

Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting June 2017 Ref: HCC 06/2017
 Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston Date: 21/06/17
 Time: 7:30pm Sheet: 1 of 6

Present:	Representing:	HCC Position:
David Dunlop (dd)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	Vice Chair
Jill Jack (jj)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	Secretary
Jake Fulton (jf)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Mark Arthur (ma)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Carol Murray (cm)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Lesley Walker (lw)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Janet Mason (jm)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
John Chambers (jc)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	Treasurer
Sharon Chambers (sc)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	
Kathy McFall (km)	Houston Community Council (HCC)	

In Attendance	Representing:
PC Martin Norwood	Police Scotland (PS)
PC Brian Dick	Police Scotland (PS)
Cllr Alison Dowling (ad)	Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)	Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)	Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Margaret Campbell (mc)	Houston Resident
Isabell Williamson (iw)	Houston Resident

Apologies:	Representing:
John McEvoy	Houston Community Council (HCC)
Helen Parker	Houston Community Council (HCC)
Gordon Wright	Houston Community Council (HCC)
Liam Smith	Houston Community Council (HCC)
Jim Sheridan	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 David Dunlop

1.0 Apologies

Apologies were extended by the above noted people.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

Mays minutes approved by Sharon Chambers and seconded by Carol Murray.
(Introduction made to Margaret Campbell and Isabella Williamson to our meeting who are Houston residents.

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 12 offences – 4 detected during reporting period between 16 May –19 June.

Summary:

1 x common assault at public house

1 x theft house break-in of sports/garden goods from shed

1 x theft of traffic light batteries

1 x taxi fraud

1 x drink driving and failing to provide details

2 x road traffic offences – speeding and failing to provide breath specimens

5 x vandalism – police vehicle window, removing paint from railings at Coop, windscreen damage, throwing bottle/injury and car window damage

4.2 Tampering of lock at River

4.3 Community Police organising football tournament in September at Onex with local primary schools in Houston, Bridge of Weir and Linwood. Banners will be displayed promoting event.

4.4 Ice cream van situated at South St during school lunch time (complies with being 500m away from school). Behaviour issues by Gryffe High School pupils alerting concern amongst local residents. GHS Headmaster carried out community walk as part of litter pick with pupils and residents came out to complain. Incidents are increasing pressure on police resource. Community police are working with Headmaster to tackle the issue. Police will monitor but cannot be there all the time. At the start of next term Police will go into school to talk to pupils. If behaviour does not improve visit to parents and could open up social work cases.

Jake mentioned that he had contacted Headmaster regarding litter around this area too as was becoming as issue.

5.0 Councillors Reports

Audrey Doig

5.1 20mph limits under consultation for all residents in areas across Scotland. Consultation will finish in a couple of months. All residential areas will have 20mph limit as the norm.

5.2 Green spaces meeting at Erskine Bridge Hotel on 18/7. Local Councillors will be in attendance to discuss supply of houses and objection to building on green belt.

There are 5 sites that will be visited and the “Reporter” will make a decision after individual site visits have been carried out.

The Council have brownfield sites which they should be developing and tackling the real issue of housing for older and younger people. The Councils view was there was already adequate land supply at the ROF. HCC agreed with this assessment and underlined it was important to complete this new community and other brownfield sites before considering further greenbelt release.

5.3 LED lighting – this is now complete and a review will take place. If residents identify dark areas they are required to report thought the Council. Concern also that lights on during the day.

5.4 Christmas Lights - Suggested going through Council procurement to purchase lights as no VAT. Also scope for more savings if group together with other Community Councils. Mark Arthur will speak to John Wallace at Council.

Alison Dowling

5.5 At LAC meeting substantial grants awarded (Houston Playpark got full award), however a number of groups got nothing and some groups did not get their application heard. £90k oversubscribed. Multi ward applications left to the end with good causes which got no award.

There is a possibility of a different system going forward.

Scott Kerr

5.6 Supporting residents through surgeries and settling into the role.

6.0 Treasurers Report

6.1 Opening balance £3974.37, after Secretary, ICO renewal and insurance costs closing balance £3875.98. Houston show raised £543.50 which will be shown in next statement and £45 expenditure for advert in Kirk Carnival programme.

Jake to submit invoices for purchase of planters, herbs/plants totalling £70.

7.0 Chair Report

7.1 I would like to thank everybody who contributed to the success of our stall at the Houston Show.

7.2 Attended Renfrewshire Community Council Forum May meeting, where Gordon McNeil, the new Head of Amenity Services, spoke about Community Councils' requests for speed limits to be reduced to 20 mph. Renfrewshire Council are considering this, but he brought up two new objections in addition to the three already raised by Renfrewshire Council. These were the expense of implementing and the cost to the economy of reducing speed limits to 20 mph.

7.4 Mark Ruskell MSP wrote to me asking if he could include the results of Derek Mackay MSP's survey of Houston residents on 20 mph speed limits as a response to his public consultation on this issue. I responded saying that this would be a decision for the full Community Council and will pass on our decision. Confirmed no objection.

7.5 Had an email from Bill Gordon and Fiona Michael of Chapel Road asking that the street lighting be extended as far as their house, Hightrees. Wrote to John Wallace, Street Lighting Manager at Renfrewshire Council with a request that this be done. Thanks to Cllr. Audrey Doig for forwarding email to Dorothy Kerr at Renfrewshire Council to ensure a record is kept on the lighting review of the request.

7.6 Wrote to Gordon McNeil, Head of Amenity Services asking that North Street be added to the list of roads scheduled for repair in the current year. The road surface is badly potholed and is getting worse. Kenny Marwick of the roads department replied, saying that the budget did not allow for North Street to be repaired this year but the road would be monitored and repaired as required to keep it in a safe condition.

7.7 Submitted Houston Community Council's response, written by David Dunlop, to Renfrewshire Council's Local Development Plan Main Issues Report.

7.8 Attended Houston Agricultural Society post-show meeting since Janet was on a break. Misunderstandings from this year were largely resolved. We were invited to attend the park with Agricultural Show representatives on the Friday before next year's meeting and agree locations of their pitches and ours. They are happy to continue to sell commercial stands at £25.00 and for us to continue to sell stands to non-profit organisations for £25.00. They suggested that we might contribute towards their insurance for the day since we were covered by it. My response was that we had our own insurance which was considerable cheaper (£10.00) in addition to our normal premium but I would seek the views of the full community council.

7.9 Following Houston resident Elaine Aitken's request that Virgin Media replace the daffodils and crocuses they dug up on the Bridge of Weir Road and at the entrance to Crosslee Crescent. I wrote to Maureen Wallace of Virgin Media requesting that they replace these flowers and that in light of the disruption they are causing in Houston that they should also consider a donation to our Christmas light and flower planting programmes. She refused both requests. Council members agreed that this should be escalated higher up within Virgin Media.

On the issue of Virgin Media DD accepted a note from a resident immediately prior to the meeting suggesting that HCC should lobby Virgin Media to complete the fibre link 'loop' between Houston, Linwood and Elderslie as it was suggested there was a weakness in the system which could make it less reliable as there was only 'one line into Houston.

9.0 Secretary Report

9.1 Pars Properties - Railings will be repainted at Co-op steps.

9.2 Juliette Camburn Community Project Officer Keep Scotland Beautiful - It's Your Neighbourhood visit to your 'Bee Happy' project will take place on 24/08. Visit will be informal and relaxed and chance to show group's projects, focusing on the three core pillars of It's Your Neighbourhood (community participation, environmental responsibility, and gardening achievement). Also to advise who is involved with the project / any future plans we have. After visit, we will receive a report highlighting achievements and provide group useful advice and guidance.

9.3 Royal Horticultural Society - Gryffe High School Project. Border dug by Bee Happy and planting completed by pupils 13 June 17.

9.4 North Mound Litter Clearance - Request made by resident to clear litter at North Mound which is being used as a drinking den. Completed 18/06 and pictures posted on HCC fb.

10.0 Review of Houston Agriculture Show – nothing further to add from Chairs Report.

11.0 Update on flowers and planters - carried forward to July meeting in view of Gordon Wright's apologies in attending meeting. DD advised there had been damage to one of the planters in the village by a WM Plant vehicle and he was examining costs of replacement.

12.0 Update on Micro Hydro-electric scheme

12.1 Elderslie Estates own the pond area near to the Tennis club. This used to be a dam which would require rebuilding. There is potential to have allotments, picnic area and involve local schools in wildlife etc. Meeting planned this week to discuss. Other options have been looked at, however, must have a sustainable water source and financial implications need to stack up. Allan Kelly a Houston resident has keen and professional interest in how HCC are progressing with this and Allan's details are to be forward to Mark to make contact.

13.0 Asset Transfer Requests - Village Hall

13.1 Mark has asked a development consultant to review options. Thoughts are to compliment what is here or look at something not already on offer in our village.

13.2 If we do nothing Council will be left with the building and potentially go on the market.

13.3 Suggestion to have co-working space and/or affordable flats.

13.4 Alison Dowling suggested speaking to Community Union who reaches out to self-employed people. To advise Mark of contact.

14.0 Result of LAC funding application

14.1 Applied for £10k and got £5k for Christmas Lights. Still keen to go ahead with full proposal.

14.2 £5k awarded for flowers/plants.

14.3 See also Alison Dowling report ref 5.5

14.4 Awards very much welcomed and appreciated from Renfrewshire Council.

15.0 Update on Funding for Bee Happy Houston

15.1 Subscription and standing order form sent to John McE for review. To be circulated amongst members for reasonability check.

15.2 Bank details to be added and agreed with Treasurer 1st March acceptable to commence subscriptions.

15.3 Forms to be available on HCC website. Co-op, Post Office and Village shop will keep a supply of forms. HCC fb will promote too with link to PDF document.

15.4 Updates via HCC fb and local advertiser

15.5 Agreed £5 subscription right amount to obtain initial interest from residents.

16.0 Any Other Business

16.1 Residents in attendance asked if LAC funding awarded covers Crosslee which Mark confirmed it does and as potentially more funds become available over coming years it will be spread throughout Houston. Discussion took place on planters situated throughout Houston and other areas where garden borders could be created eg opposite Coop.

16.2 Residents asked for clarity of what Micro Hydro scheme was, which Mark explained. This is a renewable energy source, harnessing the natural flow of water to create electricity within the local community.

16.3 Also asked if tennis club road will be widened/resurfaced by developers as putting nothing back into community. Community payback has to be part of terms of planning. Kathy advised HCC Council requires to be on the front foot for future developments.

16.4 Residents at Pine Grove have issue with cars using their parking area as a turning point. Audrey agreed to take up with roads dept for new signage.

16.5 Local Energy Action Fund (LEAF) – members agreed to invite to a future meeting. They look at saving energy in housing, cycling initiatives, book out electric car hire.

Next meeting: Wednesday 19 July 2017 at 7:30pm in Carrick Centre Houston.

Meeting closed by Vice Chair David Dunlop at 9pm