

Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting Sept 2017

Ref: HCC 09/2017

Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston

Date: 20/09/17

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 7

Present:

John McEvoy

Jill Jack (jj)

David Dunlop

Jake Fulton (jf)

John Chambers (jc)

Sharon Chambers (sc)

Kathy McFall (km)

Liam Smith (ls)

Gordon Wright (gw)

Lesley Walker (lw)

Carol Murray (cm)

Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)

Mark Arthur (ma)

Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)

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HCC Position:

Chair

Secretary

Vice Chair

Treasurer

In Attendance

PC Martin Norwood

PC Brian Dick

Cllr Jim Sheridan (js)

Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)

Representing:

Police Scotland (PS)

Police Scotland (PS)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Apologies:

Helen Parker

Janet Mason

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

Approval of August minutes will be carried out at our October meeting.

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 7 offences – 4 detected during reporting period between 16/8 – 19/9.

Summary:

1 x serious domestic assault

1 x simple assault

3 x shop lifting (same person)

2 x minor road traffic offences

4.2 Community Police monitoring traffic at drop off/pick up times in Back O Hill area due to residents' complaints of vehicles mounting pavements. Particularly bad on wet days. Also, same concern near St Fillans roundabout. Will continue to monitor.

4.3 Question was raised if it is an offence to cycle with no lights. Police advised problem is catching in the act and if do so would give safety guidance.

4.4 Jake mentioned type of litter being picked at Ardgryffe carpark suggests drug related. Police will also monitor.

4.5 Police organising football school tournament 29/9. Details on Police Twitter feed.

5.0 Councillors Reports

Jim Sheridan

5.1 Deafhillock roundabout – Met with roads dept on 17/08. Needs to be lessons learnt. A full and detailed report sent to Director of Roads.

Behaviour and role of Utility Companies eg Scottish Water needs review as not listening. Questioning if a charge can be adopted when roads blocked off, when no work happening as very frustrating.

There is a need to allow residents to get out of communities. Complaints received from residents regarding continually late for work and in some cases employer issuing final warning.

At peak times, manual operation of lights evident which helps flow of traffic.

Audrey Doig

5.2 Potential for 5 green sites to be developed. Does not affect Houston directly but would have impact on road infrastructures. Renfrewshire Councils rejection has gone to appeal with Scottish Government.

5.3 Paisley 2021 – if Paisley win bid, sizeable funds will be available from Scottish Government. Encourage community to like "Paisley 21" on Facebook.

6.0 Treasurer Report

6.1 Opening balance £13983, Income £0. Total expenses £149 which includes Secretary, and insurance. Closing balance £13834. Items not included in statement - Houston Show £165, Carnival Advert -£45, Litter pick find £6, hall hire -£34, lawn mower £355 and strimmer £250.

6.2 Outlying receipts to be giving to John C.

6.3 John C will be on holiday at October Meeting (AGM). Accounts will be distributed well head of meeting for review.

6.4 Funds received from WM Longreach to replace planter which was destroyed by machinery.

7.0 Secretary Report

7.1 In view of time constraints Secretary report carried forward to October meeting.

8.0 Chair Report

8.1 Submitted Houston Community Council's response, mostly written by David, to Renfrewshire Council's Draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2018-2023.

8.2 Received response from Karen Keene, Co-ordinator of the Unpaid Work Team that repairing the broken down wall in Quarry Brae was not something her group would be able to do.

8.3 I was delighted to hear that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy had Board approved a response to the consultation process for Mark Ruskell MSP's Private Member's Bill, saying that they were fully supportive of this initiative.

8.4 Received the results of Tom Arthur MSP's survey of his Craigends constituents' responses to his survey on road safety initiatives. These were:

1) Would you support the introduction of a compulsory 20 mile per hour limit on Magnus Road and Fulton Drive?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	259	41.51%
No	357	57.21%
Don't Know	8	1.28%

Total 624

2) Would you support the introduction of a compulsory 20 mile per hour limit on the residential streets in Craigends?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	469	74.80%
No	152	24.24%
Don't Know	6	0.96%

Total 627

3) Would you support the introduction of traffic calming measures on Magnus Road and Fulton Drive?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	295	47.28%
No	309	49.52%
Don't Know	20	3.21%

Total 624

4) If yes, what measure would you support?

Response item	Frequency	Percent
Zebra crossings	173	26.70%
Pelican crossings	149	22.99%
Chicanes	106	16.36%
Speed tables	116	17.90%
Speed bumps	104	16.05%
Speed bumps	104	16.05%

What other measures would you support?

Other suggestions highlighted on survey:

- Installation of Speed Cameras was the highest other suggestion
- Police enforcement of speed limits
- Better signage
- Signage which lights up showing speed vehicles are travelling
- Police radar traps
- Better road markings showing speed limits
- Cycle lane

Other information/concerns highlighted in returns:

- Speed bumps and speed tables cause higher pollution – a lot of returns asked for these two measures to be rejected.
- Majority of drivers do not speed.
- No traffic calming measures on Magnus Road and Fulton Drive are required as they are the main routes in the area and these measures would cause delays and congestion.
- Present speed limits are acceptable if they are enforced.
- Cars being parked in dangerous places especially during the school runs in the morning and afternoon.
- A number of returns highlighted that drivers already ignore 30mph limit so cannot see them obeying 20 mph limit.

8.5 Asked our insurers for a quotation to insure Christmas Lights. It came back at £176.40 with a £100 excess on an All Risks Basis. I would recommend that we approve this expenditure. All agreed to proceed.

8.6 Received a response from Mark Higgenbotham of Renfrewshire Council's Community Resources Department to a letter I wrote asking about the works at the Deafhillock roundabout saying that the design had been approved by the Council and meets its standards. He also explained that the developer had been unable to arrange for the roundabout and water main works to coincide. He acknowledged that the road marking's and signs are still not adequate and said that Council Inspectors were pursuing this with the developer now.

In response I wrote back asking why the developer was allowed to close the road for fourteen weeks when both they and Renfrewshire Council knew that the water works would not be installed and that a second lengthy closure would ensue. I also asked that the performance of all parties concerned be reviewed so that the necessary lessons would be learned to stop this recurring. I await his response.

8.7 Liaised with Kathy, David and Helen to agree two questions for people applying to join our Facebook page. These were i) Do you agree to abide by the rules of the Facebook page and ii) What is your connection to Houston, Scotland.

8.8 Received letter from Houston resident Morven Feely saying that her daughter had been selected for Team Scotland at the World Dance Championships in Florida in 2018 and asking for details of local grants that she could apply for. I directed her to Renfrewshire Council's Renfrewshire 4 Community website.

8.9 After consultation with all members I registered the Community Council with HMRC for VAT. This means that we will make significant savings on our purchases and make better use of any future grant money we are allocated. The other aspect of this is that we must trade in goods or services. We can do this by, for example, selling T shirts or Polo Shirts with a Houston Scotland logo. Any monies coming from organisations supporting the Christmas Lights Switch could be classed as sponsorship in which case this would also count as trading.

8.10 Our fundraising campaign for the victims of Hurricane Harvey has so far raised £325. The Gazette published a supportive article on this and Kathy and I agreed to let the campaign run until the end of the month.

8.11 Wrote to the War Memorials Trust asking for advice about the most appropriate way to light the War Memorial. They responded saying that they had passed the questions on to their Conservation Office in Scotland, who was familiar with the memorial and would advise us.

8.12 Paul MacDonald of BT wrote to say that the traditional telephone box in Crosslee should be painted in a few weeks.

8.13 Jake passed on details of Neil MacAllister of the local 41 club who would like to offer us £100 for the village's flower displays. I called Neil and was delighted to accept.

8.14 Janet has been given three quotes for carrying out the necessary remedial work on the Craighends Yew. The lowest quote was for £1200 and came from the only one of the three that could offer a date, which is 9th and 10th October. I recommend that we ask Janet to accept this quote. Agreed to proceed.

8.15 Janet also reported that three residents have asked if shelters can be installed at the three bus stops on Fulton Drive / Magnus Road on the side heading into the village centre.

9.0 Unpaid Work Team

Karen Keane unable to attend September meeting and will be invited to our October meeting.

10.0 Update on Craighends Yew

10.1 See reference 8.14 for update.

11.0 Update on Flowers and Planters

11.1 20k spring bulbs ordered and await delivery. Priority will be planting over the coming weeks.

11.2 Funds available for summer and winter bedding. Detail to be finalised.

12.0 Update on Christmas Lights 01/12

Mark Arthur gave a comprehensive report on activity surrounding Christmas Lights. Summary as follows:

12.1 Council members voted on Houston and St Fillans Primary Christmas light design competition. Winners: St Fillans – Reindeer Design and Houston Primary - Angel Design. Well done to all who took part.

12.2 Fox and Hounds will hold a Christmas Farmers Market from 3pm – 9pm light switch on day of 01/12.

12.3 There will be nothing in carparks of Houston Inn or Main St.

12.4 Lights display will be from the War Memorial to St Fillans roundabout.

12.5 Main Street will be closed from 3pm.

12.6 Mark will send minutes from meeting held with local pubs.

12.7 Local primary schools on board with carol singing.

12.8 3 x pubs are sharing Santa which they will organise.

12.9 KmcF will post “save the date” for event on our Facebook page.

12.10 There will be collection tins in 3 x bars, 5 weeks before event for contribution to 2018 display as no guarantee of LAC funding next year.

12.11 Fireworks will be the same as last year. Checked there is no issue with the stables.

12.12 Mark will review licence requirements for event.

12.13 3000 flyers will be distributed in schools, nurseries, churches, shops etc. List of sponsors will be shown on reverse of flyer. Wording “Thank group for sponsorship” and list names.

12.14 Graham Donald will host event.

12.15 Council will install winter sparkly lights.

13.0 Response to Letter from Langbank Community Council

13.1 Keen to pull together representative voice of rural community councils. Already seen through Kilbarchan Green Federation which David Dunlop attends. All in agreement to proceed.

14.0 Notice of AGM

14.1 Will be held at 7pm on 18/10

15.0 Any Other Business

15.1 Residents raised if we can approach RC to redo white lines on Barochan Rd.

15.2 New houses in Brookfield advertised on Rightmove under property for sale in Houston. After discussion agreed to take no action at this time.

15.3 Mark Arthur will be representative for Carrick Trust and will sit on committee. Meeting on 09/10.

15.4 Consultation launched on Building Scotland's Low Emission Zones

DD has provided comments - "measurable targets should be set to reduce emissions on the A737 and M8 corridor to the city boundary in the next 5 years given its proximity to housing and in the case of Ferguslie Park one of Renfrewshire's most socially excluded and impoverished communities. Pollution levels must be considerable particularly around Junction 29 and the Council with its partners will require to consider how to mitigate this by beginning to rethink public transport, park and ride, cycling facilities. It is an issue that echoes our position on the Issues Report and how greater thought needs to be given to the help shape, nature and volume of housing development in the West Renfrewshire market area".

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

AGM will be held at 7pm on 18/10 when election of office bearers will take place in the Carrick Centre. This will be followed by HCC meeting at 7.30pm.