

Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting Nov 2017

Ref: HCC 11/2017

Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston

Date: 15/11/17

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 7

Present:

John McEvoy
Jill Jack (jj)
David Dunlop
John Chambers
Sharon Chambers
Kathy McFall
Jake Fulton (jf)
Gordon Wright (gw)
Liam Smith
Mark Arthur (ma)
Janet Mason (jm)
Helen Parker

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 Audrey Doig
Debbie Hobbs
Archie White

Representing:

Police Scotland (PS)
Police Scotland (PS)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Resident
Renfrewshire Council/Unpaid Work

Apologies:

Elizabeth Dalgetty
Carol Murray
Lesley Walker

Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)
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 Octobers minutes by Janet Mason and seconded by Gordon Wright.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to the HCC action list attached via excel document.

4.0 Speeding on Main St Houston

4.1 Resident Debbie Hobbs advised that she has seen as increase in traffic speeding on Main St. With new houses at Tennis Club traffic is heavier and there is a section of Main St with no pavement to walk on together with blind corners, causing risk to residents.

4.2 Cllr Audrey Doig advised she sits on the Environment Board where “20s plenty” has been discussed. There is a bill being passed to Scottish Government for all residential areas to have 20mph as the norm. There is no date for implementation as will take time due to costs etc. Suggested erecting a flashing speed sign in interim however this does not record driver speed.

4.3 Need to involve agencies at consultation stage for developers to put in pavements and there are also strict planning constraints with it being a conservation area which can bring opportunities too.

4.4 The Council Development Plan also includes travel plans and carshare opportunities to reduce traffic on roads.

4.5 Debbie expressed concern re waiting on legislation and speed signs due to Main St being busy during school lunch times and after school care groups. Residents are at risk and what if something happens in the meantime? If put on back burner can RC independently implement?

Cllr Doig advised to have patience as far as “20s plenty campaign” and will find out more on timeline for legislation going through. All primary school children should be accompanied by an adult to/from school. Also suggested article to be placed in advertizer for traffic to slow down.

Police confirmed that traffic speed on Main St has been monitored. JMce requested that it be carried out again as this is the most widely expressed concern from residents and Police agreed.

5.0 Police Report (PC Norwood and PC Dick left the meeting after discussion had taken place re item 5.0 regarding speeding on Main St)

5.1 Summary of 5 offences – 2 detected during reporting period between 19/10 – 15/11.

Summary:

1 x theft - Coop (eggs)

1 x drug offences- Ardgyffe Park

1 x vandalism - Vehicle scratched in carpark

1 x road traffic offence – Minor collision hit and run

1 x other – Attempt murder at Crosslee Poultry Farm

over coming weeks/months. Jmce asked that they monitor Main St.

5.2 Shoplifting continuing at Coop Crosslee.

5.3 After complaints from school crossing patrol on Houston Rd High viz speed checks carried out by Officers stopping 3 vehicles. 30mph limit (34,35mph) cars were stopped and drivers warned which they accepted. Further speed checks will be carried out randomly.

5.4 Male has been charged over damage to cars in Fox n Hounds carpark reported in October.

5.5 Jake asked for update on litter particularly around village centre at lunch times. Police advised no action recently, however, will be visiting local schools w/c 20/11 and matter will be discussed.

6.0 Archie White Renfrew Council Unpaid Work Team

6.1 Archie works alongside Karen Keane in the Unpaid Work Team previously known as Community Payback which is a 7-day service.

6.2 The team is available to community groups and qualifying individuals who need work carried out ie elderly, disabled, single parent, mental health and addiction.

6.3 The work is carried out by people who have been sentenced in court to do this work and is done under the supervision of Renfrewshire Council Officers.

6.4 The type of work carried out is gardening, fence painting, snow clearance and gritting, painting and decorating (2-bedroom minimum) and litter picking. The team do not carry out specialist jobs. They work in groups of 5 with 1 supervisor.

6.5 Previous work carried out in Houston – painted entrance to Houston Primary School, painted fencing at St Fillans Primary School and cutback overgrown bushes at Whirlie Rd.

6.6 Details will be posted on HCC Facebook page with a Request for Work Referral Form to be completed. Residents can make request directly.

6.7 There is a quick response to requests as always looking for work with 5 squads going out daily.

6.8 Request to be placed to get leaves removed from Main St by 30/11 before Christmas light switch on.

6.9 Requests for additional litter bins are not easy due to costs of emptying. Dog bins are no longer supplied as all bins take dog poo. Potential to replace dog bins with ordinary bins. Cllr Doig will ask re additional bins for Magnus Rd.

7.0 Treasurers Report

7.1 Income and expenditure covered for the period 20/09 to 13/10. Opening balance £13834. Income £1847 which includes lamp post basket reimbursement, Houston Show meal, gazebo hire, Just Giving, sponsorship from Carrick Centre, 41 Club and Bowling Club. Expenditure £10891 including Secretary, Christmas lights, fireworks, insurance, lamp post basket, plants/materials, flower bulbs, lawnmower/strimmer. Closing balance £4791.

7.2 Items not included in bank statement: winter bedding plants, bark, petrol, relief fund payment, buckets/jubilee clips, administration grant, resident sponsorship.

Yew tree log cutting £300 still to be actioned. £100 sponsorship from Rotary for bulbs on it's way too.

7.3 Discussion took place re paying £200 for photographer for Christmas event. Agreed not required. John McE will arrange for Gazette and Paisley Express photographer to attend event.

8.0 Councillor Reports

Cllr Audrey Doig

8.1 A review is being carried out regarding carpark charges in Renfrewshire. Johnstone and Renfrew public carparks are overfull, and cars are being parked all day. At Johnstone railway station, if not there before 8am, drivers are parking on residential streets and residents are complaining. Charges and road restrictions being considered.

8.2 Advancement in waste collections is under consultation and review as follows: 2 blue bins per household - 1 x paper/cardboard and 1 x plastic/glass. Brown bin will continue as is. Residents can request smaller/larger grey bins and reduction in collections also part of review. Concern raised re number of bins households will have. An education programme is required. Hefty charges will apply for anything that goes to landfill from 2020. Only 47% of refuse gets recycled now.

8.3 Meeting held re Deafhillock roadworks with 4 local Councillors. Department held up hands admitting got it wrong. Fines can be imposed. Meeting to be held with Barratt on 16/11/17 and will be requesting that present works are finished early as water and communication installations are finished. Will insist that by 10/12/17 it must be totally complete.

Widening of access road to A737 to take place. Councillors will insist on a break for commuters as they have put up with more than enough disturbance.

HCC questioned how much revenue the Council received from the developer as local businesses have been badly affected. Audrey will find out. An approved retailer will go into Patons Mill.

8.3 Audrey advised that other Councillors at St Benedicts award ceremony tonight and hence not at meeting.

9.0 Secretary Report

9.1 Glow for Gold Campaign (Pam Neilson)

Campaign is to increase awareness of childhood cancer. Next year's campaign will include a project called 'A Garden of Gold'. Villages, cities, public parks and gardens to create a display of yellow and gold flowers, which will bloom in late August/early September in recognition of children who have gained their wings and those still fighting.

Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, Ross Fountain in Princes Street Gardens, Floors Castle and Althorp Estate are some examples who have already agreed to join the campaign, as have many other gardens around the UK. Bee Happy have confirmed they are more than happy to support this.

9.2 Keep Scotland Beautiful Seminar Stirling Oct 17

Marion Greig and Jill Jack received level 3 advancing certificate on behalf of Bee Happy Houston at Keep Scotland Beautiful Seminar in Stirling. HCC members agreed that certificate to be displayed in The Carrick Centre.

Gazette ran article and will appear in December issue of advertiser too.

Lots of presentations and stands on the day to inspire and enthuse linking in with biodiversity challenges.

Suggestions/Ideas: Bug mansions, hedgehog abodes, community knitting group making bees for potential sale/display (link in with Fox n Hounds market stalls for sale), Christmas cards and calendars, wheelchair friendly garden areas, schools using gardening areas as cooling off zones, create a bee/bug trail for children, butterfly growing, improving community paths, community learning exchange opportunities are funded by Scottish Government and will pay expenses plus a host fee to the group that you want to visit, adopt a bee hive, bee refreshments at planters/hanging baskets.

Theme for 2018 will be Year of the Young People – involve schools and youth groups.

10.0 Chair Report

10.1 Wrote to Dorothy Kerr of Renfrewshire Council requesting (i) the erection of bus shelters on the village-bound side of Fulton Drive and Magnus Road and (ii) that the white lines be repainted on Barrochan Road between Chapel Road and the Deafhillock roundabout. Renfrewshire Council has responded saying that they will have an officer visit the area and instruct any refurbishment required. We await a response re the bus shelters.

10.2 Received cheque for £100.00 from Bridge of Weir and Kilmacolm 41 Club as sponsorship towards our flower planting programme. Acknowledged receipt and confirmed that the funds would be used for the intended purpose.

10.3 Received £100.00 sponsorship from Peter Thomson, golf professional at Erskine Golf Club towards our flower planting programme. Acknowledged receipt and confirmed that the funds would be used for the intended purpose.

10.4 Bought 8 Charity Collection Buckets for use at the Christmas Lights Switch On. We will discuss arrangements under Mark's report

10.5 Arranged Xmas lights insurance with Keegan and Pennykid. Premium will be added on to our monthly direct debit.

10.6 Following input from residents requested that the Unpaid Workers Team clear leaves from Kirk Road and the path through the woods between Leeburn Gardens and the metal bridge. Initial response was positive, and we await confirmation.

10.7 Along with Janet met with representatives of the Gryfebank Residents Association. Janet will give details in her report.

10.8 Asked BT for update on when the Traditional phone box in Crosslee will be repainted. Was told the painters are now in Scotland it should be painted this month.

10.9 Sent cheque for £370.11 to Mayor Sylvester Turner of Houston Texas towards his Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund.

10.10 Along with Jill Jack attended Remembrance Day wreath laying at war memorial on Sunday 12 November. 2018 is 100th anniversary of First World War and would be good if laying of wreaths can be aligned in one ceremony.

10.11 David and I have started working on appealing the Boundaries Commission Scotland proposal to move Renfrewshire Ward 10 into the new Renfrewshire West constituency.

10.12 Met with John Compson, manager at the co-op in Crosslee. He is allowed to nominate 3 community groups to fund up to £1000 and considers us to be a strong candidate for his support. He also offered tea and coffee to the Litter Crew and Bee Happy Houston.

10.13 Also requested for white lining and anti-skid surface at Crosslee to be redone.

11.0 Smart Water

11.1 Kathy confirmed 20 packs purchased at £8.95 pp (funds paid upfront) and ready to go.

11.2 Promote on Facebook and then when purchase made code will be released.

12.0 Update on Craigends Yew

12.1 Ian Andrew had raised concern re water level which after discussion did not see this as an issue.

12.2 Kathy agreed to take photos first week in December.

12.3 Speak to Camera Club if potential to take photos.

12.4 Robbie Wilson is arranging for hardcore delivery for pathway. Gordon Wright agreed to assist.

13.0 No further update on Flowers/Planters

14.0 Arrangements for Christmas Light Switch On

14.1 Mark issued schedule and timeline and walked through days activities, covering roles and responsibilities. Kathy will put timings on Facebook page.

14.2 Met with pubs this week and agreed no requirement for HCC members to assist elves with bucket collections. Kathy offered to brand buckets and Sharon will order collection tins which will be placed in local businesses in Houston. Sharon will also supply "ho ho ho" bags which will be filled with sweets for elves to give out to children.

14.3 Pubs have hired a DJ between them.

14.4 Approach local schools for residents to use carparks.

14.5 Agreed £250 cost to fell trees at bridge area on Main St.

14.6 Agreed to purchase light up LED toys for sale on the night. John McE will source out suppliers and that comply with recycling standards. John will confirm with Marion re finances and selling of goods, now that HCC VAT registered.

14.7 Craig Kennedy supplying 10ft Christmas tree. Jake requested £120 to decorate with lights and tinsel with baubles on planters. After discussion this was approved. Suggested schools decorate tree and Mark will forward email contacts for school to Jake.

14.8 John McE thanked Mark for the sterling work he has carried out in arranging the event.

15.0 Renfrewshire Council's response to our comments on the Strategic Housing Development Plan

15.1 David confirmed his response covered the housing pressure at Crosslee and the expectation that the Council defend our greenspace. Confirmed will make comment when get proposal.

16.0 Rural Community Councils. HCC priorities for Renfrewshire Council attention

16.1 John McE asked that members drop him an email advising what we think is important for Renfrewshire Council to action eg gulley cleaning on Main St, Houston House, Kirk Rd. Audrey also advised that new budget starts in February so there may be opportunity to spend surplus any funds before this date.

17.0 Christmas Night out

17.1 A greed Houston Inn Tuesday 19 December at 7:30pm. John McE will contact Inn in advance.

18.0 No other Business

Meeting closed at 10pm. Next Meeting in The Carrick Centre on Wednesday 18 January at 7:30pm.