to track where they are bought, Cllr Adam-McGregor will follow this up. There have been several cases of attempted fraud, targeting the elderly. Please be vigilant, do not give anyone your bank details, use the official phone number of your bank and preferably use a different phone. It was suggested that we include an article on fraud prevention in the RCC Summer Newsletter.

Cllr Adam-McGregor

**Ralston Sports Hub:** Mark Fulton, President of Kelburne Hockey Club delivered a presentation about their proposal to undertake an asset transfer of the Ralston Sports Centre, including building, pitches and grass area, on a 25-30 year lease. The club will invest £600k to redevelop the existing pitches to international hockey standard, as well as developing the pavilion to include a café. The facilities would be primarily used for hockey, however when not in use they could be hired by other groups. Proposed timeline would see the hockey club take ownership at the end of the year, and the pitch be ready for August 2022. They hope that this proposal will attract increased tourism and business to Renfrewshire. Following questions Mark confirmed that: Of the £600k to be invested, the Hockey Club intend to fundraise £75k and have already raised £14k. Hockey season runs September to May, however it's now played year-round. All avenues had been exhausted regarding the old Kelburne ground, the only option was to separate from the rest of the sports club. LED lighting will be angled so that it primarily lights the pitch. Traffic and parking implications would be considered. Using the existing pitches as a starting point was significantly less expensive than developing the grass area, due to the

existing ground works in place. Football teams could hire the pitch, as long as appropriate footwear was worn (no studs or blades). They are keen for the school children to use the pitch, no special footwear needed just trainers. Grass area would remain open for the community to use, and happy to support events such as the Community Games. Cllr Adam-McGregor confirmed that the land would be leased to Kelburne, but still owned by the Council and that the proposal was at an early stage, and would have to show strong community benefits. Allan invited Mark back to share further updates after the summer.

**Councillor's Reports:** Cllr Sharkey advised that the Council have agreed to write to the government to ensure that the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children is properly funded. The Council are seeking to influence McGill's plans to reduce bus services, including the 38. The Council agreed to remove charges for dealing with rats. The Council have supported the transfer of ownership of the ice rink to the local Ice Hockey team. Cllr Sharkey also advised that the Paisley East and Whitehaugh Community Council last night highlighted that there are four local crossing points between Renfrewshire and Glasgow, two of them have restrictions (one being the bridge at Penilee). Cllr Adam-McGregor agreed to pursue testing regarding the flood light issues at St Mirren.

**Cllr Adam-McGregor**

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Amendments: Reference to the Board where Local Plan was not approved, should have read 'Communities Housing and Planning Board on 16 March 2021'. Reference to 'Tilney' Road, should have read Tylney. Proposed by Bill Gray, seconded by Alison Scott.

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

**School meals:** Cllr Adam-McGregor will send update to Allison.

**Potholes on Bathgo/Darvel:** Issue ongoing, Alison will forward emails to Cllr Adam-McGregor, for her to follow up. Cllr Sharkey contacted the Roads department to discuss why temporary repairs are being made, instead of using the machine that gives a better fix. The Service decides what type of fix is appropriate based on several factors including weather conditions and need to make the road safe. They offered to visit and discuss any areas of concern, Alison volunteered for this.

**Cllr Adam-McGregor  
Alison Scott**

**Cllr Sharkey**

**Litter on Arkleston Road:** Bill G confirmed more rubbish has been cleared from Penilee Road, more has appeared further down.

**Ralston Playpark:** Allan confirmed we have applied for funding. Contacting Karen Anderson to be considered as part of the £1.5 million for swing parks.

**Allan Thompson**

**Ralston in Bloom:** Allan confirmed we have also applied for funding for planters, soil and flowers and are awaiting a response.

**Street lighting:** Bill G confirmed that the lighting issues at Tylney seem to have been resolved.

**Weekly planning list:** Alison confirmed that we didn't miss any of the weekly planning lists while the Council updated their system.

Notification of roadworks: Alison checked with the Council, who confirmed that we still get notified of major roadworks. This was missed by accident in the case of the recent roadworks on Glasgow Road.

St Mirren Lights: Rod updated that St Mirren lighting issue is still unresolved. Cllr Adam-McGregor will chase this because otherwise we would be a further year until possible resolution.

**Secretary's Report:** Since the last meeting, 21 emails had been received, 11 not circulated: 7 for various council board meetings, 1 weekly planning list, 1 repeat of polling station information, 1 Bridge of Weir/Houston cycle path, 1 Community funding for those dealing with food insecurity.

Email circulated on 16 May regarding options for a Tommy memorial. We agreed 5-2 in favour of a memorial, though concerns were raised regarding the depiction of guns and the potential vandalism. We agreed to look at what options are available. Potential locations suggested were St Marks Church or the pavilion and playing fields (which are a memorial to those from the Grammar who died in the first world war).

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer advised that since the last meeting there was no expenditure, resulting in a current balance of £2,281.12.

**Newsletter:** Simon showed four designs for the newsletter, based on a summer theme; the blossom and sunflower designs received 3 votes each. We discussed possible articles, including: fraud prevention, calendar of upcoming events, Kelburne's proposed asset transfer. We'd previously discussed advertising, we agreed to include an article outlining costs for businesses to do this in future newsletters.

**AOB:** None.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 10 June 2021, 7:30pm (online).