

Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting Oct 2017

Ref: HCC 10/2017

Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston

Date: 18/10/17

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 6

Present:

John McEvoy
Jill Jack (jj)
David Dunlop
Jake Fulton (jf)
Gordon Wright (gw)
Lesley Walker (lw)
Carol Murray (cm)
Mark Arthur (ma)
Janet Mason (jm)

Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)
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HCC Position:

Chair
Secretary
Vice Chair

In Attendance

PC Gordon Thomson
PC Brian Dick
Cllr Alison Dowling
Dorothy Girvan
Peter Girvan
Alan Wallace
P Devlin

Representing:

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

Apologies:

Helen Parker
Liam Smith
Elizabeth Dalgetty
Kathy McFall
John Chambers
Sharon Chambers
Scott Kerr
Jim Sheridan
Audrey Doig

Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)
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Houston Community Council (HCC)
Local Councillor
Local Councillor
Local Councillor

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

Approval of August minutes by Gordon Wright and seconded Mark Arthur.

Approval of September minutes by Mark Arthur and seconded by Lesley Walker.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to the HCC action list attached via excel document.

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

4.1 Summary of 10 offences – 1 detected during reporting period between 20/9 – 18/10.

Summary:

4 x house break in (1 to Business Premises)

1 x theft shop lifting (foodstuffs)

1 x domestic

2 x fraud/phishing

1 x communication offence

4.2 8 cars scratched at Fox n Hounds carpark, in process of charging individual.

4.3 Jake advised carpark litter hotspots – Houston Primary, Brierie Hills and Ardgriffe. Up to 10 cars sitting in carparks and litter includes rizla papers. Head Teacher informed and Police monitoring.

4.4 Magnus Rd speed initiative carried out – no-one caught speeding.

John McE mentioned Main St speed and if Community Officers could monitor for a spell, which they agreed.

4.5 HPS came 2nd in football school tournament 29/9. Details on Police Twitter feed.

4.6 Houston road race 7/10 well attended. Great to see lots of local support. 6 officers were on duty.

4.7 Mentioned street lights out at Co-op. Police will check and report as required.

5.0 Councillors Reports

Alison Dowling

5.1 Proposal to change licensing laws to get young staff (<25) home safe.

5.2 Capability Scotland proposed closure of Day Services at Whitehaugh and West Lane Gardens in Paisley. Centres are for young adults with severe support needs. Dispute over contract terms. Council will secure services over next 3yrs with guaranteed funding until next April. New provider being sought.

5.3 RC have passed a motion re 'period poverty' to provide free sanitary products to mainstream centres.

- 5.4** Deafhillock Roundabout – All local councillors on board. Bi weekly reports to be received with more formal reports going forward. Await lesson learnt.
- 5.5** Service standards met re LED lights. Column spaces should be closer in some cases. Reference being made to consultant report.
- 5.6** Councillor agreed support for pedestrian crossing at Crosslee near red phone box. (child recently knocked down). Discussed that it would be good to see calming measure at 'Neuk area'.
- 5.7** Riverbrae school in Linwood provides support needs in our community. There are ongoing issues re facilities in school and with contractors which is currently being looked at.
- 5.8** Agreed to support a petition for free concessionary travel for carers on our Facebook page. Petition to ask Scottish Government to fund.
- 6.0 Crosslee Gladman Development Proposal 100 houses**– 4 residents in attendance who are opposed to future housing development at Crosslee. Spoken to Cllr Alison Dowling offline.
- 6.1** David explained that HCC are robust in views and have submitted observations and objections to RC in May 17. Priority to keep pressure on Council to complete developments in Paisley, Royal Ordnance and Braehead. Main issues are low property growth, single person housing, older population and affordable housing. What has been introduced is big houses.
- 6.2** Need to look at environmental impacts eg flood area, developers are keen to abdicate responsibility, green space needs to be protected, the A737/M8 is sitting at capacity. The Council, Scottish Government and Developers need to think about how people commute, promote bus corridors, home working. Gryffe valley green space is important - the cycle track is unsafe to get to, better lighting, footpath network and schooling required. Confirmed have HCC backing to oppose.
- 6.3** Why are Council weak when on greenbelt? Alison advised 2 tier democratic layer. Once taken to appeal Local Government cannot overturn.
- 6.4** Residents advised need to make as much noise to lever up local pressure and make voice heard.
- 6.5** Discussion took place on housing numbers and failure by council to breakdown statistics.
- 6.6** Mark/John C will ask RC planners what is available to developers in Houston as HCC getting caught with developers every couple of months and who should we be speaking to. Need to get experts on board, understand process and liaise with other community councils to pull resources and form a subcommittee. This shows developers we up for a fight and potential for crowd funding.
- 6.7** At consultation stage HCC will always object in principle with basic details only as this information is passed onto developer's months before application which gives them valuable information to overcome objections at application stage. A letter will be sent by 20/11 outlining objection in advance. Details will also be publicised on Facebook.
- 6.8** Alison advised will always get political support to tackle poverty.

7.0 Secretary Report

7.1 Remembrance - Cllr Campbell will represent Renfrewshire Council on 12/11 10am at the War Memorial no service just laying of wreath. John McE/Jill will attend.

7.2 Pars properties - Drains outside shops cleared of grass and pressure washed.

Mono block at the drains has sunk in some places – preventing water from draining away - Alex is arranging for the mono block to be reset.

Bark to be applied by Ardmore Landscapes to the area at the fence to the side of the Co-op and at the shrub bed to the side of Paul's Fast Foods.

Red stone chips to the side of the Co-op have been replenished and grounds men to cut back shrubbery.

The railings at the steps at the Co-op are to be repainted – this time with Hammerite paint. A test patch is to be carried out to see if the Hammerite paint will withstand being 'picked at'. Local painter Adam Gallagher to repaint the railings.

Lighting in the main car park. Establish who is responsible for erecting lampposts. Same for resurfacing of the main carpark.

NEST CCTV to be installed – covering the whole of the retail area and hard wired into Paul's.

7.3 Taylor Wimpey Metal Bridge - All 4 Councillors for Ward 10 have been emailed asking to support the campaign to have the metal bridge upgraded by Taylor Wimpey.

Councillor Scott Kerr carried out site visit and is backing the campaign.

Scott has contacted RC who have confirmed that the bridge is privately owned (Taylor Wimpey) and that due to the safety concerns they have instructed an officer to monitor the bridge and the safety of pedestrians.

RC have contacted Taylor Wimpey, as has Scott, and the RC officer will remain in place until RC have received a response from Taylor Wimpey.

Scott advised that a 'community petition' delivered to Taylor Wimpey could be considered.

Awaiting responses and agreements to meet at the metal bridge from the 3 other Councillors for Ward 10.

All the above updates (Pars and Taylor Wimpey) have been shared with Houston and Crosslee residents on HCC's Facebook page.

7.4 Community Hall Hire - Groups asking for details of hall hire – agreed to put on our website.

7.5 Renfrewshire Council Review of Petitions - Our community council, members of the public and any other interested party, can participate in this review by undertaking a short online survey to let us know what you think of the Petitions process.

7.6 Advise Insurers Keegan and Pennykid of Christmas light switch on.

7.7 Lord Provost Award – Nominations to be submitted by 01/12. Poster to be placed in Carrick Centre and on our Facebook page.

8.0 Chair Report

8.1 After consultation with all community councillors I applied for us to become VAT registered. The application was accepted but this means we will have to trade in supplies. This includes selling sponsorship for our events, for which we must charge VAT, but we must also do additional trading. I suggest an initial budget of £300 to buy clothing which we can have printed with a Houston logo.

8.2 Contacted Deirdre MacLean of Langbank Community Council to tell her we had agreed to support her initiative to start a rural community council.

8.3 Received sponsorship of £1000 from the Carrick Trust and of £100 from the John G. Fleming Bowling Club towards the cost of our Christmas lights. Cheques have been banked and thank you letters written.

8.4 The Chairman of Gryfebank resident's association contacted us expressing local concerns about the remedial work being carried out on the Craigends Yew. Agreed response and that factors advised all residents prior to works starting at no cost.

8.5 Cheques have been written for Christmas lights and the Firework Display.

9.0 Unpaid Work Team – no show at meeting.

10.0 Keep Scotland Beautiful Report on Bee Happy Houston Visit.

10.1 Areas of achievement: Considering this was the first year this group has been active, it has achieved so much. It has covered a large area of the town and ensured that there has been some sort of planting or clearing in areas to benefit everyone. The group is very ambitious with what it wants to achieve, and is always thinking ahead to plan projects. I liked the idea of beautifying the cenotaph and village square, and the idea of making a plot into allotments for the community. Keep up the enthusiasm!

10.2 Areas for development: It would be great to see more thought and work go into the 'Environmental Responsibility' core pillar. It would be good to see more action carried out for wildlife in the form of insect hotels, bird nest and feeders which could then be monitored by volunteers. I know a bat box was mentioned whilst I was there - it would be great to get that installed. It would be a good idea to set up your own compost pile for yourselves and the community to use and contribute to. This would help avoid having to take anything to the skip.

10.3 Level 3 advancing awarded and certificate will be presented to Bee Happy at Seminar in Stirling on 25/10.

11.0 Update on Craigends Yew

11.1 Yew tree surrounding area cleared and looking fabulous.

11.2 Plinth to be put in place in next couple of weeks and pictures taken once area tidied.

11.3 Before and after photos to be provided for Gazette/Advertiser article. Send photos to local schools.

11.4 Agreed £300 spend for contractors to cut left over branches from clearing the area into bite sized chunks for residents to use for woodturners etc.

11.5 Confirmed residents were informed of all works by Factors at no cost.

11.6 Agreed Yew Tree to be entered into Tree of the Year 2018 Competition.

11.7 Nomination for Lord Provost award for the work Janet has carried out.

12.0 Update on Flowers/Planters

12.1 18K bulbs and winter bedding plants arrived 18/10.

12.2 Subcommittee met on 17/10 and agreed £600 spend on equipment leaving £3k. Remainder of funds to be spent on plants around village £1k, summer plants £600, wild flowers £200. Benches in village, Houston Park and Ardgriffe.

12.3 Contact RC re any spare planters/benches.

13.0 Update on Christmas Lights 01/12

13.1 Mark drawing up activity planner for the day.

13.2 Christmas light switch on will be at 6:30pm.

13.3 Flyers will be printed shortly.

13.4 Lights are now in place.

13.5 Winter lights will be on trees at burn (Main St) and potential to keep on until March or longer is they look good.

13.6 Donation buckets on evening of event – Staff from local pubs dressed as elves will be with HCC member.

13.7 Ask announcer on night to acknowledge sponsors for event.

14.0 Any Other Business

14.1 Tree surgeon has offered to cutback tree at bridge at no cost, so residents can get full view of burn. Needs to be done before Christmas lights erected. Item to be put on Facebook once complete for thanks.

14.2 Jake suggested drawing up a Certificate from HCC to be presented to pupils carrying out litter picking at lunch time. With a pledge to keep Houston tidy. All agreed to proceed.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on 15/11 in The Carrick Centre.