

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 12 January 2023, at Ralston Community Centre

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

In Attendance: PC Bruce Heron, Cllr Graeme Clark, Cllr Jennifer Adam, Laura Cowie (Ralston Bowling Club), Freddie Nesbitt (Ralston Bowling Club), plus 3 residents.

Apologies: Bill Whyte, Catherine Gooding, Cllr Neill Graham.

Action

Welcome from the Chair: Chair wished everyone a happy New Year and welcomed all to the meeting.

Police Report: PC Heron advised that in the last month there were 7 crime reports: 1 Fraud involving Google Play codes, 1 failure to report a vehicle accident, 1 theft of motor vehicle, 3 thefts of wheelie bins, 1 assault.

Guest Speaker: Ralston Bowling Club: Laura Cowie and Freddie Nesbitt visited to promote the bowling club as valuable resource to the community.

Activity Classes in Ralston: On behalf of RCC, Rod submitted an application to Renfrewshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund to run various activities in Ralston, we have been granted £8,150. We intend to run a number of 10-week classes from March 2023. Rod has investigated various venues; receiving quotes for use of Ralston Community Centre, no response for use of Ralston Community Sports Centre, and a very favourable response from Ralston Bowling Club. We also need to identify instructors who could lead classes - details to be passed to Rod. People could be asked for a small donation, which would be used to fund future classes. Allan thanked Rod for his hard work on the application and congratulated him on its success.

Councillor's Reports: **Cllr Clarke: Ralston Primary School:** There was a fire in the boiler room, caused by an electrical fault following flooding. **Ralston Sports Centre carpark lights:** Renfrewshire Council responsible for the lighting, it's been reported. **St Mirren Lighting:** St Mirren had until 1 January to come up with a solution, they requested an extension but were denied. The Council had told St Mirren that they were not permitted to use the lights until they were fixed. Rod advised that a Cherry picker was there today adjusting the lights facing Allanton Avenue, making a big difference. However the lights facing Bathgo will not be adjusted. Any residents with concerns should contact Renfrewshire Council. The Council will now contact St Mirren to advise that, subject to review, they are permitted to use the lights again. **St Mark's Yew Tree:** One person had expressed concern to Cllr Clark regarding the tree being removed, he advised that if it has been deemed dangerous, then it needs to be dealt with. Two residents at the meeting had contacted the Church to find out why it was considered

dangerous, and were advised that the gardener had tripped over the roots and bumped their head. The tree surgeons offered various alternatives, however the church have decided to remove the tree. The residents felt this was extreme, removing a prominent landmark from the area. Anyone who feels strongly about this matter, should contact the church. The Community Council agreed that as the tree belongs to the church, it's their decision to make. However we will post some detail on our Facebook and webpage. Allan will also contact the minister to find out more information.

Allan Thompson

Minutes of the previous meeting: A resident emailed requesting a change to the December Minutes relating to an aspect of Cllr Graham's report. This will be clarified with further with Cllr Graham at the next meeting. Minutes Proposed by Alison Scott, seconded by Rod McLellan.

Matters arising from the minutes: **Ralston in Bloom:** Rod had a quote of £60 to print 50 A4 stickers for plaques on the planters. Two designs were circulated, members suggested a clearer font, with white writing on a plain black background. Simon will amend. **20mph zones:** Carried forward for Cllr Graham: a number of roads around the school weren't included in the consultation on 20mph zones. Cllr Graham agreed to look into it. **Dog Poo:** Carried forward for Cllr Graham: Dog poo being left on the streets around the school, Cllr Graham will look into signage and other options.

Simon Hall
Cllr Graham

Cllr Graham

Secretary's Report: Allan advised that Alison has stepped down and this is Simon's first meeting as Secretary. Allan thanked Alison for her hard work over the years. Simon advised that since the last meeting, 22 emails had been received, 14 not circulated: 6 for various Council Board meetings, 1 weekly planning lists, 1 consultation on licencing board statement (responses by 15/2), 1 My Place Awards, 1 regarding Council Festive Opening Hours, 1 regarding new biodiversity areas, 1 about Roadworks on A737 (out with Ralston), 1 Funding from Tesco Community Grants (not for Ralston), 1 Engage Renfrewshire Information Sessions (sent to and attended by Rod). **My Place Awards:** Celebrate community led built environment projects, eligible projects include new buildings, historic buildings or monuments that have been reused or refurbished designed public realm schemes such as street works or parks, and designed landscapes such as gardens or public green spaces. Projects must have been completed between 1/1/2019 and 31/21/2022.

Treasurer's Report: Fergal advised that since the last meeting there has been an expenditure of £462.92, resulting in a current balance of 328.70. Ralston in Bloom funding (FR1140): No expenditure, leaving a balance of £886.70.

Kelburne Hockey Club CAT update: ILA meets at 10am on 20 January to decide on the CAT appeal. If unsuccessful Kelburne could then appeal to Scottish Government. Allan recently met with Billy, Kelburne's secretary, at which Billy advised that Kelburne had met with the 3 Ralston Councillors,

along with Alastair MacArthur, Director of Finance & Resources. Billy highlighted that at this meeting Alastair MacArthur confirmed that the £1.5m funding was still there. Cllr Adam highlighted that at the meeting Alastair MacArthur also made it clear that none of this funding was available to Kelburne for their CAT application for Ralston Sports Centre, as this funding has already been allocated to other development projects. Billy also referred to a document that stated the football in Renfrewshire is already at capacity. Cllr Adam and Cllr Clark know of no such document. At this meeting 3 options for a way forward were identified: 1) Kelburne proposed that Renfrewshire Council spend an additional £1m developing a new Hockey pitch in Ralston, while retaining the existing football pitches. Cllr Clark highlighted that the Council faces the toughest financial decisions in years, therefore this is not an option. 2) Kelburne work in partnership with UWS and Renfrewshire Council to apply for block funding from Scottish or UK government to develop hockey pitches at Seedhill playing fields. Cllr Clark and Cllr Adam highlighted that this option is the most likely to be successful, as there is national funding available to support sports. Renfrewshire Council would help them to apply for the funding. 3) Kelburne could seek to use the new hockey pitch at Park Mains High School. However Kelburne believe this isn't to the required standard. At the meeting Billy asked Alan to gather the Community Council's views on these 3 options. Allan advised that as a Community Council we represent the views of the community, therefore we would need to consult the community on this point, and that we would not do that until the outcome of the appeal were decided. Cllr Clark confirmed that OneRen intend to do nothing in terms of development or lets of Ralston Community Centre until while the appeal is ongoing.

AOB: Potholes on Penilee Bridge: Alison highlighted that these were getting very bad and asked who was responsible for the road surface. Cllr Clark advised that the bridge is owned by Scotrail, however the Council is responsible for the road. Cllr Clark would raise this with Council. **Litter on Penilee Road/Arkleston Road:** Bill highlighted that this was getting very bad, and asked whether the Council to arrange for it to be cleared. Cllr Adam and Cllr Clark agreed to raise this with the Council. **Streetlights on Tylney and other roads:** Bill advised that although the timers had been fixed on his part of Tylney, other lights south of Balfron and other roads were staying on all morning and well into the afternoon. Cllr Clark agreed to raise this with the Council. **Social Media Guide:** Bill gave an overview of the recent social media guide circulated, which largely confirmed we're using the most appropriate platforms for our purposes. **New Members:** Allan advised that 10 people have expressed interest in joining the Community Council, however we can only co-opt 3 before the next election in October. We'll arrange an information evening in the next few weeks.

Cllr Clark

Cllr Adam

Cllr Clark

Cllr Clark

Date of next meeting: Thursday 9 February 2023 at 7:30pm, in person at Ralston Community Centre.