**Minutes**

**Houston Community Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 18th November 2015**

**Present**: Carol Murray (Chair), John Chambers (Treasurer), Sharon Chambers, Janet Mason, Robert Finnie, Elizabeth Dalgetty, Mark Arthur, Kathy Mcfall, Helen Parker, David Dunlop, Caroline Wengel.

**In Attendence**: Cllr Allan Noon, Police Sgt Martin Ward, Ronnie Gold, David Goodfellow.

**Apologies**: John McEvoy, Marion McEvoy, Sandra Brown, Andrew Calverley, Gordon Wright, Cllr Stuart Clark

**Welcome** by **CM** acting chair minutes by **SC**.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Sgt Ward stated that 5 crimes were reported within the period 21/10/15 – 18/11/15 of which 1 was detected.

1 x Theft by housebreaking (jewellery)

1 x Theft by housebreaking (high value tools)

1 x Theft/Attempted theft (garden chairs)

1 X Vandalism (fixture and fittings in house)

1 x RTA (dangerous driving)

Sgt Ward highlighted the new campaign effective now highlighting awareness of housebreaking around the lead up to Festive Period.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of previous meeting held on 21st October 2015 to be amended

**BF** wishes Page 2 paragraph 4 remove “ united to protest”

**ED** wishes preface added bottom of page 3 “in response to comments stating no links to Houston and Linwood.”

 **ED** proposed minutes and seconded by **JM**.

**BF** suggests names should not be documented in minutes which are then out in public domain on website etc., various opinions discussed re this **CW** asked what happens within other community council areas and **KMcF** suggests secretary may wish to attend council run course on minute taking to find out best practice. **JC** highlighted the fact the previous minutes were in fact commented on as very good, **CM** stated that **MMcE** was only standing in until the post of secretary was filled within the council. It was agreed that no final decision would be made until we find out best practice.

**RG** asked if any response from LGBC, **BF** advised likely May 2016 before any decision.

 **COUNCILLORS REPORT:**

**AN** still dealing re trees North/South St, **SC** confirmed tree surgeons had been back onsite within the last few weeks to prune more trees.

**AN** highlighted that the footpaths within Craigends Estate have not been adopted by Renfrewshire Council and they are not responsible for maintenance of them, he has been advising Residents Committee’s to look into who is responsible i.e. through title deeds.

**DG** acknowledges this is current practice within Beatrice Gardens and Fulton Gardens where the residents are responsible for trees etc. in common ground. They have residents committees who deal with this.

**CM** stated that a lot of people will be unaware of this, thinking this applies to trees and grass cutting only not including footpaths and drains also.

 **AN** also highlighted similar situation with wooden bridge linking Ninian Ave and Crosslee Park, **MA** suggested we request drawings of Houston from council highlighting areas which are not adopted by them.

**AN** highlighted Bogstonhill Rd up to Houston park is classed as private road and as such council will not repair potholes.

**ED** offered to check planning documents re bridge

**AN** informed that council are looking into this situation by requesting documents from the keeper of deeds they have had no notification back to date, it was discussed best way to disseminate this info ie Facebook/ Gryffe Advertiser/ mailshots. It was agreed to find out who owns/responsible for bridge in first instance and **AN** will report back at next community council meeting.

Flooding at Craigends Rd seems ongoing, residents cannot get through with up to 2ft deep on occasions, cars have been flooded, council trying to get farmer to clean out the drains leading to Houston/Georgetown Rd, Royal Mail will not deliver when flooding is bad.

Sat 28/11/15 Kashmir Rd Linwood will be closed between1200-2200 due to Christmas Light switch on

50 Refugees have arrived in Paisley 17/11/2015 and are being housed within the Paisley area.

**AN** laid Council wreaths at war memorials at Houston and Bridge of Weir on 8/11/15.

Council meetings are still ongoing this month until December recess.

**RG** highlighted poor white road markings within Houston **AN** agreed to report this and Action Point highlighted by members to send letter to roads dept.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

 Nil

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

**JC** advised that all relevant paperwork for new signatory’s had been submitted to the bank, new documentation should be available within 2-3weeks, unfortunately at present there is still no access to Community Council funds.

**CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

**CM** advised that **JMcE** had given report to be read on his behalf. He had attended meetings with Dr Simpson and Angus Mathieson to agree submission letter to go to boundaries commission, there was an estimated 226 people in attendance at the public meeting.

Good news both Houston MSP’s now support our campaign to keep Houston united.

**JMcE** made freedom of information request to ask what the legal basis for review was, given that Scottish ministers had said no review until 31/3/17. He received an email response stating review was not illegal as not proposing changing electoral areas themselves but changing the electoral arrangements within the areas.

Freedom of information has been requested to include summary of the total number of submissions received from Houston and how many were in favour of proposal and how many against, he has also asked for the details of the public consultation process, **ED** advised she has been through the criteria markers required to be fulfilled by Boundaries Commission and this has been achieved.

Facebook page is now up and running and he encourages Community Council members to use page and encourage Houston residents to do same.

**JMcE** suggests all future minutes to be published in Gryffe Advertiser, **CW** agreed that an extract of minutes from other local community council meetings had been published in last month’s advertiser. **JM** and **RF** confirmed that full minutes should be available at Houston Post Office and summary minutes to the Advertiser, this procedure had lapsed due to lack of secretary.

**JMcE** has reported poor condition of fence at roundabout to Renfrewshire Council. **AN** confirmed council do not own the fence only the surrounding ground is their responsibility. **DD** highlighted safety issue if fence was removed as the field is used by children to play in.

**JMcE** requesting ideas from members re vision for future of community council over next 4 years, various suggestions discussed including Yew tree project which was started in the past by council, Houston park improvements , floral displays and cycling links within Houston. **ED** suggests using **DD’s** questionnaire as a possible starting point to assess needs and visions of the community to then allow us to prioritise and plan.

**ED** suggests adding locale indicator to be added to online survey and possibly use Gryffe Advertiser, **JM** suggests local notice boards as way of communicating with Houston residents with no internet access. **CW** suggests forming sub -committee to work on survey for the community before the next meeting, **DD**, **MA**, **KMcF** AND **ED** agree to do this.

**AOB:**

Traffic Issues all agreed to postpone discussions until next meeting.

**RF** informed us that Christmas lights are in storage at the church hall, **RF** will contact electrician to deal with this. **MA** offered to take lead moving forward with 4 year plan for Christmas lights in the future.

ED suggests add in Advertiser to encourage residents from Crosslee to attend/join council as this is only area not represented by community council members at present, also website as it stands Houston Village website seems exclusive to village, all agreed to discuss/vote on this at next meeting.

**DG** questioning how boundaries commission will relay their decision, and is there any scope for redress following this decision, **CM** confirms this will be done via letter to **JMcE** and there will be an appeals process. **MA** also highlighted that if freedom of information has been requested there is a time limit on them to respond.

**Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 20th January 2016 Carric**k **Centre 1930hrs.**

**Close of Meeting**