

# RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting on 8 February, at Ralston Community Centre

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr Graeme Clark, Graham McCann - Police Officer, Martin McKellar – Get Active Coaching.

**Apologies:** Allan Thompson (Chair), Catherine Gooding, Michael Conroy.

**Not in attendance:** Cllr Jennifer Adam, Cllr Neill Graham, Community Wardens.

### **Action**

**Welcome from the Chair:** Fergal chaired in Allan's absence and welcomed all to the meeting.

**Police Report:** In past month 2 crime reports for telephone fraud. Be vigilant and protect the vulnerable. 1 Incident where apples were thrown at cars on Penilee Road, 1 report of an aggressive driver on Kinburnie Road, and reports of a Road buggy being driven erratically along Penilee Road.

**Community Wardens:** Not in attendance.

**Councillor's Reports:** **Cllr Clark:** Community Centre lights & chairs: Chairs have been cleaned. Car Park lights still not working. Town Centre Junctions: Meeting with officers next week for update. Will forward survey results. St Mark's Trees: Was a TPO in place, St Mark's went through the correct procedure, applied for planning permission to remove them, which the Council granted. Short term lets: Met the person who runs locally, impressed with the quality of the property. St Mirren Lights: Council have confirmed that the work St Mirren did to the lighting has removed the statutory nuisance, no further action to be taken. Paisley Grammar: £2m has been approved for the initial build and design, awaiting final cost of build. Police Stations: Encouraged all to respond to the consultation, requesting a like for like replacement, with 24hr walk in presence in Paisley town centre. The consultation closes on 31 Dec 2024:

**Cllr Clark**

**Cllr Clark**

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/involving-you-in-the-future-of-our-estate/>

**Guest Speakers Martin McKellar: Get Active Coaching: Potential CAT:** We are a small CiC not for profit organisation, started 5 years ago. We have 5 employees (1 full time, 1 part time and 3 sessional coaches). We run multi-sports clubs across Renfrewshire as well as other health and fitness programmes. Our mission is to help people connect positively with sports and exercise. At the very early stages of the process, haven't submitted an Expression of Interest yet. Want to start a discussion with the community about the future use of the centre. We plan to keep things as is, and build on what's already there. We would support Ralston Skills and introduce

school holiday clubs. We'd like to make it a community asset, brining charities and community groups in, develop more daytime classes and programmes and introduce walk and talk groups for older residents. Aware that the grass area needs drainage work. Aware that the Astroturf pitch is at end of life and needs significant investment. Keen to hear the thoughts of the community on this. Funding: would fund through some charged-for services and other funding sources. Have secured £60k- funding over the past 5 years. Not been involved in projects like this before, which is why we want to engage with the community. Cllr Clark highlighted that it would be worth talking to Active Communities, who have lots of experience. He also recommended engaging the community was critical.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Proposed by Alison Scott, seconded by May Fernie.

**Matters arising from the minutes: Councillor's Reports:** Community Centre Grounds: Update on tidy-up of the area, weeding flowerbed, thistles by the library wall and trimming the rosebush – Carried forward. Tylney No access: Have asked for the survey to be rerun – Carried forward. Flooding: Servicing of Millburn Culvert – Carried forward. Rusty cabinet: Trying to identify the utility company responsible for the cabinet – Carried forward. Trees: Tree near her house, Cllr Graham confirmed it had been checked, and would forward the results – Carried forward.

**Cllr Graham**

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**Secretary's Report:** Simon advised that since the last meeting, 20 emails had been received, 3 circulated. Of those not circulated, 1 regarding St Mirren lighting, which will be circulated, 1 from a research student asking us to publicise a survey to gather peoples understanding of the Scottish Rainforest. Forward to Fergal and Bill G – consider adding to website.

**Simon Hall**

**Simon Hall**

**Treasurer's Report:** Fergal advised that since the last meeting on the main account there has been no expenditure, £5550 income (from activity class fees) resulting in a current balance of £6624,24. Lottery fund: £4049.75 transferred to admin account, £685 expenditure, leaving a balance of £3425.32. Total bank balance of £10,647.01.

**Ralston Activities:** Rod advised that we are 3 weeks into the new programme of classes. Nearly 200 people attending, out of 240 enrolled. Mainly women attending, considering what would get more men involved. Will also start planning the next programme of classes for after Easter.

**AOB: RCC Forum:** Alison will be attending AGM and ordinary meeting on 11 March, first meeting since June 2023. **Trees on Strathmore:** Alison was disappointed that an Italian tree was being used, when plenty of native trees exist. Cllr Clark will find out why. **TTRO Duchray:** Rod enquired and it will be shut for a month for Scottish Water works.

**Cllr Clark**

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 14 March at 7:30pm, in person at Ralston Community Centre.