

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 12 October, at Ralston Community Centre

Present: Allan Thompson (Chair), Simon Hall (Secretary), Fergal McCauley (Treasurer), Bill Gray, May Fernie, Michael Conroy.

In Attendance: Cllr Graeme Clark, two Community Wardens, Sarah Findlay (Acumen) and two residents.

Apologies: Alison Scott, Rod McLelland, Bill Whyte, Catherine Gooding, Cllr Neill Graham.

Not in attendance: Cllr Jennifer Adam, Police.

Action

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

Police Report: None in attendance.

Community Wardens: Wardens had no report to present. We discussed trialling a spray-painted dog fouling sign and reviewing its impact. Email Wardens stating the location if we wish to proceed. Our guest speaker, Sarah Findlay, has made personalised signs from slate or skirting board which have been very effective.

Councillor's Reports: **Cllr Clark:** Town Hall: Was at the official re-opening this week, it's an excellent facility – particularly the chimes project. Recommend everyone to go to an event there. Flooding: Couldn't get through to Emergency Services on Saturday - have picked them up on it and requested system changes. Have also requested new drain cleaning programme. A resident highlighted that the junction of Glasgow Road and Darvel has flooded the past 2 years, with water coming into their house. After an FOI request, it seems that there is no cleaning schedule for the drains. Attenuation tanks under the road weren't functioning properly, as they were spouting water rather than retaining it. Cllr Clark offered to look into it and get back to resident with more detail. Local Development Plan: Up for consultation, suggested we ask someone to visit and speak on this.

Cllr Clark

Simon Hall

Guest speaker: Sarah Finlay, Acumen/RAMH: RAMH projects include: Community Service, First Crisis, Housing Support and Acumen. Lived experience of Mental Health, connecting people with policy makers and service providers. They organise: Projects - creative arts for wellbeing; Groups – doing events or projects; Employability – helping people stay in or get back to work; Training – e.g. Scottish mental health first aid and suicide prevention. Last year Acumen assisted over 7,000 people, seen a huge increase since Covid. Waiting time for counselling has increased from 4-6 weeks up to 16 weeks, which is less than statutory services (over 2 years). Cllr Clark highlighted that the Mental Health Fund offers funding between £2k and £30k for projects. If we wanted our Activities Programme to include additional Mental Health support, Sarah would be happy to help.

Rod McLelland

Minutes of the previous meeting: Proposed by Fergal McCauley, seconded by Michael Conroy.

Matters arising from the minutes: New Paisley Grammar Mixed Toilets Proposal: Cllr Clark raised this matter at a Partnership meeting, who will meet the parent Council. The Community Council asked whether parent Councils of feeder schools are being engaged in this matter. If parent Councils wish to be involved, they can contact Cllr Clark.

Secretary's Report: Simon advised that since the last meeting, 18 emails had been received, 2 circulated. Of those not circulated, 1 may be of interest – Slow Ways, developing national walking networks connecting Britain's cities, towns and national parks.

Treasurer's Report: Fergal advised that since the last meeting on the main account there has been income of £90, expenditure of £35.78, resulting in a current balance of £552.78. Community wellbeing fund: £371.32 spend, leaving a balance of £0.00. Lottery fund: £59.68 expenditure, leaving a balance of £8,340.32. Giving a total bank balance of £8,893.10.

Ralston Activities: Rod's email advised that we have worked with OneRen to get the new programme running. There have been several problems with the booking system and double bookings. However 11 classes are now underway, including Yoga, Zumba, Keep Fit, Gentle Keep Fit, Chair Yoga, Pilates, Boot Camp. 160 people have signed up and paid £30. Numbers vary between classes, some full while others many spaces. OneRen are talking of another programme in the New Year, however would like us to organise the booking system. Simon will look into the booking system Susan has recently used for her Daring Greatly class.

Simon Hall

St Mirren Lights: No update. If any in the Community are affected by St Mirren's lights, the Community Council invite them to work together to overcome this issue. We plan to hold another meeting in the new year for those residents who are affected by the issue, we will invite representatives from Renfrewshire Council to attend.

Simon Hall

AOB: Ralston Primary: Michael highlighted that the play equipment in the playground has been declared not fit for purpose. The Parent Council have raised £7k of the £20k required. Streetlights outside St Mirren: May highlighted that these are not working. Cllr Clark will investigate. Community Centre Chairs: May highlighted that they are very dirty and in need of a professional clean. Cllr Clark will investigate. Traffic Survey: Bill highlighted that the report on survey into rat-running, stated that a minimum travel time of 15mins was used – however this seems wrong. Bill will follow up with Cllr Graham.

Cllr Clark

Cllr Clark

Bill Gray

Date of next meeting: AGM and Community Council Elections: Thursday 9 November at 7:30pm, in person at Ralston Community Centre.