

## Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting May 2017

Ref: HCC 05/2017

Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston

Date: 17/05/17

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 8

### Present:

John McEvoy  
David Dunlop (dd)  
Jill Jack (jj)  
Jake Fulton (jf)  
Gordon Wright (gw)  
Mark Arthur (ma)  
Helen Parker (hm)  
Carol Murray (cm)  
Lesley Walker (lw)  
Janet Mason (jm)  
John Chambers (jc)  
Sharon Chambers (sc)  
Liam Smith (ls)

### Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)  
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### HCC Position:

Chairperson  
Vice Chair  
Secretary  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Treasurer

### In Attendance

PC Martin Norwood  
PC Brian Dick  
Cllr Alison Dowling (ad)  
Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)  
Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)  
Cllr Jim Sheridan (js)  
Fraser Gray (fg)

### Representing:

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

### Apologies:

Kathy McFall (km)  
Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)

### Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)  
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**

Amendment to April minutes section 12.3 – changed to “It was said that Russell Gibb was a key stakeholder.

## **3.0 Welcome to new Houston and Renfrewshire Councillors**

In addition to welcoming the new Renfrewshire Councillors we welcomed new community councillor Liam Smith.

## **4.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Refer to the HCC action list attached via excel document.

## **5.0 Police Report (PC Norwood and PC Dick left the meeting after giving the Police Report)**

**5.1** Summary of 10 offences – 6 detected during reporting period between 19 April–16 May.

Summary:

- 1 x common assault within house
- 1 x breach of the peace
- 1 x drink driving
- 3 x careless driving/tyre offence, and fail to report
- 3 x vandalism to fences and glass door
- 1 x wilful fire raising to grass and bushes

**5.2** – Head Teacher at Gryffe High School on board with litter picking and Police will challenge pupils if caught littering. Police have attended Houston Primary too.

Also test purchase at Co-op for underage drinkers.

## **6.0 Councillors Reports**

Audrey Doig

**6.1** Residents made contact re Virgin media complaints about parking of vehicles, outside toilets and dumping of waste. Audrey met with Virgin last week and keen to keep relations neat and tidy. Important to get things right before they leave as not easy to get back once away. Roads dept should be inspecting works as they have permit to do job. Audrey reiterated important to keep communications going.

Any issues residents free to contact Audrey who will pass details to Virgin liaison. Details are on RC website. Residents meeting to be held in Carrick Centre 31/5 from 5pm – 7pm.

**6.2** Brierie Hills 20mph road signs faded. Roads dept will not put 20mph signs on roads and speed bumps cause air pollution. Best way forward is under review. John McE advised RC aware of 20pmh limits. MSP Derek McKay approached re reducing speed limit to 20 mph without any traffic calming. Residents surveyed with majority saying up for it. RC has not been cooperative. Hope that the new Councillors will help move forward.

**6.3** Church of the Nazarene actively looking to move. They are considering hiring Tweedie Halls. Asked to reduce staff needed, however this is a health & safety requirement. As Audrey training officer for Renfrew Leisure there is a conflict of interest so passed details to Colin Pratt Head of Town Hall.

**6.4** Confirmed no council yet and next meeting 18/05.

Alison Dowling

**6.5** Initial snagging with Councillor comms however now resolved.

**6.6** Will progress with surgeries – timeline and venue will be confirmed and Houston based surgeries will increase.

Scott Kerr

**6.7** Reiterated happy to support residents with Virgin Media correspondence.

Jim Sheridan

**6.8** Met with Virgin correspondent 17/5. Improved broadband in area is badly needed especially with increased residents working from home and local company's reliance on it. Main complaints upturn of gardens and roads. Complaint process advised to residents.

**6.9** Surgery dates for all 4 Councillors to be put on HCC Facebook page.

## **7.0 Treasurers Report**

**7.1** Opening balance £4037.76, after Secretary and insurance costs closing balance £3974.37. Reminder that any outstanding invoices to be submitted.

## **8.0 Chair Report**

**8.1** Submitted objection, mostly written by David Dunlop, to property developers Houghton Planning and Renfrewshire Council to the POAN for new residential developments at Woodend House and Woodfoot Cottage. Renfrewshire Council responded by saying that it was too early to submit objections because no detailed proposals had been made.

**8.2** Wrote to the Gazette giving details of the survey of constituents of Derek Mackay MSP and the response of Renfrewshire Council. They have confirmed they will publish an article soon but have not given a date.

**8.3** Have had a couple of communications about the changes to McGills Buses timetable and scheduled this topic for discussion.

**8.4** Responded to request by Mark Ruskell MSP who has asked us to participate in the consultation process for his private members bill on reducing speed limits in urban areas to 20 mph, saying that I will put it to tonight's meeting. Members agreed for John to respond on our behalf supporting reduction in speed limits.

John will send initial report/spreadsheet issued to MSP Mckay to all Councillors including when survey took place, and date submitted.

John gave background to objections ie Police support enforcement of speed limits but not democratic enough as no through drivers. No other council asked to do this. Require consistency. 21/31 other areas already implemented. Through drivers cause the majority of speeding problems.

John previously sent report to Elaine Lorimer - no response since November 16.

David mentioned that Houston is a short distance from cycle network and safer access to the track would allow greater use. Would be good for Councillors to develop this in next 5 years.

**8.5** Jake and John transferred the gazebos to Janet's garage. They will be available there for use at the Agricultural Show and other events.

**8.6** Our plant watering bowser is now stored in the Fox and Hounds. Bee Happy will check access.

**8.7** Emailed other rural community councils in Renfrewshire proposing that we work together to stop the large number of residential developments taking place in our villages.

**8.8** Emailed all Renfrewshire Community Councils with our submission on the Main Issues Report and the Local Development Plan.

## **9.0 Secretary Report**

### **9.1. Pars Properties**

Jenny Cowan provided update on completion - eaves fixed, crow's nest above Pauls removed, gutters cleaned, roof tiles replaced, extractor fan degreased (await painting), fence panel fixed, new bollards, broken slabs replaced and broken steps on stairs replaced. Graffiti removed from gable wall of Co-op. Railings painted at Co-op steps and graffiti removed. Pars still to complete brick wall at footpath to side of Co-op to be repaired, gravel at this wall to be refreshed and drains on slabs at the front of the shops to be cleaned (standing water).

Taylor Wimpey Metal Bridge at Ardgriffe – Structural survey of bridge, tendering of works outstanding – bridge made safe and no further updates at present.

## **9.2 Signage Locher Crescent**

Resident at Locher Crescent looking for a contact to reinstate a “No Ball Games” sign on the grass area between Locher Crescent and Locher Gardens.

Does not want to hinder children playing, but the area is not suitable for ball games due to its close proximity to houses, cars and main road. Concerned there is going to be an accident. Referred resident to Renfrewshire Council Road/Street Scene dept who advised they no longer produce signs as not legally enforceable.

## **9.3 Virgin Media**

Planning to host a resident’s information event in the Carrick Centre on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2017 between 1700-1900. The purpose is to allow residents to ask any questions or raise concerns they may have about the work being carried out. Samples of equipment on show and can explain how services can be installed.

Requested event poster is posted on our community Facebook page, to let residents know of the event.

## **9.4 Flood Defences at Crosslee**

Resident of Crosslee Park advised school children climbing fence at wooden bridge to gain access to river bank below (50 ft drop). In view of dangers asked Police Scotland to attend at the bridge. He advised that Renfrewshire Council are aware of the danger that access to the flood defences and the bridge can pose and that new signage is to be arranged. Resident does not feel that signage is the answer to this potentially fatal problem. Requesting that Renfrewshire Council block access to prevent children gaining access to the defences and the river. Resident sent email to new councillors and procurator fiscal.

## **9.5 HCC Website**

Resident requested that appendix documents referred to in minutes and action log loaded onto website and paper copy placed in Carrick Centre and Post Office.

Also for link to minutes be posted on HCC Community Facebook page.

## **9.6 Royal Horticultural Society - Gryffe High School Project**

Contacted by RHS who are carrying out a planting project with pupils at Gryffe High as part of Green Grey Britain Campaign. Asked if any areas we would like to see planted up and if volunteers would like to be involved. This is a great opportunity for Community and schools to work together on a one off project. Suggested area at High School as beds will be maintained by pupils. All plants will be provided by Pentland plants and may be something in it for Bee Happy too. Planting will take place Mid-June – date to be confirmed.

## **10.0 Update on Flowers/Planters**

**10.1** Final decision to be made on summer bedding plants over next week.

It would be good to have plants in prior to Fox n Hounds Beer fest at May Bank Holiday, however, concern re frost.

Confirmed hanging baskets will be filled at ground level.

### **11.0 Arrangements for Houston Agriculture Show Sat 3/6**

**11.1** 5 Gazebos rented (£15 each). Have 9 in total. 3 available for hire with double gazebo reserved for HCC. Janet contacted Jim Bonnar who advised BB will put up gazebo. 8.30 am gazebos to be picked up at Janet's house.

**11.2** Bottle stall to raise funds. Donations to be handed into Newsagent in village.

**11.3** Janet to draw up rota for manning stall on the day (2 hr slots) and send to Jill for distribution.

### **12.0 Bee Happy Fundraiser**

**12.1** Colourful Kilmacolm gardening group have been set up for 4 yrs and have a membership subscription for those unable to volunteer. Subscription is £5 pa paid on 1 January. Bee Happy would like to adopt same approach. All agreed good idea with minimum donation of £5.

**12.2** Agreed can use HCC bank details for funds to be credited.

**12.3** Bankers order documentation to be stored under lock and key with register of key holders – there is a filing cabinet at The Carrick Centre. Councillor Dowling advised there is a new Data Protection Act May 2018 and must be fully compliant with relevant disclaimers. If don't need information don't ask for it.

**12.4** Bee Happy volunteer happy to administer, however, John McE more comfortable with Council member doing this. Lesley will therefore administer and work with John to agree a suitable Facebook post to gauge interest.

### **13.0 McGill Buses Scheduling Concerns**

**13.1** 3 x complaints received regarding scheduling local bus service, with poor route connections between Houston, Bridge of Weir, Johnstone Station and Glasgow. Main complaints are around reduction in X7 which stops early evening. Discussion took place and in summary there is a decrease in service. There is no competition and not enough bums on seats to justify an increased service.

Would there be potential to have a public meeting and apply pressure on the bus company as a fully integrated reliable service is required?

After further discussion HCC agreed to approach other Community Councils across Renfrewshire to get on board as a first port of call.

#### **14.0 Proposed Mobile Phone Mast Magnus Rd**

**14.1** Telefónica is progressing a suitable site in the Houston for a radio base station. There is a requirement to improve 2G/3G coverage and facilitate new high speed 4G coverage in the area. Several options have been assessed in respect of the site search process and the preferred location is Magnus Road, Houston – location backs onto Cormorant. The installation of a 20.0m monopole, antennae, dishes and ancillary equipment stored in cabinets at ground level. The design selected is the least visually intrusive that can provide adequate coverage to the target area. HCC agreed signal in this area poor and more reliance on broadband required with residents working from home etc. Also do not want an eye score and screening would be advantageous. Members concurred that no objection to proposal at this time.

#### **15.0 Proposed Summer Meeting Programme**

**15.1** Sharon proposed to continue with HCC meetings over summer months of July and August (traditionally summer recess). If starts back in September bogged down and starting from scratch on a lot of actions. HCC members agreed to adopt proposal and additional meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in July and August. Break in December would still take place.

Councillors not required at meetings, however, willing to support where necessary.

#### **16.0 HCC Facebook Guidelines Review**

Thanks to Kathy for detailed review report and work involved in pulling this together.

**16.1** Members agreed to continue to allow recommendations for local services/trades.

**16.2** Discussion took place re allowance of political posts. Communication between Councillors and constituents deemed acceptable with no party political point scoring. Agreed unable to allow someone to use it to comment adversely on a Politian or their party.

**16.3** Helen Parker agreed to join Facebook admin approval team. Helen will discuss offline with Kathy re management of approvals eg week about?

**16.4** We are currently a Facebook public group. Discussion as to whether to move to a page status. Members saw little difference between a page and a group status and therefore agreed to remain as is.

**16.5** Councillors will advise surgery dates/times for posting on Facebook.

**17.0 Insurance Cover for HCC Facebook page**

**17.1** John McE advised we are not covered and purchasing cover very expensive. The cost ranges from £333 to £753 with £1000 excess. We already overspend our administration grant so do not have sufficient income to fund this. Agreed a zero tolerance policy to any posts that might cause offence.

**18.0 Any Other Business**

**18.1 Micro Hydro Project** - Mark advised that current location does not stack up and another area closer to the village is now being considered which is also Council owned land.

**18.2** Jake advised keen to explore possibility of allotments. There is a land near the Houston Primary main entrance and cemetery. All members in agreement.

**Meeting Closed 9:35pm**

**Date and time of next meeting**

Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 7:30pm in Carrick Centre