

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 9 September 2021, online via Microsoft Teams

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

In Attendance: Cllr Jim Sharkey, Cllr Neill Graham, Police Officer Michael Hart, Gerry Hannah (Infrastructure and Transportation Manager, Renfrewshire Council).

Apologies: Catherine Gooding, Sandra Raynolds, Cllr Jennifer Adam-McGregor, Katy Clark (MSP), Paul O’Kane (MSP).

Action

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

Police Report: PO Michael Hart advised that there have been 110 calls since 10 June, 21 crime reports, 6 of which were detected. There were two cars tried, but didn’t gain access, these were not detected. A serious assault occurred at Barshaw golf course. An action plan has been developed to alleviate the wider youth disorder issue. Aware of antisocial behaviour in Barshaw Park, police visit once or twice every Friday and Saturday evening.

Guest Speaker – Winter Service Plan & Community Investment Fund:

Gerry Hannah, advised that each year roads are prioritised for gritting: Priority 1 main arterial roads; 2 local routes, routes to schools, police, fire service; 3/4 local roads that have particular issues. Local gritting routes are found: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/2236/Priority-roads-for-gritting. 24/7 gritter coverage is delivered by day and night shifts. Issues reported to the Contact Centre are passed onto the Duty Supervisor to resolve. Streetscene and Facilities Management clear footways: Streetscene clear paths at priority locations like town centres and the hospital; Facilities Management clear paths to provide safe routes to schools. Currently looking at adapting vehicles to spread grit on pavements. Gullies cleared at least annually, but more frequently where there are issues. When bad weather forecast, culverts are cleared and hotspot areas checked to avoid flooding. System is designed to cope with 1/200 year weather events, the recent flooding was a 1/400 year event. To report issues or request grit bins refilled, call the Contact Centre on 0300 300 0300. If you don’t get an update, email the Service Coordination team: ei@renfrewshire.gov.uk and an officer will respond. An application has been submitted to the Scottish Bridge Maintenance fund to strengthen the rail bridge at Penilee Road. The Community Investment Fund launches on 4 October, giving communities a say in how £1.2m over 3 years is spent to improve paths and infrastructure in Renfrewshire. Communities will submit ideas of things that could be done, these will be shortlisted and presented as options for the community to vote on.

Councillor's Reports: Cllr Sharkey advised that proposals are being considered to redevelop the Town Centre, although he's not sure it's the right plan. Cllr Graham highlighted that investment in Paisley is a good thing and well needed, and although the proposals are not perfect, it's up to Councillors to come up with better ideas. Cllr Graham was contacted by several residents regarding Friends of Barshaw Park's proposal to develop the old donkey paddock, concerned it would be a target for antisocial behaviour. Friends of Barshaw Park will be meeting with residents to discuss the proposals. Consultation is ongoing regarding cycle lanes at the Glasgow Road/Arkleston Road junction, submit your views now. Alison will arrange with Cllr Sharkey to tour potholes on Tylney.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Proposed: Fergal. Seconded: Alison.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:

Sports Centre: We have requested usage figures from RLL, not received yet.

Vitality Classes: Waiting for details on if and when these are restarting.

St Mirren lights: Council is contacting the consultants to access households to measure light levels.

Newsletter: Congratulations and thanks to everyone who developed and distributed the newsletter. We have received excellent feedback and some interest in advertising in the next issue. We'll discuss the Winter newsletter in the October meeting.

Litter pick on Honeybog: A small group of people collected lots of rubbish.

October meeting: Due to the October school holidays, the next meeting will be on 7 October. This will also be our AGM.

Secretary's Report: Since the last meeting, 76 emails had been received, 48 not circulated: 29 for various council board meetings, 4 weekly planning lists, 3 about road works, 5 Street trader applications, 1 Shuttle Street plans, 1 festive lighting catalogue, 1 Gov funded customer service training scheme, 1 surf awards, 1 My place awards, 1 Celebrating Renfrewshire young people's awards, 1 unwanted fire alarm signals.

Alison asked whether CC members wanted to receive emails during summer break. During this period, 28 were circulated, 24 of which were time critical, so 4 could have been held back. CC Members agreed to continue to receive time critical emails over the summer.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer advised that since the last meeting there was £669.89 expenditure (newsletter, insurance and stamps), resulting in a current balance of £1,576.23.

Funding has also been received for Ralston in Bloom (FR1140) £4,275 and Ralston Play Park (FR1141) £1,275.

Kelburne Hockey Club: There have been several meetings over the summer between various combinations of Cllr Adam-McGregor, Allan Thomson, Kelburne Hockey Club, Football clubs, the Sports Hub and other groups. The main point that parties cannot agree on is the football pitches. Kelburne wants to build on the existing pitches, with football able to happen on the grass. While the football clubs want Kelburne to build on the grass area, keeping the existing pitches for football. However as this costs about £500k more, there is an impasse. Kelburne intend to submit the application in the next week, Ralston Primary and the Hockey League support the application. Kelburne's proposal is largely the same as it was before the summer, though they have added some detail to the things they may do in phase two. Allan asked everyone to review the presentation that Kelburne delivered at the May meeting, and identify both the positive and negative aspects, and email these to Alison as soon as possible.

All CC members

Ralston Play Park: Allan has met with Graham Ternent from Renfrewshire Council, who has identified rubber mats that could be fitted around the play equipment. Graham is currently sourcing materials, and estimates 3 months before the work is carried out due to existing workload. Fergal highlighted that the funding must be spent by 31 March 2022.

Ralston in Bloom: Allan is currently identifying who to speak to in the Council to assist us with this project.

AOB: St Mirren are building something near properties on Bathgo, but we are unaware of any planning permission being sought. Depending on the purpose of the buildings, we wondered whether a change of business rates would be required. In addition tractors are being used on the grass in the early evening, while residents are trying to relax in their gardens. Cllr Sharkey agreed to find out what planning permission or rates changes may be required, and to request that St Mirren consider residents by being good neighbours.

Cllr Sharkey

Date of next meeting and AGM: Thursday 7 October 2021, 7:30pm (online).