

MINUTES OF MEETING

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting Feb 2017 **Ref.:** HCC 02/2017
Location: Carrick Centre, Main Street, Houston **Date:** 15/02/17
Time: 7.30pm **Sheet:** 1 of 7

Present: John McEvoy (jmc) John Chambers (jc) David Dunlop (dd) Jill Jack (jj) Jake Fulton (jf) Gordon Wright (gw) Janet Mason (jm) Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed) Kathy McFall (km) Mark Arthur (ma) Lesley Walker (lw) Helen Parker (hp)	Representing: Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC)	HCC Position: Chair Treasurer Vice Chair Secretary
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In Attendance: Councillor Allan Noon (an) PC Jenner Linda Ruxton	Representing: Renfrewshire Council (RC) Police Scotland (PS) Houston/Ardgryffe Playpark
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Apologies: Provost Anne Hall (ah) Carol Murray (cm) Sharon Chambers (sc)	Representing: Renfrewshire Council (RC) Houston Community Council (HCC) Houston Community Council (HCC)
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Distribution: HCC members and uploaded to the HCC website and issued to Renfrewshire Council

Minutes taken by: Jill Jack Chaired by: John McEvoy

Notes

- John McEvoy welcomed new Community Councillor Lesley Walker and newly appointed Secretary Jill Jack to the meeting.

Item		Action	Date Due
1.00	Apologies		
	Apologies were extended by the above noted people.	Note	
2.00	Approval of Previous Minutes		
	January's minutes were agreed as a true record of that meeting (proposed Gordon Wright and seconded by Janet Mason) and can subsequently be issued to Renfrewshire Council and uploaded to the HCC website.	Note	

Item		Action	Date Due
3.00	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes		
	Refer to the HCC action list attached via excel document.	Note	
4.00	Police Report (PC Jenner left the meeting after giving the Police Report)		
4.01	<p>No copy of written Police report provided due to confidentiality. PC Jenner gave summary regarding the 12 offences – 4 detected during reporting period between 19 January – February 2017. PC Jenner explained the circumstances behind offences he had information on. Proposed to place notice on Facebook page regarding bogus workmen, to make residents aware. No further questions raised by HCC.</p> <p>Summary: 1 break-in at Cormorant Rd 5 thefts – 1 x watch at Gryffe High School, 1 x stolen bag at Houston Shop, 2 x refuse bins stolen, 1 x cash theft (purse stolen, found and handed into Gryffe High School with cards still in purse) 1 x misuse of drugs (cocaine & ecstasy) young adults at Houston shops 1 x fraud – bogus workmen. Common theme to target elderly and damage roof claiming roof repairs required. Propose note to be placed on Facebook to make residents aware. 1 x traffic – no DVLC (genuine renewal issue)</p>	HCC/km	ASAP
5.00	Councillor's Report		
	Councillor Allan Noon gave the following verbal report and left the meeting thereafter:		
5.01	Council budgets due to be confirmed 16/02/17. Await Council tax confirmation. Increase between 0 – 3%.	Note	
5.02	Letter to residents in Council tax Bands E – H regarding change to Council Tax multipliers which will result in increase. The letter does not state that there is no exemption application if you have £16K+ savings. Also confirmed that the letter would not be reissued.	Note	
5.03	£4.2m funding for Renfrewshire schools. £42K to go to Gryffe High School and Houston Primary. St Fillans will receive an allocation however not published as have less than 5 children claiming free school meals.	Note	
5.04	The new RC will decide if LAC will continue in its current form but funding for local projects will still be available. Next meeting May/June 2017.	Note	
5.05	Objection to Retail development at Patons Mill. Proposed supermarket and drive through. Discussed impact on local businesses in surrounding area.	Note	
5.06	Sandholes Rd and Barnscroft development refused. At present with Scottish Government and await further decision.	Note	
5.07	Confirmed there is no policy on affordable housing at RC.	Note	

5.08	Over to you Renfrewshire – grants available for £1000 to improve your Community. John McE withdrew from steering committee due to personal reasons however, information published on Facebook.	Note	
Item		Action	Date Due
6.00	Chairman's Report Please refer to Appendix A for the Chairpersons report with the following items noted.		
6.01	Houston Litter Crew and Bee Happy Houston are now added to our insurance policy. Direct debit not increased, therefore, to check covered and when increase will take place. Also to request copy of insurance policy.	HCC/jmc	ASAP
6.02	Jake and John McE met with Tom Arthur MSP and his team on 20 January 17 to request survey of Craigends residents to establish views on proposals to improve road safety in the area. Mr Arthur very positive, however further contact on 27 January advised due to impending political purdah before upcoming local authority elections, he would be unable to conduct the survey before 4 May.	HCC/jmc & HCC/jf	Follow up May 2017
6.03	Following Inspector Cassie Glass' input at our January meeting re excessive speed is the most widespread concern she hears expressed at Community Council meetings across Renfrewshire, John McE wrote to Mary McElhinney, Chair of the Renfrewshire Community Council Forum to ask if this was an issue she would like to pursue with that group. The answer was affirmative and we are now looking at how to take this forward	HCC/jmc	ASAP
6.04	Asset Register prepared and Mark Arthur will reformat with more data.	Ongoing	HCC meeting March
6.05	Yearly calendar commenced and will be incorporated into meeting pack and updated on an ongoing basis.	HCC/jj	Ongoing
6.06	John McEvoy contacted Mo Wiles, Agricultural Show Secretary, re HCC participation at event on Saturday 3 June 17. Advised HCC would like to be involved at planning stage so that we can "sell" gazebo stand pitches to other groups for HCC funds. Advised we are doing good work and being well received by the community and that this is an important source of funding to us. Mo undertook to make a case for an HCC representative to join steering group and report back. Janet Mason was elected to represent HCC at planning meetings for this event in view of knowledge and past experience.	HCC/jm	Update March HCC meeting
6.07	Kathy advised that request made by church to remove gazebos being stored in church containers. John McE advised he has approx 9 stored on his premises and needs to check condition. Kathy will find	HCC/jmc & HCC/km	Update March meeting

	out how many gazebos are in church containers.		
6.08	Item to be placed on HCC agenda for March to discuss storage of gazebos at Carrick Centre – contact Ian Simpson and Angus Mathieson.	HCC/jmc	Agenda March HCC meeting
6.09	Adam McCartney from Houston Agricultural Show asked if HCC would take out usual advert (half page B/W £45.00) in Kirk Carnival Magazine advertising our presence at the Houston Show. All agreed this is acceptable.	HCC/jmc	March 17
6.10	Discussed HCC presence at planning for HAS and Adam agreed to discuss with committee. Adam advised HCC doing good work and should use the hiring of gazebos at the show as a source of income.	HCC/jmc	Update March HCC meeting
6.11	Adam McCartney requested that a representative of Rotary, possibly Mike Farley, attend our meetings. All agreed this is acceptable.	HCC/jmc	March HCC meeting
6.12	John McE drafted letter to Elaine Lorimer, Senior Transportation Officer at Renfrewshire Council asking for a response to email of 27 November 16 re implementation of Houston residents wishes to introduce a 20mph speed limits. Draft is for HCC discussion before sending. Elizabeth prefaced her remarks by saying that she recognised that nobody else agreed with her, but she would like it noted in the minutes that she considered the tone of the letter argumentative and confrontational. The details misleading and subjective – “overwhelming 73% of our residents were in favour of these speed reductions”, this does not account for all through traffic. After debate agreed to draw line in sand and letter to be sent.	HCC/jmc	ASAP
6.13	LAC Funding Applications for Floral Displays and Christmas Lights 2017-18 have been largely completed. Sub committees required to finalise before submission. Gordon Wright and John McEvoy will head up Floral displays and Mark Arthur and John McEvoy Christmas lights. Mark advised he will keep stakeholders at arm’s length until funds agreed with Fox n Hounds, Houston Inn, Carrick Centre, Malcolm’s, Elderslie Estates, Bowling Club and Newsagent. Meetings will then follow with approach to local primary schools in August after the summer term. Mark will provide a monthly update on plans to date and approaches to stakeholders.	HCC/jmc, HCC/gw & HCC/ ma	Update March HCC meeting
		HCC/ma	Update March HCC meeting
6.14	John McE contacted by Gavin Pennie, the new senior content editor for the Gazette. He requested to keep him up to date with meetings schedule, minutes, and issues of local concern. This invitation is open to all members of HCC, and includes a request for any of us to contribute to the Gazette's new Letters Page.	HCC/jmc & HCC/all	Ongoing

6.15	<p>Notice received of list of public entertainment licences applied for by the Fox n Hounds along with invitation to make observations or lodge objections. All HCC members have a copy for consideration. Elizabeth expressed concern that 38 items was an excessive number and concerned this would become the norm. Raised would be a disturbance issue. Farmers markets would be on top of this list too and need clarity on dates provided. Mark raised also need further information on dates and got to consider other restaurants/pubs and not fair of Fox n Hounds to hedge bets on all dates. Objections to be in place by 21/02/17. All agreed Elizabeth to draft a letter raising concern and to send round members.</p>	HCC/ed	By 21/02/17
6.16	<p>John McE wrote to Mr Alex Sarafitovic at Pars Properties, requesting improvement of the lighting quality at Crosslee shops. Await response.</p>	HCC/jmc	15/03/17
6.17	<p>John McE wrote to Renfrewshire Council Roads Department asking that they reschedule the road works at either the Deafhillock roundabout or those on Clippens Road, since carrying out both sets of work at the same time will seriously inconvenience Houston residents. Councillor Anne Hall, the Provost, has made contact advising she has contacted the roads section on our behalf and will be in touch when she is given a response.</p>	HCC/jmc	15/03/17
6.18	<p>Janet Mason discussed poor lighting on Kirk Rd. After debate members agreed that work would be expensive and Council has other priorities at the present time.</p>	Note	
7.00	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix B for the Treasurers Monthly Report with the following items noted.</p>		
7.01	<p>The closing account balance sits at £8927.16. This includes the Superbowl donation of £450.</p>	Note	
7.02	<p>David Dunlop has now been added as a signatory</p>	Note	
8.00	<p>Matters discussed at February's HCC Meeting</p>		
8.01	<p>Ardgryffe Playpark improvement group was represented by Linda Ruxton. They have 435 residents supporting Facebook page. The Ardgryffe Park at present is not fit for purpose and the group's objective is to replicate the success of Crosslee Playpark with Debbie Stuart leading the team. The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current fundraising includes donations for rotary club, afternoon tea and submission of LAC applications. Funds stand at £15K with aim of raising £70K. At the planning and resource materials stage. Mark Arthur agreed to work with Linda on other avenues to obtain funds. • Suggested approach to Developer Contribution eg Cala and to 	Note	Update HCC March Meeting
		HCC/ma & HPP/lr	
		HPP/lr	

	<p>contact Steve Edwards regarding Green Space Improvements Grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCC agreed to put pressure on Council to fix carpark at park which is in a sorry state and is council owned. • Local football team applying for own funding for pitch. • David also suggested there could be landfill resources available due to proximity of Linwood recycling centre. Mark will add this to matrix. • Door to door raffle tickets good fund raiser. • Use Facebook page to make community aware of funding application. 	<p>HCC/jmc</p> <p>Note HCC/ma</p> <p>Note</p> <p>HPP/lr</p>	
8.02	<p>Christmas Lights Review – Mark and John McEvoy will work on funding applications. Once idea of funding obtained will start to engage stakeholders. Local schools will be engaged at start of new term in Aug 17. Agreed to provide monthly update at HCC meetings.</p>	<p>HCC/jmc & HCC/ma</p>	<p>March HCC Meeting</p>
8.03	<p>Floral Displays – Gordon Wright and John McEvoy will form committee and work on funding applications.</p>	<p>HCC/jmc & HCC/gw</p>	<p>March HCC Meeting</p>
8.04	<p>Update on Craighends Yew – Janet confirmed approximately £1,500 has been raised for the tree and a new wooden plaque will sit adjacent to the Yew tree. Work is on hold until better weather.</p>	<p>Note</p>	
8.05	<p>Update on Flowers/Planters – Gordon gave an update to the HCC confirming the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 7 No. planters donated from RC to be pressure washed and transported to sites – Gordon and Jake to liaise re transportation. To hire van if other transport cannot be sought. ii) Liaison with RC Roads Department to agree traffic management measures for planting ongoing. iii) Gardening subcommittee to set up meeting with Bee Happy to agree £1400 spend before end of financial year. Jake raised concern re buying more planters in view of maintenance required for upkeep and further volunteers would need to be sought via Facebook. iv) Option for tree allocation for Houston roundabout to be in 2017/18 finance allocation. New application would be required. v) LAC Funding Application for Floral Display 2017/2018 Season – John McE and Gordon to complete grant application. 	<p>HCC/gw & HCC/jf</p> <p>Note</p> <p>HCC/gw</p> <p>Note</p> <p>HCC/jmc & HCC/gw</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>W/c 20/02/17</p> <p>15/03/17</p> <p>15/03/17</p>
8.06	<p>Jill showed prototype of Bee Happy Hi-Viz vest with new logo and text. HCC members gave authority for 15 vests to be ordered for volunteers.</p>	<p>HCC/jj</p>	<p>March HCC meeting</p>
8.07	<p>Unpaid workers – Cassie Glass has previously discussed the Community Pay Back Scheme and the person who organises this is to be invited to next meeting.</p>	<p>HCC/jmc</p>	<p>March HCC meeting</p>
8.08	<p>Achievements of previous Houston Community Councils – in view of time restriction this has been carried forward to March's meeting.</p>	<p>HCC/jm</p>	<p>March HCC meeting</p>

Item		Action	Date Due
8.05	Jake provided update on Linking Facebook Page as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now 1000 Facebook members • To email 3 local schools, folk, camera and rotary club. Positive they will come on board with promoting events within community. Issue raised re permission for photos of children on site. No photos will be posted. 	HCC/jf	March's HCC Meeting
9.00	Any Other Business		
9.01	Main Issues Report on the Local Development Plan. David has posted a link to the report on our FB page and encouraged all HCC members to review and give feedback. Next Meeting Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 7.30pm at Carrick Centre Houston Meeting closed by Chairperson John McEvoy at 9.25pm	HCC/all	15/03/17

