

MINUTES OF MEETING

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting March 2016 **Ref.:** HCC 03/2016
Location: Carrick Centre, Main Street, Houston **Date:** 16/03/16
Time: 7.30 p.m. **Sheet:** 1 of 4

| Attendees: | Representing: | HCC Position: |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| John McEvoy (jmc) | Houston Community Council (HCC) | Chair |
| John Chambers (jc) | Houston Community Council (HCC) | Treasurer |
| Sharon Chambers (sc) | Houston Community Council (HCC) | |
| Helen Parker (hp) | Houston Community Council (HCC) | |
| David Dunlop (dd) | Houston Community Council (HCC) | |
| Janet Mason (jm) | Houston Community Council (HCC) | |
| Kathy McFall (km) | Houston Community Council (HCC) | |
| Gordon Wright (gw) | Houston Community Council (HCC) | |
| Councillor Stuart Clark (sc) | Renfrewshire Council (RC) | |
| Inspector Cathie Glass (cg) | Police Scotland (PS) | |
| Jake Fulton (jf) | Resident of Houston (RofH) | |
| Sheila McArthur (sm) | Resident of Houston (RofH) | |
| Mark Arthur (ma) | Houston Community Council (HCC) | |

| Apologies: | Representing: |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Caroline Wengel (cw) | Houston Community Council (HCC) |
| Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed) | Houston Community Council (HCC) |
| Councillor Anne Hall (ah) | Renfrewshire Council (RC) |

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

Minutes taken by: Mark Arthur **Chaired by:** John McEvoy

| Item | Action | Date Due |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| <p>Prior to the meeting commencing two members of the public were asked if they wanted to raise their points or concerns.</p> <p>A resume is noted below</p> <p>Point 1 Crosslee Road Boy Racers and Fly Tipping – Concerns were raised about both with fly tipping being covered elsewhere in the meeting. Inspector Glass shall liaise with RC Roads Department to request signage clearly confirming the speed limit and Police Scotland asked all residents on the road to contact them immediately when this occurs again and where possible to take note of registration numbers.</p> | <p>PS/cg</p> | <p>ASAP</p> |

| Item | | Action | Date Due |
|-------------|---|----------------|----------|
| | <p>Point 2 Setting up a Houston Community Clean Up Group – Mr Fulton confirmed he would like to get involved in a similar scheme in Houston to that being provided in Maybole Ayrshire where he used to live. Agreed Kathy shall liaise directly with Mr Fulton to add this new Group to the HCC website. Also confirmed we should contact RC Community Resources to get bin bags and Hi Viz vests and litter ‘pick up’ tools and also agree collection dates for rubbish / litter bags after the community clean up group has finished. Furthermore, it was suggested we could contact a similar group at Gryffe High who participate in a school clean up in the village at present. Finally also noted the main roads into Houston are particularly bad for litter and this would need to be addressed by the Group at a later date with traffic calming / control measures required to facilitate the clean up.</p> <p>Cllr Stuart Clark offered to help and support this initiative.</p> | HCC/km & RC/sc | ASAP |
| 1.00 | <p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were extended by the above noted people.</p> | Note | |
| 2.00 | <p>Approval of Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of HCC meeting held on 17th February were agreed as a true record of that meeting (proposed Kathy McFall and seconded Gordon Wright) and can subsequently be issued to Renfrewshire Council and uploaded to the HCC website.</p> | Note | |
| 3.00 | <p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>Refer to the HCC action list attached.</p> | Note | |
| 4.00 | <p>Police Report (Inspector Glass left the meeting after giving her report)</p> | | |
| 4.01 | <p>Please refer to Appendix A for Inspector Glass’ report with 6 No. incidents leading to 4 No. crime offences reported in the month. Inspector Glass explained the circumstances behind each offence with no further actions required by the HCC.</p> | Note | |
| 4.02 | <p>Smart Water, Elderslie Estates – Inspector Glass confirmed that Elderslie Estates are currently reviewing the use of this for their property portfolio.</p> | Note | |
| 4.03 | <p>Bus Shelter Damage – Inspector Glass confirmed this is a Renfrewshire wide issue at present and it is difficult to catch the offenders due to lack of CCTV coverage in the Houston community / area.</p> | Note | |
| 5.00 | <p>Councillors’ Report</p> <p>Cllr Clark gave the following verbal report.</p> | | |
| 5.01 | <p>RC Budget – Cllr Clark confirmed a 3.6% reduction for the coming year.</p> | Note | |
| 5.02 | <p>Social Work Budget – Cllr Clark confirmed this is one of the few budgets to be increased.</p> | Note | |

| Item | | Action | Date Due |
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| 5.03 | Education Budget – Cllr Clark confirmed the council shall be looking at more share campus opportunities however unlikely Houston shall be affected by this. | Note | |
| 5.04 | Ferguslie Park Elite Sports Village – Cllr Clark confirmed a new sports village shall be created in partnership with St Mirren FC and the West of Scotland University. | Note | |
| 5.05 | St James Playing Fields Paisley – Cllr Clark confirmed there is a push on to try and attract more national and international events to the playing fields. | Note | |
| 5.06 | Investment in Broadband and Free Wi Fi in Major RC Town Centres – Cllr Clark confirmed there are funds being released to provide free Wifi in town centres and to a lesser extent rural areas / villages in Renfrewshire. | Note | |
| 5.07 | Park Upgrade Fund – Cllr Clark confirmed there may be funding available to upgrade Ardgyffe Park and HCC should liaise with Houston Playpark Improvement Group and the local Houston football team. Agreed to review in greater detail at April's HCC meeting. | All | April's HCC Meeting |
| 5.08 | New Bus Shelter on Magnus Road – Cllr Clark confirmed a new bus shelter should be provided soon for one of the existing bus stops. | Note | |
| 5.09 | Brierie Hill Flooding Issues – Cllr Clark confirmed the historical flooding issues going back circa ten years should be resolved soon. | Note | |
| 5.10 | Fence at Main Roundabout – Cllr Clark confirmed it would appear the Council shall be doing a repair to the fence. | Note | |
| 6.00 | <p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix B for the Chairman's report with the following items noted.</p> | | |
| 6.01 | Gryffe High PTA Request for a Stall at the Houston Agricultural Show – Agreed to provide a HCC stall at a charge of £40 in line with all other agreements for the show. John to confirm with them. | HCC/jmc | ASAP |
| 7.00 | <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>John gave the following verbal report.</p> | | |
| 7.01 | The account balance sits at £3,146 after receipt of RC's £805 admission grant. | Note | |
| 8.00 | <p>Matters to be Discussed at March's HCC Meeting</p> | | |
| 8.01 | Agree Wording / Content of Christmas Lights Funding Application – No further matters to discuss apart from the ability to involve the schools in the design via a competition. | Note | |

| Item | | Action | Date Due |
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| 8.02 | Agree Wording / Content of Flower Display Funding Application – No further matters to discuss apart from John McEvoy confirming that the Fox and Hounds and Houston Inn are keen to assist / help HCC with this initiative. | Note | |
| 9.00 | Any Other Business | | |
| 9.01 | Houston Agricultural Show HCC Stand – Agreed to take a stand as normal with a raffle. Prizes and set up to be agreed at April's HCC Meeting. | All | April's HCC Meeting |
| 9.02 | Asset Register – Mark suggested creating an Asset register to keep track of existing and new assets. Agreed to discuss at April's HCC meeting. | All | April's HCC Meeting |

Next Meeting:

Date / Time: Wednesday 20th April 2016

Meeting closed by Chairperson, John McEvoy, at 9.00pm

Houston Community Council Meeting

Action List

| ID No. | Description | Owner | Date Due | Status |
|--------|---|--------|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1.0 | <p>Police Report</p> <p>John McEvoy asked about SMART Water project. Police says it is being trialled in Langbank. Smart water is basically property marking. Police offered to discuss this with the committee at a separate meeting if they wished. Feeling of committee was to wait and see how it fairs in Langbank.</p> <p>(Update 17/02/16 – WIP and Sgt Mack shall give HCC feedback in due course)</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – Insp Glass confirmed the smart water kits have been ordered for Langbank and feedback / progress shall be reported in due course.)</p> | PS/cg | ASAP | |
| 2.0 | <p>Carol Murray taking these minutes, Mark Arthur agreed to do minutes thereafter, making him the Minutes Secretary. HCC still require person to perform other duties of the secretary post.</p> <p>An advert will be placed for a secretary.</p> <p>(Update 17/02/16 – Agreed not required with Mark and David Covering this role at present)</p> | Closed | Closed | |
| 3.0 | <p>Replacement lights required on big roundabout near shops, Allan Noon is trying to get them replaced.</p> <p>(Update 17/02/16 – Cllr Noon shall give an update at March's meeting)</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – Cllr Noon was not present to give an update)</p> | RC/an | April 2016 | |
| 4.0 | <p>Update on walk bridge over River Gryffe - Taylor Woodrow own wooden bridge over River Gryffe – Renfrewshire Council are in talks with Taylor Woodrow about maintenance and repair. However it has been repaired by Taylor Woodrow recently. It is a safe walking route to school and was erected 30 years ago. It was noted that the main road is very busy and not a desirable route for children to use to go to School. Hence there is a definite need for the bridge to get kids to school safely. Councillor Noon said children might be bussed.</p> <p>J McEvoy asked how we could help. It was suggested HCC write to Taylor Woodrow. This could be covered by Corporate Social Liability. Stuart Clark says he will send contact details for Taylor Woodrow.</p> | HC/jmc | Reviewed at April's HCC Meeting | |

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| | (Update 17/02/16 – HCC/jmc confirmed he has sent an email to Taylor Woodrow and they have replied confirming they are currently in ongoing discussions with Renfrewshire Council. Agreed HCC to monitor progress and chase up if no formal response to maintenance of the bridge is confirmed in the near future) (Update 16/03/16 – No update from Messrs Taylor Woodrow. WIP) | | | |
| 5.0 | We have potential projects – possibly HCC look at project of planting a hedge instead of shabby fence. If we plant it possible maintenance by Council. Council would maintain it if it was not too elaborate. (Update 17/02/16 – Agreed to incorporate these works under the funding application for Spring / Summer planters, benches and flower beds etc.) | Closed | Closed | |
| 6.0 | Lighting – Kirk Road and Houston Park – Council are replacing lamps to energy saving. Suggestion of getting Cala Builders involved as they are currently building houses in that area – Community benefits. (Update 17/02/16 – Agreed too late. Closed) | Closed | Closed | |
| 7.0 | J McEvoy suggested a HCC member does this. Kathy McFall volunteered to do this. (Update 17/02/16 – WIP) (Update 16/03/16 – Kathy confirmed the website is up and running but may need a refresh in the future. Agreed item 7.0 is now closed.) | Closed | Closed | |
| 8.0 | Citizen Theatre contacted, J McEvoy looking for a venue – Bob Finnie said they were doing production in the Kirk Hall. (Update 17/02/16 – Closed) | Closed | Closed | |
| 9.0 | 3 remote footpaths, Gryffebank Resident Association, not adopted by Council – drains in some of these. There is also lighting – Council will look after lighting. Paths from Gryffebank through to Locher will not be maintained by the Council. Janet Mason will attend the Woodside residents Association meeting on the 2 nd February to give a HCC point of view. (Update 17/02/16 – HCC/jm confirmed the residents are looking out their title deeds and agreed in the interim HCC/jmc shall write to Renfrewshire Council noting our concerns. HCC/cm to confirm the exact names of all affected paths so John can capture in his letter) | HCC/jmc & Cllr/sc | Update at April's HCC Meeting | |

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| | (Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairman’s report a letter has been sent to Mr Scott Allan RC Roads Department with no response to date. Furthermore Cllr Clark shall write to Mr Allan to try and help resolve this matter.) | | | |
| 10.0 | Traffic Issues Elizabeth Dalgetty suggested changing HCC name to include Crosslee – a discussion took place but committee decided on status quo. (Update 17/02/16 – Agreed a smaller prioritised plan is required before we approach Renfrewshire Council’s Roads Department and Police Scotland outlining our concerns. Agreed HCC/jmc, HCC/ed and JCC/hp shall form a sub committee to progress with HCC/ed being the lead for the time being) (Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairman’s report a meeting has been held and it was agreed David Dunlop shall join the sub-committee with a detailed review to be carried out at April’s HCC meeting.) | HCC/jmc. HCC/hp, HCC/dd & HCC/ed | Update at April’s HCC Meeting | |
| 11.0 | Waste Disposal Mark Arthur suggested requesting statistics on flytipping just now and then 6 months later. (Update 17/02/16 – Agreed HCC/jmc to issue a FOI request covering the last 12 months) (Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairperson’s report a FOI request to RC has confirmed 372 No. incidents of fly-tipping occurred in Renfrewshire over the 12 month period ending 31st January 2016. Agreed to do a further FOI request on 6 monthly or annual basis.) | HCC/jmc | August 2016 or February 2017 | |
| 12.0 | Yew Tree Janet Mason – Janet will set up a sub-committee to investigate current state of Yew Tree and how best to proceed to protect this Houston attraction. (Update 17/02/16 – HCC/jm confirmed she awaits a response from the Forestry Commission regarding their plans to maintain this tree and the surrounding areas / grounds.) (Update 16/03/16 – Forestry Commission have been in touch and shall confirm a date to meet at the tree in the near future.) | HCC/jm | Update at April’s HCC Meeting | |
| 13.0 | Farmers Market | HCC/cw | Update at | |

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| | <p>Caroline Wengel will investigate possibility of HCC hosting a farmers market, possibly in Carrick Centre Car Park.</p> <p>(Update 17/02/16 – Agreed HCC/cw to give an update regarding process at next month’s HCC Meeting.)</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – No update available. WIP.)</p> | | April’s HCC Meeting | |
| 14.0 | <p>Cycle Path</p> <p>Carol Murray suggested investigating possible creation of cycle paths linking to main cycle path. At present this is aspirational due to funding cuts but asked could we create cycle paths in sections (as funds permit).</p> <p>(Update 17/02/16 – HCC/jmc confirmed he has drafted a response to Renfrewshire Council’s “Outdoor for You” questionnaire and after review all present agreed happy for John to submit his thoughts on behalf of HCC with a key focus on linking isolated communities. This should include HCC/ma’s comments about basic improvements and maintenance of existing pathways connecting the various parts / areas of Houston.</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairman’s report a response has been sent on behalf of HCC and a request for Dr Kate Cuthbert to attend the HCC May or June meeting to discuss further.)</p> | HCC/jmc | Prior to July’s HCC Meeting | |
| 15.0 | <p>European Fund</p> <p>There was £2 million. Janet Mason will report back on this.</p> <p>Office bearers to meet with Stuart Clark re funding.</p> <p>(Update 17/02/16 – Meeting was held on Monday 15th February. Closed)</p> | Closed | Closed | |
| 16.0 | <p>Point 2 Poor Fibre / Broadband Connectivity Speed – HCC/jmc agreed to make contact with BT letting them know limited improvement has been experience after their upgrade programme.</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairperson’s report Item 2.0 under correspondence.)</p> | Closed | Closed | |
| 17.0 | <p>Point 3 Overgrown Trees from Private Gardens in Public pathways to and from Shops – HCC/jmc shall write to the Council asking for their stance.</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairperson’s report Item 1.0 under correspondence. John awaits a reply</p> | HCC/jmc | Update at April’s HCC Meeting | |

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| | from RC regarding this matter.) | | | |
| 18.0 | Bus Shelters – Cllr Noon raised his concerns regarding the level of vandalism recently being witnessed to bus shelters. Agreed Sgt Mack shall report this to his Rural Surveillance Team to monitor the situation going forward. (Update 16/03/16 - Refer to the police report under Section 4.0. Closed.) | Closed | Closed | |
| 19.0 | Yearly Litter Clean Up Initiative – RC/an suggested another clean up is required with the area around the shops being particularly bad. Agreed to agree a date at March’s HCC meeting. At present the Council do a monthly litter clean up. (Update 16/03/16 – Agreed that we shall advertise via the HCC website a new community group to tackle litter. Suggested name of the group being “Houston Community Clean Up”. Refer to separate item raised by Mr Fulton local resident. | HCC/km | March / Early April 2016 | |
| 20.0 | Blocked Drains – RC/an raised the ongoing issues with blocked drains. Agreed HCC/jmc shall produce a list of worst case areas to be reviewed at March’s HCC meeting. (Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairman’s report Item 6.0, reported to RC on 09/03/16 and RC confirmed it has been sent to RC contractors for action.) | Closed | Closed | |
| 21.0 | Scottish Parliament Election – RC/an handed over a leaflet confirming you cannot vote unless registered by 18 th April. Agreed HCC/km shall add this to the HCC website. (Update 16/03/16 – Done) | Closed | Closed | |
| 22.0 | Potholes – HCC/km confirmed that there is an APP for potholes and she shall look into this. It was also agreed a pothole register should be put into the following i) Village Post Office ii) Carrick Centre iii) Village Paper Shop iv) Coop To be discussed in greater detail at March’s meeting. (Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairman’s report Item 5, printed potholes register have distributed as agreed) | Closed | Closed | |
| 23.0 | New Roundabout at Residential Development on Outskirts of Brookfield – | All | As and when required | |

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| | <p>Agreed HCC/jmc should write back to Brookfield community Council stating we shall monitor traffic flow with keen interest and support them if this becomes an issue for the wider community around Bridge of Weir, Houston, Kilmacolm, Linwood, Kilbarchan, Brookfield and Quarriers Village.</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairman’s report item 5 under communications, stating we shall monitor developments. Agreed to leave on action log.)</p> | | | |
| 24.0 | <p>Grant Application – HCC/jmc shall take the lead with support from HCC/ma and HCC/jc to complete for a March application. The application shall be called Phase 1 of 4 with a budget of £15k for Phase 1.</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – As per the Chairman’s report Item 1.0 and agreed to await the outcome of the meeting with Messrs Blachere illuminations on the 29th March as this may alter the application. Agreed to review both applications at April’s HCC meeting.)</p> | All | April’s HCC Meeting | |
| 25.0 | <p>Design of Christmas Lights – HCC/ma confirmed the company he works for shall do the design and tender documents free of charge and shall liaise with Renfrewshire Council to agree consultation, approvals and procurement issues.</p> <p>Agreed the design shall require HCC approval and potentially a wider community engagement via a consultation at the Carrick Centre.</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – Mark confirmed RC do not need a competitive tender process therefore might be best to get Blachere illuminations to do a design and install contract. Agreed Mark to get quote based on this.)</p> | HCC/ma | April | |
| 26.0 | <p>Flower Displays for Village – Agreed a grant application of £10k should be submitted with HCC/jmc taking the lead again with support from HCC/ma and HCC/jc/ The application should breakdown the equipment, areas covered etc. for example.</p> <p>(Update 16/03/16 – Draft application completed and to be reviewed at April’s HCC Meeting)</p> | All | April’s HCC Meeting | |
| 27.0 | <p>Marking Entrance to Houston Village – Agreed to discuss in greater detail at March’s HCC meeting with the general</p> | All | April’s HCC Meeting | |

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| | view being coverage for all entrances to Houston from Linwood, Inchinnan, Langbank and Bridge of Weir. (Update 16/03/16 – No update available from Carol but suggested this should be combined with the floral displays etc. Agreed to discuss at April's HCC Meeting) | | | |
| 28.0 | Yearly Calendar – HCC/ma proposed a yearly calendar is adopted to ensure we capture important matters at the correct time / period during the year. All agreed in principle and planner to be developed and discussed at the next meeting. (Update 16/03/16 – No progress made in the month.) | HCC/jmc & HCC/ma | April | |
| 29.0 | Existing Large Planters – Agreed to try and locate whereabouts. (Update 16/03/16 – No progress made in the month.) | All | April | |
| 30.0 | The Gazette – it was raised and agreed as a group that HCC should have a monthly bulletin / newsletter. Agreed to discuss at March's HCC meeting. (Update 16/03/16 – No progress made in the month.) | All | April | |
| 31.0 | Bob Finnie – It was raised and agreed that a bottle of whisky and flowers should be given to Bob and his wife at March's HCC in recognition of his long service to the Houston Community Council and the community in general. HCC/jc and JCC/jm to organise. (Update 16/03/16 – Agreed all HCC members to contribute £5 towards gifts and bring along to April's HCC meeting.) | All | April's HCC Meeting / Thereafter | |
| 32.0 | Point 1 Crosslee Road Boy Racers and Fly Tipping – Concerns were raised about both with fly tipping being covered elsewhere in the meeting. Inspector Glass shall liaise with RC Roads Department to request signage clearly confirming the speed limit and Police Scotland asked all residents on the road to contact them immediately when this occurs again and where possible to take note of registration numbers. | PS/cg | ASAP | |
| 33.0 | Point 2 Setting up a Houston Community Clean Up Group – Mr Fulton confirmed he would like to get involved in a similar scheme in Houston to that being provided in Maybole Ayrshire where he used to live. Agreed Kathy shall liaise directly with Mr Fulton to add this new Group to the HCC website. Also confirmed we | | | |

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| | should contact RC Community Resources to get bin bags and Hi Viz vests and litter 'pick up' tools and also agree collection dates for rubbish / litter bags after the community clean up group has finished. Furthermore, it was suggested we could contact a similar group at Gryffe High who participate in a school clean up in the village at present. Finally also noted the main roads into Houston are particularly bad for litter and this would need to be addressed by the Group at a later date with traffic calming / control measures required to facilitate the clean up. Cllr Stuart Clark offered to help and support this initiative. | HCC/km & RC/sc | ASAP | |
| 34.0 | Park Upgrade Fund – Cllr Clark confirmed there may be funding available to upgrade Ardgyffe Park and HCC should liaise with Houston Playpark Improvement Group and the local Houston football team. Agreed to review in greater detail at April's HCC meeting. | All | April's HCC Meeting | |
| 35.0 | Gryffe High PTA Request for a Stall at the Houston Agricultural Show – Agreed to provide a HCC stall at a charge of £40 in line with all other agreements for the show. John to confirm with them. | HCC/jmc | ASAP | |
| 36.0 | Houston Agricultural Show HCC Stand – Agreed to take a stand as normal with a raffle. Prizes and set up to be agreed at April's HCC Meeting. | All | April's HCC Meeting | |
| 37.0 | Asset Register – Mark suggested creating an Asset register to keep track of existing and new assets. Agreed to discuss at April's HCC meeting. | All | April's HCC Meeting | |

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APPENDIX A

RESTRICTED**HOUSTON/CROSSLIE BEAT 34/35 - 17/02/2016 to 16/03/2016**

| CRIME/OFFENCE | NUMBER | DETECTED | ADDITIONAL NOTES |
|--------------------------------|--------|----------|---|
| Serious Assault | 0 | 0 | |
| Common Assault | 0 | 0 | |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 | |
| Theft X HB /Attempt Theft x hb | 0 | 0 | |
| HBWI/Attempt HBWI | 0 | 0 | |
| Theft x OLP/Att. Theftxolp | 0 | 0 | |
| Theft of motor vehicle | 0 | 0 | |
| Theft from m/v./olp to m/v | 0 | 0 | |
| Theft by shoplifting | 0 | 0 | |
| Theft/Attempted theft | 1 | 0 | 1 x wheelie bin |
| C.J.L.s38/BofP | 0 | 0 | |
| Vandalism | 1 | 0 | 1 x window. |
| RTA offences | 2 | 2 | 1 x no excise licence, 1 x careless and fail to provide details |
| Drink driving | 1 | 1 | 1 plus fail to provide test |
| MDA offences | 1 | 1 | 1 x cannabis |
| Breach of bail | 0 | 0 | |
| Fraud | 0 | 0 | |
| Drinking in the street | 0 | 0 | |
| Other | 0 | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 6 | 4 | |

Please Note that the statistics above may not include crimes still to be processed at the time of collation. Also, any crimes listed under "Other" may be listed this way for anonymity

APPENDIX B

Houston Community Council Chairman's Report 16 March 2016

1. Along with a lot of help from Mark Arthur have written funding requests to our LAC for grants for Christmas Trees and Christmas lights (£10,000) and flower displays (£10,000). Latter includes replacing dilapidated fence at roundabout with hedge and secondary fence. Also includes provision of benches throughout the Houston area.
2. Received copies of catalogue for self-watering planters from Amberol, who supplied BOW
3. Stuart Miller, of Engage Renfrewshire has sent a list of possible sources of additional grant funding
4. David Low has sent me a link to the Scottish Rural Network website, where we can complete an Expression of Interest form for LEADER funding for connection to national cycle network.
5. Printed Potholes Register and distributed as agreed.
6. Reported out of action street lights on 18/2/16 and list of blocked drains on 9/3/16. Reports were sent to RC's contractors for action
7. Met with Elizabeth Dalgetty and Helen Parker to discuss traffic issues. Will report when we reach this on the agenda.

Correspondence

1. Wrote two letters to Mr Scott Allan of Renfrewshire Council's Roads Department

First letter asked if Renfrewshire Council would repair the footpaths in Craighends and what is the procedure for requesting that Renfrewshire Council adopts and maintains these footpaths.

Second letter asked for Renfrewshire Council's position on the trees overhanging the path behind the shops in Crosslee. Also asked RC to take it up with the owners of the trees, if RC had the authority to ask the owners to trim the trees and what other recourse was open to the people making the complaint.

2. Investigated Superfast Broadband with BT Openreach (websearch and telephone call) on behalf of Leeburn Avenue residents and advised Brenda Donald of result, which was that residents will have to agree they want it and then approach their individual service providers saying that the whole street would like Fibre BB.
3. Wrote FOI request to Renfrewshire asking for number of fly-tipping incidents over 12 months ending 31 January 2016. **Answer 372**
4. Responded on behalf of HCC to Renfrewshire Council's "Outdoors for You" questionnaire. Response emphasised desirability of connecting Houston to the national cycling path network. Agreed with Dr. Kate Cuthbert at RC that she should come to our May or June meeting to discuss.
5. Wrote to local Community Councils affected by increased traffic due to Merchiston development saying we will monitor developments and support them as necessary.
6. Request from Mrs Wendy Workman on behalf of Gryffe High PTA for a stall at the Houston Agricultural Show