

# RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting on 9 February, at Ralston Community Centre

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

**In Attendance:** PC Louise Sung, Cllr Neill Graham, Cllr Graeme Clark, 2 residents.

**Apologies:** Bill Gray, Catherine Gooding.

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

### **Action**

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

**Police Report:** PC Sung advised that in the last month there were: 2 assaults, 7 thefts: 4 wheelie bins and 2 cars. PC Sung advised that there is an organised gang operating in the wider area, particularly targeting Ford's and Land Rover's. Please be vigilant and lock vehicles, don't leave items on show and keep keys/ignition fobs safe and out of sight. PC Sung also advised that she would no longer be covering the Ralston area, but PC Jay Greer and his team would cover Ralston.

**St Mark's Tree:** Two residents thanked the Community Council for posting on Social Media regarding the tree, which sadly has now been removed. These residents felt that the article in the newsletter describing the tree as 'dangerous' was misleading. They were also concerned that when they challenged the church's reasons for wanting to remove the tree, a different reason was given. The Community Council agreed that the use of 'dangerous' had been unfortunate, but different reasons were given because people had a range of reasons for wanting to remove the tree. The church as a whole has been a good neighbour in Ralston over many years, and ultimately it's the church's land to do with as they wish.

**Councillor's Reports:** **Cllr Graham:** December minutes: Cllr Graham met with Friends of Hawkhead Cemetery and discussed their concerns. 20mph zones: Confirmed that roads around school will be included in the proposal for certain roads to have a mandatory 20mph speed limit (rather than advisory). A report on this should be available soon. Dog Poo near school: Council are looking at putting up signs and spraypainted messages on pavement reminding people to clear-up after their dogs. **Cllr Clarke:** Ralston Sports Centre carpark lights: These were fixed yesterday.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Amendment to January's minutes, Lights on Tylney Road, Bill G will contact Cllr Graham, rather than Cllr Clark. Proposed by Fergal McCauley, seconded by Rod McLelland.

**Matters arising from the minutes:** St Mirren Lights: Rod spoke to Colin Hunter regarding the lights facing Bathgo, who confirmed that they were not considered a Statutory Nuisance. However residents on Bathgo are still unhappy and will be contacting Colin directly. Activity Classes: Rod has adjusted the programme to run April-June. 10 classes running, including: keep fit, gentle keep fit, yoga, chair yoga, beginner bowls, wellbeing and Zumba. Two evening classes are being held at the sports centre with the rest at the bowling club. Simon has created a leaflet to promote the classes and an online form for people to book onto them. The classes will be weekly for 10 weeks and will be completely free. We decided to drop the nominal £2 fee, as it would be cumbersome to administer. There will be enough funds available to run further classes later in the year. Rod has also applied for further funding from McCarthy Stone. Ralston in Bloom: Rod showed the printed stickers for the planters. These will be put on nearer spring when they begin to look nice again. Potholes on Penilee Bridge: Cllr Clark has raised this with the Council, but it has not been actioned yet. Litter on Penilee Road: Cllr Clark has raised this with the Council, but it has not been actioned yet. Cllr Graham advised that this is on the schedule to be cleared twice a year. Heartstart training: Bill W said the event on 29 January was a great success with 23 people attending. We will look to run another event at some point in the future.

**Secretary's Report:** Simon advised that since the last meeting, 29 emails had been received, 24 not circulated: 9 for various Council Board meetings, 2 weekly planning lists, 2 roadworks (not Ralston), 1 Update on Paisley Grammar, 1 funding for projects in rural areas, 1 new biodiversity areas (not in Ralston), 1 My Place Awards, 1 tickets for TV show, 3 Community Map Scotland (sent to Bill G who will report at next meeting), 1 Engage Community wellbeing network meeting on 17 Feb (sent to Rod), 1 Tesco funding opportunities (not Ralston), 1 My Guide, Guide dogs. Paisley Grammar: New school opening delayed until August 2026, due to challenges in construction industry. My Guide: Seeking volunteers the My Sighted Guide service, where a volunteer is matched up with someone with sight loss for a weekly walk in the park, visit the gym or a museum. It is an extremely rewarding volunteer role without a great time commitment; the partnerships usually meet once a week for 2 hours, but it is flexible. Simon advised that we have invited them to speak at a future meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Fergal advised that since the last meeting there has been an expenditure of £17.92, resulting in a current balance of £310.78. Ralston in Bloom funding (FR1140): Expenditure of £75.42, leaving a balance of £811.28. We received £8,150 from the Community wellbeing fund, which on top of the games funding gives a balance of £12,642.14.

**Kelburne Hockey Club CAT update:** Appeal Board continued for 6 weeks, must meet by 28 March. They asked further questions of KHC, OneRen, Ralston CC and Paisley East & Whitehaugh CC. Rod highlighted that

OneRen's figures are very low for Ralston Sports Centre, but this is because they refuse to open during the day. Simon highlighted the report at the end of KHC's submission shows that there is an over-supply of grass football pitches in Renfrewshire, and yet KHC seem to think it's appropriate to add to this oversupply instead of providing an synthetic football pitch. Bill W highlighted that KHC indicate that BB and Scouts would pay to use the KHC facility, which doesn't make sense for BB to leave rent-free St Mark's or the Scouts to leave their Scout Hall. Bill also highlighted that KHC's business plan shows £87k for staff costs, but also show £83k profit from staff – which is confusing, how will KHC earn £83k from staff?

**AOB: Library Wall:** May highlighted that the wall by the side of the library with the grates is crumbling. May will send photos to Cllr Graham.

**May Fernie**  
**Cllr Graham**

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