

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 14 January 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 Jim Sharkey, Maurice Corry (MSP), Gavin Newlands (MP), Police Officer Michael Hart.

Apologies: Bill Whyte.

Action

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

Police Report: There have been 6 crime reports in the last month: 1 minor assault, 1 speeding on Glasgow Road, 1 driving under the influence of drugs, and 2 vandalisms. There were 20 police incidents, most were minor in nature. There was 1 call regarding Covid, where 5 people were at a property and the 2 who did not live there were asked to leave. It was discussed that some cars seem to be driving at excessive speed on Glasgow Road, as the roads are quieter due to lockdown. When asked about a police car's drive into and out of Barshaw carpark, Police Officer Hart confirmed that they make a point of visiting places that people congregate, to make their presence known. Alison thanked the police for responding to a residents call regarding the socially distanced lights switch-on at Roffey Park. When the police attended they spoke to the organisers and confirmed that all was being handled in an appropriate manner.

Councillor's Report: Cllr Sharkey is aware that some bins had not been picked up today, however the service responsible hadn't advised that this would happen. Anyone affected by this to contact Cllr Sharkey, who will follow up with the service. The recent water problems on Kinpurnie and Buchlyvie were quickly resolved by the water company, however new leaks have appeared, which Cllr Sharkey will pursue. May highlighted that the blue bin at the community centre was overflowing again, Cllr Sharkey has spoken to the service to get this emptied. Bill asked about the litter along Penilee and Arkleston Road, Cllr Sharkey had no update yet but has followed this up. The Community Council has received complaints regarding the new menu for school meals, which are not nutritious, Alison will forward to Cllr Sharkey. Gavin Newlands (MP) said he's visiting the Community Councils to hear their concerns. Maurice Corry (MSP) advised that our suggestion has been taken up, and that key facts about Covid will be cascaded from government to Councils and Community Councils for promotion within the community. Today's Covid Committee were advised

Alison Scott

that the early action taken with lockdown is having an affect, as we are now seeing a slower infection rates, though the averages are still high. Compliance rates are higher than the newspapers are reporting, at about 96%. Maurice encouraged the uptake of the vaccine, which 80% care home workers and 50% of frontline workers have now received. 24 hour vaccination centres are being developed, with 33 army personnel involved in setting them up. In airports all departing passengers are tested before boarding and spot checks for those arriving.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Proposed by Alison Scott, seconded by Bill Gray.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting: None.

Secretary's Report: Since the last meeting, 21 emails had been received. 18 were not circulated: 8 regarding various council board meetings, 3 weekly planning lists, 2 regarding school meals, 2 about the Scottish Water annual consultative meeting (deadline for interest 20 January), 1 about Asset Transfer webinars on 21 & 28 January, 1 about the Scottish Transport conference and 1 about the Yearnstane project with Lochwinnoch Community Council would like support for. This will be circulated and put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer advised that since the last meeting there was expenditure of £55.48 for web hosting and an Amazon voucher, resulting in a current balance of £2,447.79. Bill Whyte advised that the defibrillator battery was low, which has been swapped with the one in the Community Centre and a new one will be purchased.

Honeybog Hill: Bill G and Cllr Sharkey visited on Tuesday and agreed that the access from Kinpurnie is unsafe, with barbed wire a long drop and a locked gate. The access points along Penillee Road have been blocked by manure. The access at the junction of Penillee and Kinpurnie has been made safe by pipe lagging being put over the barbed wire. Upon investigation, the south side of the hill (with the access points) is owned by the farmer, but the north side is owned by the Council and leased to the farmer. It was agreed that seeking a negotiated settlement was preferable to a legal route. Cllr Sharkey suggested a concerted effort from all 3 councillors and the community council, focussing on dealing with the professional dog walker issue and seeking one or two access points, may be more effective than repeated individual contacts with the farmer. Cllr Sharkey also suggested that pressure should be put on the Council regarding access to their land, which is currently being prevented.

St Mirren lights: Rod advised that training has now been curtailed due to the restrictions, however the lights were an issue during December. The

Council has engaged a Lighting Consultant to look at the affect of the lighting on the surrounding properties, however due to Covid they cannot access properties at the moment. Rod has suggested that they could observe the affect without entering properties and that the Council has already gathered data from their previous visits. Rod agreed to contact Colin Hunter asking whether this data has been sent to the consultant.

Community Council Newsletter: Simon advised that due to illness the distributor failed to deliver the newsletters within the agreed timescale. These will be delivered by 18 January and they have offered a partial refund. We agreed that this was a disappointing experience, and we'd see how the delivery of the remaining newsletters go before considering whether we'd use them in the future. Feedback on the quality of the newsletter has been very positive. A £10 Amazon voucher has been awarded to the winner of the drawing competition.

AOB: Gavin Newlands: Advised that he is still available if needed, even though his regular surgery isn't on at the moment. **Gritting:** Grit on the roads has made a big difference, but the pavements are still bad is it possible for those to be gritted too? Some communities have snow shovels and grit trollies to spread grit in their own areas, may be worth considering in the future. It was suggested to invite someone from the Council in August/September to discuss the gritting plans. It was agreed that these would be added to an agenda in August/September.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 11 February 2021, 7:30pm (online). Members of the public are welcome to attend, please email requesting a link to the meeting admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org If you have issues you wish to raise, please let us know prior to the meeting.