

**Minutes of Meeting**

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting July 2017  
Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston  
Time: 7:30pm

Ref: HCC 07/2017  
Date: 19/07/17  
Sheet: 1 of

**Present:**

John McEvoy  
David Dunlop (dd)  
Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)  
Jake Fulton (jf)  
Kathy McFall (km)  
Sharon Chambers (sc)  
Gordon Wright (gr)

**Representing:**

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

Chair  
Vice Chair

**In Attendance**

PC Martin Norwood  
Cllr Jim Sheridan(js)

**Representing:**

Police Scotland (PS)  
Renfrewshire Council (RC)

**Apologies:**

Helen Parker  
Janet Mason  
Carol Murray  
Jill Jack  
Mark Arthur  
Lesley Walker  
John Chambers  
Cllr Alison Dowling  
Cllr Scott Kerr  
Cllr Audrey Doig

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Renfrewshire Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Renfrewshire Council

Minutes  
taken by David Dunlop

**Representing:**

Houston Community Council (HCC)

### **1.0 Apologies**

Apologies were extended by the above noted people.

### **2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes**

June's minutes were approved.

### **3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

JMcE provided clarification on the costs of stalls at the Agricultural Show (£15 for HCC and £25 for others)

### **4.0 Police Report** (PC Norwood outlined a range of issues within the local area (12 crimes in total)

**4.1** Summary of 12 offences – 4 detected during reporting period between 19 June- 19 July.

#### **Summary:**

2 x common assault at Crosslee Park

1 x theft excavator arm mini excavator & 1 vandalism mini excavator

1 BoP Kilmacolm Rd

1X Misuse of drugs act

2 X drink driving

3 road traffic

1 x domestic disturbance.

### **5.0 Councillors Reports**

Jim Sheridan

- New administration still working on accommodation, setting up programme for delivery.
- Phone mast – Cllr Sheridan concerned about this and has lodged an objection as he would like a location that is less intrusive. Still in discussion with Cllr Dowling regarding this.
- Dalruith – Barrochan Road – in discussion regarding cutting back weeds.

**6.0** On behalf of John, Sharon provided a copy of the latest treasurer's report. ( a copy of this is available on request but closing balance as at 14 July is £4112.29 with the following items not included Houston Show Meal (£165) , Kirk Carnival Advert - £45)

### **7.0 Secretaries Report**

n/a Jill on holiday

### **8.0 Chairman's Report**

JMcE wrote to all members of Renfrewshire Council's Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board asking them to back our campaign for reduced speed limits. Copied the letter to the other Renfrewshire Community Councils asking for their support. Also sent the board members a copy of the recent National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommendation that urban speed limits should be reduced to 20 mph. I was told that the proposal will be discussed at their August meeting and that it has cross-party support. Natalie Don, the Depute Convenor will revert to me when she has more information. Board member Jacqueline Cameron emailed to confirm cross-party support, albeit with some reservations surrounding implementation and promotion of the strategy. It may also be that the Board will await the outcome of the current national consultation on this issue.

2. Wrote to Mark Ruskell MSP saying that Houston Community Council had no objection to him including the results of Derek Mackay MSP's survey of Houston residents in his national consultation on reducing the default speed limit to 20 mph.

3. Met with Rachel Fellows, office manager for Tom Arthur MSP, who told me that Mr Arthur now has parliamentary approval to conduct a survey of Craigends residents' views on traffic safety initiatives. This will go out as soon as it is available from the printers.

4 Spoke to the Virgin Media Community Liaison Officer regarding complaints from residents that it is very difficult to get through to them by telephone when they are making a complaint about the work currently under way, and also the unfinished work that has been left at the corner of Chapel Road and Kirk Road for several weeks. Unfortunately she had no constructive solutions to the complaints issue but the detritus at the corner of Chapel Road and Kirk Road was removed in the last day or so.

5. Elaine Aitken, who first brought to our attention the mess Virgin Media's contractors had made of the daffodils on the Bridge of Weir Road, emailed me to say that she and two of her friends had replanted over 250 of them that had been left to rot. Our gratitude goes to Elaine and her friends.

6. Met with Jason Andrews of the Fox and Hounds, who told me that the three licensed premises in Houston village plan to hold a combined festival day on Sunday 24th September. In the interest of public safety they would like Main Street closed between South Street and North Street. They would also like No Parking cones along one side of Main Street between South Street and the roundabout at St. Fillan's to ease traffic flow. They are in consultation with local schools re having their car parks available for the public, with stewarded parking. All three would like their application to have the written support of the Community Council.

7. Along with John Chambers and David Dunlop, the other office bearers, submitted paperwork to Renfrewshire Council accepting the LAC grants for Christmas lights and flower/plant displays. This included the three of us taking personal accountability for the funds.

8. Submitted on behalf of the Community Council, an objection, written by David, to the planning application for the purchase of public land abutting 2 Neuk Crescent for the purpose of adding it on private garden,

9. Laura Forsyth from the Gazette contacted me to say that that she had heard there were plans to do up the listed telephone box in Crosslee this summer. In response to my request for confirmation, BT have said that although they don't have dates for their painting team to be in Scotland, they have promised to paint the vast majority of boxes on the 2017 list by the end of September.

10. Mr Bill Gordon of Chapel Road contacted me to ask if I could ask Renfrewshire Council to install street lighting in his road. I did so but the Council responded saying that they regarded Chapel Road as a country road and it was therefore not a priority.

#### **9.0 Update on Floral Displays**

GW provided an update on the flower displays. The allocation of new funds will bring more planters and both a summer and winter programme. £500 remained on account with McLaren. The team will use the £5k on key items of equipment for the delivery of the floral programme. Following contractor damage, a replacement planter is now on order.

#### **10.0 Proposed Telecoms Mast**

There followed a discussion about the HCC approach to the telecoms mast. Whilst HCC had not raised concerns previously there was a body of opinion in the area against the mast now that detailed plans had been submitted. It was agreed HCC would submit a letter of observations seeking clarification from the application on a the height of the mast ( it had been suggested it would have been lower) Screening of the equipment was proposed and further guidance for immediate residents on potential health risks real or perceived. It was suggested the applicant have a further look at alternative locations if the height of the could not be reduced .

#### **11.0 Action Log**

JMcE presented the Action Log. Key points were as follows:-

Unpaid Workers Scheme- a suitable project would be Quarry Brae. Agreed to progress in autumn session

Woodend House- continue to monitor- DD to contact planning consultant

Village Hall – Mark to investigate

McGills Buses – DD to investigate if it is an SPT supported service

New Councillor Surgeries – to be posted on Facebook

Micro Hydro Project – Mark to continue to investigate

Allotments – Jake spoke to Steve Edwards of planning

Potholes on North St- Cllr Sheridan to investigate the programme and potential ways of bringing this forward.

DD to make contact with LEAF for Autumn Session

ED raised issue of underpasses and potential for an art project. Consensus was this was an excellent idea as HCC could potentially do more too 'nurture the local creative community' in a similar way to Bee Happy, Houston Litter Crew. KMcf to progress. (dd has since had a similar enquiry in Glasgow so can advise on this)

**12.0 Date of Next Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

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