

RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting on 11 January, at Ralston Community Centre

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

In Attendance: Cllr Neill Graham, Cllr Graeme Clark, Louise Sung - Police Officer, Grace Berry & Andy – Ralston After School Care.

Apologies: Bill Whyte.

Not in attendance: Cllr Jennifer Adam, Community Wardens.

Action

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

Police Report: In past month there were 3 domestic incidents, 1 taxi fraud, 1 hit & run, 1 missing person (found), 1 missing dog (found), 1 missing bin.

Community Wardens: Not in attendance.

Councillor's Reports: Cllr Graham: New constituency boundaries: Maps of the new boundaries will be available at the next meeting, or can be viewed here: https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/media/7330/Full-Report/pdf/BCS_2018_Review_Report.pdf?m=1536682643043

Litter on Penilee: Swept on 9 Jan, closing road on 28 Jan to pick remaining litter.

Asking for Arkleston Road to also be done. Community Centre Grounds: Renfrewshire Council will tidy the area. We suggested they also remove the weeds from the flowerbed, thistles by the library wall as well as trim the rosebush. It would be helpful to know when this work would be done.

Cllr Graham

Auchmannoch/Penilee: Looking at Yellow lines at this junction due to parking issues. Gartmore Road Bollard: Has been knocked over, have asked for it to be reinstated. Tylney No access: Have asked for the survey to be rerun.

Cllr Clark: Flooding: Spoken to a Glasgow Councillor to get their portion of the Millburn Culvert serviced. Rusty cabinet: Trying to identify the utility company responsible for the cabinet. Community Centre lights & chairs: Council thought the lights were working, but are not – will raise again. Looking to source a professional cleaner for the chairs.

Cllr Clark

Town Centre Junctions: Consultation closed on 22nd December with over 80 responses. The Project Team are reviewing the feedback. Pavement parking: Four residents have suggested exemptions on pavement parking restrictions, forwarded to the external consultant. The legislation is designed to prevent people being forced into the road as there is no space on the footway. Transport Scotland says a pavement can be considered for exemption if:

- its layout or character would allow for a width of 1.5 metres of the footway to remain unobstructed when any part of a vehicle is parked on it, or

- the layout or character of the carriageway associated with the footway is such that the passage of an emergency vehicle would be impeded by the presence of a vehicle parked on the carriageway.

Police Stations: Police Scotland's estate within Renfrewshire is no longer fit to meet the needs of 21st century policing. Elected members made clear that there is a need to have a centrally located and accessible police station in Paisley. The consultation closes on 31 Jan:

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/involving-you-in-the-future-of-our-estate/> Abbey/Town Hall: Michael noted that these beautiful buildings are not lit up at night.

Guest Speakers Grace Berry and Andy: Ralston After School Care: CAT

Expression of Interest: After School has run since 1995, is based in Ralston Primary, run by parents and is a registered charity. 120 kids on the books, with between 40-70 each day. We want to extend to develop more groups and services, the school has been great, however we have no storage space and can't use it at certain times. Looking for their own premises, initially considered the Sports Centre, but interested in the wedge of land between the school and football pitches to build a Family Centre. Submitted a note of interest to Renfrewshire Council. Allan highlighted that a main issue with the last CAT was the impact on Football; Andy confirmed that although the proposed site is close to the pitches, it won't impact on football. Bill asked whether the land is used at the moment, Andy believes it's used by dog walkers and children after school. May suggested that the school may need to extend in the future; Andy has spoken to the school and Education department and they have no plans to extend and Cllr Clark advised that school role projections do not indicate a future increase. Rod highlighted that we've been working to increase the use of the Sports Centre, and would like to work with others to develop this further. Allan highlighted that RCC won't support or object to any CAT, but rather we'd let the community know the plans and represent their views. Bill asked whether the building would be a single or multiple story building; Andy confirmed a single story building with both indoor and enclosed outdoor spaces. Simon asked how they are planning to fund the project; Andy advised that they have some capital and are speaking to National Lottery, Engage Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council regarding match funding. Cllr Clark advised that parking and access will be a challenge; Andy indicated that they would look at extra parking but their pickup and drop off times are different to the school, so impact will be reduced. Cllr Graham asked how many staff and volunteers they have; Andy confirmed they have 10 staff plus a couple of extra volunteers. Cllr Graham said that communication with groups and local people is key, and advised they do this.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Proposed by Fergal McCauley, seconded by Alison Scott.

Matters arising from the minutes: None.

Secretary's Report: Simon advised that since the last meeting, 16 emails had been received, 1 circulated. Of those not circulated, 2 were Christmas cards and 1 regarding the Scottish Government Democracy Matters Consultation, 28 Feb deadline.

Treasurer's Report: Fergal advised that since the last meeting on the main account there has been expenditure of £138.48, resulting in a current balance of £1074.26. Lottery fund: Income of £4049.75, leaving a balance of £8160.07. Giving a total bank balance of £9334.33.

Ralston Activities: Rod advised that the classes start again on 20 Jan, 240 people enrolled with 6 classes full. Participants will pay £30 at the first class. OneRen have ordered extra heaters. Rod is applying for further grants to continue the programs.

AOB: Trees: May asked Cllr Graham about the tree near her house, Cllr Graham confirmed it had been checked, and would forward the results.

Cllr Graham

Date of next meeting: Thursday 8 February at 7:30pm, in person at Ralston Community Centre.