

Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting Aug 2017

Ref: HCC 08/2017

Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston

Date: 16/08/17

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 6

Present:

John McEvoy

Jill Jack (jj)

Jake Fulton (jf)

Janet Mason (jm)

John Chambers (jc)

Sharon Chambers (sc)

Kathy McFall (km)

Helen Parker (hp)

Liam Smith (ls)

Gordon Wright (gw)

Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)

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HCC Position:

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

In Attendance

PC Martin Norwood

PC Brian Dick

Cllr Alison Dowling (ad)

Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)

Representing:

Police Scotland (PS)

Police Scotland (PS)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Apologies:

David Dunlop

Mark Arthur

Elizabeth Dalgetty

Lesley Walker

Carol Murray

Jim Sheridan

Scott Kerr

Representing:

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Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

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

July's minutes approved by Sharon Chambers and seconded by Gordon Wright.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to the HCC action list attached via excel document.

4.0 Police Report (PC Norwood and PC Dick left the meeting after giving the Police Report)

4.1 Summary of 9 offences – 3 detected during reporting period between 19 July –16 Aug.

Summary:

1 x house break-in to garage

1 x theft of motor vehicle

1 x wallet from insecure motor vehicle and 1 x attempt to steal van

1 x breach of peace

1 x drink driving

1 x fail to report road traffic accident

1 x vandalism to car headlight

4.2 Community police will be visiting schools w/c 21/08 and litter/drugs will be on the agenda. Will speak to parents if need be. Got a full academic year with pupils and will utilise plain clothes if required.

5.0 Councillors Reports

Audrey Doig

5.1 Deafhillock roundabout – Meeting with roads dept on 17/08 at 10am. Lanes need sorted (width of road varies causing lane confusion), signage required regarding priorities, resurfacing and pavements in need to attention.

Services for water and BT lines still to be fitted and required to link up facilities. Works will be extended to mid-December provided no technical difficulties. Further closure after New Year for another 2 weeks. There are no sanctions that Roads Dept can put on developers.

Audrey has requested lining drawings, however, no response as yet.

Diversion putting pressure on Linwood roads and residents need to plan journeys. Audrey and Jim Sheridan will update following meeting.

5.2 LED – If residents have concerns that areas are too dark, they are to go through council reporting systems via website under complaints section. There may be other options of changing lamp positions or to appeal against original decision if turned down for further lighting.

5.3 Turning Point Charity – Cllr Doig raised awareness that this charity had put an offer in to buy a large residential home in Brookfield which was turned down. If 5 or less occupants do not require planning permission and concern what it would be used for? Property purchased of this nature tends to be more out the way. HCC members advised that more transparency would be required on use of property before further comment.

5.4 Proposed installation of phone mast at Magnus Rd has seen a high number of objections received by residents. It is currently on hold for review and await further detail.

Alison Dowling

5.5 There has been an increase in residents' queries concerning maintenance of public pathways.

6.0 Treasurer Report

6.1 Opening balance £4112, Income £10030 (including £10K LAC funding). Total expenses £159 which includes Secretary, insurance and jubilee clips. Closing balance £13983. Items not included in statement Houston Show £165, Carnival Advert -£45, Litter pick find £6 and hall hire -£34.

7.0 Secretary Report

7.1 Metal Bridge - Taylor Wimpey has made the metal bridge safe and complies with H&S regulations. Currently in the process of multiple tendering for all aspects of proposed works and this will take some time. No works have been planned or agreed. A meeting between or MD and Legal Solicitor will take place once all information and proposals are ready for review. Invitation sent to local councillors to attend site to potentially take up the cause.

7.2 AGM - to be held in **October 2017**. During September, the Treasurer is to prepare the community council's annual accounts for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and have these independently examined by two persons who are not members. The accounts do not need to be examined by a qualified accountant. The signed accounts to be passed to the Secretary for issue with the AGM agenda, or copies distributed at the AGM meeting for members to read. At the AGM, the Chairperson should ask members to (read and) approve the accounts. Once the accounts have been approved at the AGM, a copy should be sent to Anne McNaughton who will release the annual Administration Allowance - paid by the Council towards running costs for 2017/18.

7.3 HCC Membership Details - Provided up to date information to Engage Renfrewshire on our contact details ie website, email etc.

7.4 Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership: Our Renfrewshire Survey – Posted on fb for residents completion by 01/09.

8.0 Chairpersons Report

8.1 emailed general managers at Houston Inn and Fox and Hounds to say that the community council had no objections to them holding a joint beer festival along with Main Street Bar and Grill on 24th September.

8.2 Agreed with Karen Keene of the Community Payback (unpaid workers) Scheme that she attends our September meeting. Sent her photograph of collapsed wall in Quarry Brae to see if this would be a suitable project.

8.3 Sent details of worst potholes in North Street to Councillor Sheridan, who achieved a successful outcome.

8.4 As agreed at July meeting I wrote to John Wallace of Renfrewshire Council lighting department asking that future lighting be of a consistent style. Also asked when the damaged lamppost at the roundabout on Main Street would be repaired or replaced. Included request arising from concerns expressed previously that the lights at the shops in Crosslee be fitted with brighter bulbs. Also asked for some general updates on Christmas lights. I await his response.

8.5 Emailed all members of Renfrewshire Council board that is considering reducing speed limit to 20 mph in residential areas informing them that this initiative now has the support of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and the Glasgow Centre for Population Health.

8.6 Had very detailed email from Nick Horton expressing concerns about design of new Deafhillock roundabout and the further disruption which is scheduled to last for another 3 or 4 months. Contacted Community Resources at Renfrewshire Council asking them to provide me with details of additional work. So far they haven't responded.

8.7 Submitted to Renfrewshire Council observations on behalf of the community council regarding the proposed mast on Magnus Road. These consisted of specific reservations and suggestions to mitigate the impact of the mast.

8.8 Amber Gillies and Stephanie Brawn of the Gazette emailed me for details of the damage done by Virgin Media and of the disruption they had caused in the village. Gave her the details, including those of the emergency meeting called by Community Resources in March when they were told to improve their standards and the work done by Councillors Sheridan and Doig as well as former Councillor Hall. She sent a photographer but I don't know the outcome.

8.9 Paul McDonald of BT contacted me to say that as soon as he had a date for the painting team coming to Scotland he would let me know. Posted message to that effect on our Facebook page and hopefully this will stop any over-enthusiastic residents trying to take on the job themselves.

8.10 Fred Hallsworth of Houston House resurrected the idea of twinning with Houston Texas and the potential advantages to the village. Told him about David's enthusiasm for this. David will give details later in the meeting.

8.11 Distributed copies of surveys on future of LACs and attitudes to alcohol for discussion and agreed responses by Houston Community Council. Posted a link to the latter on our Facebook page to allow residents to comment.

8.12 Amended Lesley Walker's form inviting people to become Friends of Bee Happy Houston to read that any cheques should be sent to our Treasurer and asked Kathy to publish our Facebook page. Post to include full credit to Marion Greig, whose idea this was.

9.0 Craigends Yew Tree

9.1 Signage has arrived; however, area surrounding the yew tree is overgrown. Janet is following up contact with Mark Crichton Maitland to arrange for forestry workers to clear the area. Plinth requires renovation too.

10.0 Flowers/Planters

10.1 Preliminary discussions taken place on £5k spend. Plan to buy equipment to maintain areas around planters eg mower and strimmer. Also considering further planters and bulbs.

Discussions took place on developing village green area at Mercat Cross and benches in Houston Park. Sub-committee to meet with Bee Happy to progress plans. Jake advised to make what Bee Happy does visible to the full community and there are areas in mind to develop outwith the centre of the village.

11.0 Update on Christmas Lights

11.1 Christmas motif competition boxes with both Houston Primary schools. Email to be sent to Head Teachers confirming collection of shortlisted motifs by 01/09.

Suggest scanning motifs and send to HCC members to vote for winner's w/c 04/09.

11.2 Fireworks – spoken to supplier (Eddie) and requested same as previous year with £750 spend. Requested quote and risk assessment and method statement. Also asked Eddie to liaise with the field owner (same as last year as worked well).

11.3 Emailed Fox and Hounds re flyer. Asked to include logo for River Inn and Main St Bar & Grill.

11.4 Meeting arranged with RC John Wallace 18/08 @ 4pm to walk through this year's proposals. Location of switch on stand and installation date to be discussed with John and what support required on the night. Together with provision of Christmas tree at Carrick Centre and linkup to light switch on.

11.5 Unofficial confirmation that Carrick Centre shall donate £1K towards costs.

11.6 To liaise with John C re road closures and associated costs. Application issued and police notifications etc.

11.7 Liaise with Main St Bar & Grill, Houston Inn and Fox & Hounds to agree funding donations. Sent email to Nicola Steele requesting dates for all to meet up.

11.8 Entertainment to be agreed. To establish what entertainment is being provided by pubs. An HCC member will be Santa for the event.

11.9 Approach contact (Jeff) re providing 2000 leaflets. Distribution list to be drawn up.

11.10 Keen to ask RC to place the whole order for this year's lights to save VAT. If submit order by 31/08 get 10% discount from Blanchere Illuminations. (Blanchere confirmed will be our discount on kids motifs even though after 31/08)

11.11 Agreed to go ahead and to discuss carol singing with primary **and** secondary schools.

11.12 Agreed no entry fee but to have 10 x donation buckets on the night.

11.13 Fox & Hounds are hiring a marquee for their carpark. Re stalls at the event – Cllr Doig mentioned this could have licence problems. Discussed Gazebos for choir to stand under – HCC decided that this may impair visibility and won't be able to see children singing. John C will look at providing cones and barriers.

11.14 Discussion on Bowling Club opening up hall for face painting/dancing display. Decided if they want to organise this independently that is ok.

11.15 Potential funding avenues - Bowling club and WH Malcom.

11.16 Mark will discuss photos at the event with Graham Peters.

11.17 John McE to line up Gazette for the event to take some PR photos and write an article.

11.18 HCC roles and responsibilities for the night to be developed over the next 2 to 3 months eg someone overseeing traffic, looking after competition winners, donation bucket collectors.

11.19 John McE to write to Provost to attend event.

12.0 Planning Application for Ground at end of Neuk Crescent

12.1 Discussion took place on possibility of HCC buying ground for £1. Total costs could run into £1,000s with legal fees etc. Agreed not to proceed.

13.0 Twinning with Houston Texas

13.1 See Chairperson Report item 8.10 for details.

14.0 Update on Craighends Traffic Survey

14.1 Tom Arthur MSP has received 500 responses so far and results will be published once reviewed.

15.0 Surveys

15.1 Following discussion at our August HCC meeting, HCC have completed the LAC survey following commentary from members.

Alcohol survey posted on HCC fb page for residents to respond.

Meeting closed at 9:30pm. Next meeting will be on 20 September in the Carrick Centre at 7:30pm.