

# RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting on 10 November, at Ralston Community Centre

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

**In Attendance:** PC Jay Greer, Cllr Neill Graham, Cllr Graeme Clark.

**Apologies:** Bill Whyte.

**Not in attendance:** Cllr Jennifer Adam.

### Action

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

**Police Report:** PC Greer advised that in the last month there were 0 violent crimes, 0 House break-ins, 0 Fraud, and 0 Drug offences reported. There were 6 road traffic offences, and 3 cases of dishonesty (1 theft, and 2 thefts from motor vehicles). PC Greer encouraged residents to update locks on properties, ensure they are secure, remain vigilant and look out for neighbours, as attempted thefts increase in the winter period. Also be vigilant regarding scams and fraud, as these increase at this time of year.

**Guest Speaker: Alcohol Licensing in Renfrewshire:** Jim McSorley, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership spoke about the Alcohol Licensing Policy Statement review (the policy by which licencing decisions are made against), to be finalised by Nov 2023. Objections to applications come under the 5 licencing objectives: Preventing crime and disorder, securing public safety, preventing public nuisance, Protecting, and improving public health, and Protecting children and young persons from harm. However, objections can also be raised regarding Overprovision, Licencing hours, Children's & young person's access, and occasional licences. Objections must be raised within 21 days of an application; Jim can meet with any community group that wishes to talk about concerns regarding applications. Jim shared statistics for alcohol-related hospital admissions, alcohol-related mental health admissions and alcohol-specific deaths – Ralston is consistently below the national, regional and Renfrewshire trends. Jim also highlighted the support available locally, including the Youth health and wellbeing service based at the lagoon (for 12–16-year-olds); the Alcohol and Drugs School Curriculum; Circle Recovery Hub – support groups for alcohol, drugs and mental health recovery; Recovery Walk; as well as developing a Trauma-informed approach where staff are trained, and services are designed to avoid triggers for trauma.

**Councillor's Reports:** **Cllr Graham:** Whitehaugh Barracks: Western Desert Recce Group has submitted a CAT application for the derelict building to turn it into a museum for military vehicles. Dargavel school: School has a capacity of 450 children, but the requirement will be double that. Council will have to extend the school at a cost of £18-20 million. This is in addition to the £35m savings currently required by this Council. Although this is out

with Ralston, the implications will impact the whole of Council area. Bathgo Trees: Confirmed Council not responsible for them, pursuing both OneRen and St Mirren to resolve. Dalfoil Tree: Tree has been partly cut; rest will be done before Christmas. Access only on Tylney: Officer confirmed a TRO is required, consulting with residents. A petition submitted to the Petitions Board would help to move this forward. Bus services: Complaints received about lack of McGill's busses after the Halloween events. **Cllr Clarke**: Electoral boundary changes: Bartlett Commission has recommended adjustments to the boundaries of the Paisley and Renfrewshire North ward, which alters the makeup of those voting and could affect those elected in the next general election. Consultation closes on 5 December. Warm Connections: 25 applications received for grants. A shortage of applications in East of Renfrewshire, so remaining open for applications. Allanton Avenue Trees: Trees have been surveyed and will be pruned in the next 6 months. Criteria for pruning are infringing pavement, road, or high vehicles. Height or restricting natural light are not criteria for pruning. May would like a tree near her house surveyed for safety, as it's tall and very old. Cllr Clark agreed to arrange this. You Decide: 3000 applications for improvements to infrastructure were submitted, 115 of these have been selected and voting opens 11 Nov from: <https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/11737/You-Decide---giving-you-the-power-over-decision-making> Dargavel school: Education Board has agreed to an external enquiry. Paisley Grammar: New school designed for 1200-1400 pupils; current school has 1100 pupils. Role projection figures are currently being revised for all schools. St Mirren Lighting: St Mirren say they have adjusted the lighting; however, it's still spilling into residents' properties. Rod confirmed Council officers visited properties on 26 October to take further light measurements. Alison advised Colin Hunter is attending our December meeting to discuss this.

**Cllr Clark**

**Minutes of the previous meeting**: Proposed by Alison Scott, seconded by Fergal McCauley. Amendment to October minutes: Games Funding 2022 (FR1038) Opening balance £3,360, closing balance £1,788.09.

**Matters arising from the minutes**: Flooding on Tylney: Bill confirmed that a Scottish Water engineer had visited and will conduct a survey of pipework to identify any blockages and do modelling to identify how improvements could be made. Ralston in Bloom: Rod advised that 30 planters are now in place with bulbs ready for next year. An article will be included in the Christmas newsletter. Alison suggested plaques to show RCC put them in.

**Rod McLelland**

**Secretary's Report**: Alison advised that since the last meeting, 32 emails had been received, 24 not circulated: 10 for various Council Board meetings, 2 weekly planning lists, 2 Street Trader Applications, 3 Regarding road closures (out with Ralston), 1 Winter Connections Fund, 1 Grass cutting on Glasgow Road, 1 Boundary Commission Consultation, 1 New Forum Working Group, 1 Physical Activity Survey, 1 Tree-mendus Christmas

event at St Marks, 1 Stop destruction of headstones from FOHC.

**Physical Activity Survey:** Survey is open for those who provide facilities, services or activities relating to physical activity. **Tree-mendus Christmas event:** St Mark's event on 10 Dec, inviting groups to decorate a Christmas tree which will be displayed and be voted upon. RCC considered the invitation and chose not to take part. Alison to confirm. **Stop destruction of headstones:** FOHC wants the Council to stop laying down headstones in cemeteries and asked RCC to consider supporting this. Cllr's Graham and Clarke highlighted that the Council has the legal duty to take down headstones that are unstable and ensures that this is done sensitively by laying them face up, contacting families and putting up signage. RCC considered this and chose not to support FOHC in this matter. **New Forum Working Group:** A working group is being formed to scope out a new Forum and are seeking nominees. May is willing to attend if any in-person meetings are in Renfrewshire House, if they are elsewhere then Alison will attend.

**Alison Scott**

**Treasurer's Report:** Fergal advised that since the last meeting there has been an income of £743, an expenditure of £193.23, resulting in a current balance of £939.23. Ralston in Bloom funding (FR1140): Expenditure of £1010.32, leaving a balance of £1080.68.

**Kelburne Hockey Club CAT update:** 9 updated representations were submitted to Kelburne's appeal. Allan had asked Victoria Hollows of OneRen for a meeting to discuss how we could support the centre being used more effectively. It was responded to, by Victoria and copied to Cllr Lisa Marie Hughes, again stating that this would not be appropriate while an appeal was ongoing. Yet OneRen feels it is appropriate to reduce opening hours during this period. Cllrs Graham and Clarke agreed to try and arrange a meeting with Victoria Hollows and encourage a meeting with Allan. Cllr Clarke confirmed that the subgroup would decide on the appeal in mid-December. It was suggested that we could apply for Warm Connections funding, as events at the Ralston Community Sports Centre would be beneficial during the winter season.

**Rod McLelland**

**Christmas Newsletter:** Allan currently has articles for Ralston in Bloom, St Marks, BB and Scouts. It was suggested that articles for joining the community Council and about St Mirren Flood Lights could also be included. Allan and Simon will develop the newsletter.

**AOB: Streetlights:** Bill Gray highlighted that streetlights have now switched to their winter setting, with those on Tylney coming on at 12:30pm and turning off again 20 hours later. He's contacted the Council to adjust the timings.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 8 December 2022 at the earlier time of 7pm, in person at Ralston Community Centre.