

Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting March 2017 Ref: HCC 03/2017
Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston Date: 15/03/17
Time: 7:30pm Sheet: 1 of 7

Present:

John McEvoy (jmc)
John Chambers (jc)
David Dunlop (dd)
Jill Jack (jj)
Sharon Chambers (sc)
Jake Fulton (jf)
Gordon Wright (gw)
Janet Mason (jm)
Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)
Kathy McFall (km)
Mark Arthur (ma)
Lesley Walker (lw)
Carol Murray (cm)

Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)
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HCC Position:

Chair
Treasurer
Vice Chair
Secretary

In Attendance

Councillor Allan Noon (an)
PC O'Hanlon
PC Connor

Representing:

Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Police Scotland (PS)
Police Scotland (PS)

Apologies:

Provost Anne Hall (ah)
Helen Parker (hp)

Representing:

Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)

Distribution:

HCC members and uploaded to the
HCC website and issued to
Renfrewshire Council

Minutes taken by Jill Jack

Chaired by : John McEvoy

1.0 Apologies

Apologies were extended by the above noted people.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

February's minutes were agreed as a true record of that meeting (proposed Kathy McFall and seconded by Janet Mason) and can subsequently be issued to Renfrewshire Council and uploaded to the HCC website.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to the HCC action list attached via excel document.

4.0 Police Report (PC O'Hanlon and PC Connor left the meeting after giving the Police Report)

4.1 PC O'Hanlon gave a summary regarding the 7 offences – 2 detected during reporting period between 15 February – 15 March. PC O'Hanlon explained the circumstances behind offences. .

Summary:

1 x serious assault in street

1 x thefts (groceries)

1 x theft of motor vehicle (car and contents)

2 x RTA Offences – 1 x no insurance/licence, 1 x no insurance

1 x drink driving

1 x vandalism to rear car window

4.2 Smart Water – Reduction in insurance premium will depend on your Insurance Company. There is a tick box on the Smart Water application form which allows your details to be shared with other Insurance Companies which may result in attractive offers. There was 14 likes on HCC fb page promoting Smart Water. Minimum interest is 12 customers per Community Council area to progress. Suggested that price may be an issue with residents. Kathy agreed to establish uptake in Langbank through contact with their Community Council and place reminder on original Facebook post.

4.3 Speeding – Oilfields (Magnus Rd/Fulton Dr), Georgetown Rd and Main St common hotspots. All Community Police Officers now trained in speed trap. Jill Jack advised there is a 40mph sign on lamppost just before St Fillans school on Old Bridge of Weir Rd which is in the 30mph zone which requires removing. Agreed this is to be progressed through contact with Renfrewshire Council.

4.4 PC O'Hanlon advised there will be 2 dedicated officers assigned to Houston from 4 April 2017. There is no campus officer at local schools, however this will form part of the dedicated Officers remit. Jake Fulton asked if Officers will enforce litter management and queried shift patterns. PC O'Hanlon advised this is normally carried out by wardens including management of dog fouling, however, the Police can deal with it if need be though they would have to report offence through the Fiscal.

The dedicated Community Police officers will spend all their time in Houston area during the day on foot or on bikes so you will get to know them. They will always work in twos. There will be no night shifts, however, a response team will be on hand for late calls. There is no Sunday shift, however, this is flexible if for example there is a community event on where police presence would be advantageous.

5.0 Councillor's Report

Councillor Allan Noon gave the following verbal report and left the meeting thereafter.

5.1 Councillor Noon congratulated Jake Fulton on Provost Award. Jake said he was treated to a great evening at the Award Ceremony.

5.2 Most common complaint at surgeries is speeding in particular at Oilfields - speed bumps potentially an option. Councillor Noon advised he is not in favour of chicanes to reduce speeding. Enough problems keeping speed limit to 30mph without reduction to 20 mph especially as this is a bus route.

5.3 Proposal of Application notice and site plan received from Houghton Planning for land south of Woodend House, Houston Rd, Houston. Outline of site shown to Council members for residential development. John Chambers advised there is potentially space on land for 100 properties. Require to get back in touch with developers for more information of development plans and when Public Consultation will take place, then can make residents aware.

David advised would need to look at infrastructure, schooling capacity, sewage, flood risk, connectivity, green networks, is Woodend House a listed building?, affordable housing etc. Last 3 property developments have been on Council land so this is a different entity. Require to speak to Russell Gibb at RC and contact builders Houghton Planning for more information on 07780117708.

5.4 St Fillans school removing pupil capacity.

5.5 The largest single investment for maintenance of Renfrewshire roads network announced with £6.7million allocated. Council tax and rent zero increase.

5.6 £20k allocated to local area committees. Allan confirmed this will be shared with other areas ie not solely allocated to Houston.

5.7 May 3rd 2017 will be Councillors Allan Noon's last day in office after 18 yrs service to our community. He wished HCC well for the future. HCC congratulated him on his long standing service and thanks for attendance and contribution at meetings.

All nominations for Councillor vacancy's to be in within next 2 weeks.

6.0 Chairman's Report

Please refer to Appendix A for the Chairpersons report with the following items noted:

6.1 John McEvoy attended Provost's Awards Dinner with Jake Fulton to see him collect his Provost's Community Volunteer of the Year Award. A magnificent evening during which Jake was given just recognition for his fantastic work.

6.2 John McEvoy attended Renfrewshire Community Council Forum and asked if other Community Councils would discuss reducing speed limits. Anne McNaughton is collating their decisions, which are due to be with her in early April. Initial feeling was that some Councils want to go for it.

6.3 Completed LAC grant applications along with Mark Arthur and Gordon Wright and submitted to Renfrewshire Council. This entailed working with Gordon to make sure the remaining part of our 2016/17 budget was spent. Confirmation that this has now been done.

6.4 Smart Water. Following Kathy's post on our Facebook page it looks like we have enough interest to proceed – 14 likes to date, require a minimum of 12 to progress. May be a decrease in insurance premiums depending on insurance Co. Kathy to approach Langbank CC to establish their uptake in Smart Water and also place reminder on HCC fb page.

6.5 Karen Keane from the team that organises unpaid workers has agreed to speak to us at our next HCC meeting in April.

6.6 John McEvoy submitted complaint to RC regarding surface of car park at Ardgryffe Park on behalf of residents and await response.

6.7 Request received if HCC can co-ordinate the registration of the village's public access defibrillators with the Scottish Ambulance Service. There appear to be a number of these around the village and Kathy McFall has identified that they are currently held at Houston Co-op, Carrick Centre, The Kirk, Dentist surgery in North Street and Strathgryffe tennis club. Kathy will make contact with locations where defibrillators held to ask if ok to register.

6.8 Raymond Laing of Locher and Gryffebank residents Associations has written to thank us for the help we gave them with their footpaths last year. Two of them have now been upgraded and are in the process of being adopted. They hope to have the final path completed by the summer.

6.9 John McEvoy made contact with Mr Alex Sarafitovic re lighting at Crosslee shops. He replied saying that the site is owned by Renfrewshire Council, who lease it to his company on a ground lease. If residents feel the lighting is too dull we could perhaps check if this is a general view and approach RC on their behalf. Agreed that John would contact RC Community Resources to see what options are available to improve lighting eg stronger bulbs.

7.0 Treasurer's Report

Please refer to Appendix B for the Treasurers Monthly Report with the following items noted:

7.1 The closing account balance sits at £4101.13. This includes additional items not shown on bank account ie Hi viz vests, water bowser, planters, jubilee clips, jerry cans, compost and plants.

8.0 Matters discussed at March HCC Meeting

8.1 Update on Flowers/Planters from Gordon Wright - Budget 2016 has been spent. Plants and 2 x planters still to arrive. Await time to plant and then can progress with plant order. Confirmed that funding application for 2017 is the same as 2016. Idea to have picnic bench around Yew Tree – concern raised that it could encourage kids to hang about and rubbish would accrue.

8.2 Local Outcome Improvement Plan – not all council members have read plan and able to provide comment.

David Dunlop commented that rural areas are excluded from transport and connectivity – need to work with other Community Councils on how to tackle.

Janet Mason advised when there was an open day for McGill's buses only 9 residents came which included 4 HCC members. Comment made that there is a lack of a Sunday service which affects students getting to work.

David advised other areas to consider are aging population, connectivity of employment, resource into education system, cut in class sizes and business start-ups.

Elizabeth Dalgetty lead discussion on Council playing human chess to get grant money to improve area ie problem shunted to other areas.

Agreed David Dunlop to lead this item going forward.

8.3 Paisley City of Culture 2017 Bid – John McEvoy lead discussion, opening that rural community councils had reservations about supporting the bid as it could potentially take resources away from them and direct them to Paisley.

HCC members agreed that Paisley is in a poor state of repair and we are living close to it. View is we want it to get better and lots of potential for it to improve.

Janet advised that they have got to improve the area before they can win bid. If Houston not going to lose out why not support it. Resource from RC will go to Paisley. View taken not to ignore asset that local villages will have.

Suggestion made to promote Paisley bid at Houston show which some council members had reservations about.

David Dunlop to send round article which was in Herald for Council members to read. Discuss at next meeting how we communicate to residents how to support bid.

8.4 Achievements of Previous Houston Community Councils – Janet Mason confirmed numerous achievements over the years. Agreed item to be closed.

9.0 Any Other Business

9.1 Virgin currently working in the Houston area which is causing some disruption to residents –

Elizabeth Dalgetty advised workmen are trying hard to accommodate residents.

9.2 Council owned Village Hall let to be put on agenda for April's meeting with view to drawing up a business plan and being notified of any developments. Angus Matheson has advised that the Church of the Nazarene is giving up its rent of the village hall. The running costs are in the region of £50,000 - £80,000 per year, largely due to caretaker costs. In addition it would probably cost around £250,000 to bring property up to spec. John McEvoy pointed out that Houston was well provided with halls. Agreed to monitor the situation.

9.3 Jill requested Council members permission to submit good news story in local Advertiser with volunteering groups associate with HCC ie Litter Crew and Bee Happy. All agreed.

9.4 Tesco bags of help to be added to funding matrix.

9.5 Mark made request to Bee Happy Gardening Group to clear Houston Inn carpark of overgrown shrubs etc next to burn. Jill advised this area had been discussed but other projects still being worked on but agreed to discuss with Bee Happy volunteers and look at area and work involved.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 19 April 2017 at 7.30pm in Carrick Centre Houston
Meeting closed by Chairperson John McEvoy at 9.25pm**