

Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting Feb 2018

Ref: HCC 2/2018

Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston

Date: 21/02/18

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 7

Present:

John McEvoy (JMCE)
David Dunlop (dd)
John Chambers (jc)
Sharon Chambers (sc)
Kathy McFall (km)
Jake Fulton (jf)
Gordon Wright (gw)
Liam Smith (ls)
Janet Mason (jm)
Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)
Carol Murray (cm)
Nigel Hobbs (nh)

Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)
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HCC Position:

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer

In Attendance

PC Martin Norwood
PC Brian Dick
Jill Jack
Lylla Stuart
Drew McNab

Representing:

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

Apologies:

Mark Arthur (ma)
Helen Parker (hp)
Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)
Cllr Alison Dowling (ad)
Cllr Jim Sheridan (js)

Representing:

Houston Community Council (HCC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)

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 January minutes by Sharon Chambers and seconded by Gordon Wright.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to the HCC action list attached via excel document.

4.0 Road works at Barrochan Interchange Discussion with Drew McNab of Renfrewshire Council

4.1 The A737 works postponed by David Wilson until 16/4. The proposal is that work is planned for 7 weeks. Start on site 16/4 and finish on site 11/6. Design has been agreed but not the programme of works. RC still to meet with contractor.

4.2 Traffic Management will be via a stop line approach at Barrochan interchange from Merchison.

4.3 Trial hole digs to take place to identify services and issues. This is in the hands of Utility Companies. Once trial digs complete an accurate programme of works will be drawn up.

4.4 HCC asked if working hours will be extended eg weekend working, longer nights. RC advised that Utility Company's may have concern re Health & Safety issues. Also concern from HCC re traffic backing up beyond Deafhillock and once homes occupied, other cars will have priority having a worse effect on Houston residents. Request made to prioritise lights at peak times with manual manning of traffic lights.

4.5 Phase 1 build - 67 houses. It will be 2020 before the site is complete. 84 houses need to be built and sold before road complete.

4.6 HCC request that payment made upfront for job to be completed in 7 weeks (guarantee required for proof of payment). HCC would rather works start later once all investigations carried out and over a shorter period. Guarantee of payment to be tied into the programme of works. Drew will report back to HCC on information from developer via Cllr Audrey Doig.

4.7 HCC stated it is important that work is facilitated and painless as possible. If planning restriction lifted developer won't care. Reasonable request from HCC that meeting with RC and developer takes place and resource programme agreed to meet programme of works. Also request copy of programme to make as smooth and painless as possible and needs to be realistic. Would be easier to delay works to school holidays when traffic is lighter.

4.8 Drew advised RC works cannot happen at same time as utility companies.

4.9 Discussion re what would happen if don't meet SLAs, will there be penalties? Stated won't be allowed to build any more houses.

4.10 Drew advised work on bridge is complex and need to take it in smaller sections. Fully aware that important to keep community on board. RC inspectors will be on top of this and weekly meetings with developer will take place.

4.11 The above discussions were backed up with a letter to Drew McNab from JM dated 27 Feb 17 and attached e-mail covers the proposal and benefits of carrying out bridge deck works and lane widening simultaneously plus HCC's request that all preparatory works – legal, financial & onsite – are carried out prior to any on site works. A request for an accurate programme and regular progress updates are made for HCC to communicate to the local community.



Rescheduling of
Deafhillock Roadwo

5.0 Police Report (PC Norwood and PC Dick left the meeting after discussion had taken place.

5.1 10 offences – 5 detected during reporting period between 18/01 – 20/02 Summary:
2 x theft – 1 x locking wheels nuts from car boot and 1 x intent to steal from vehicle.
3 x drug offences – 1 x Gryffe High School pupil supplying ecstasy to 10 other pupils. 1 x possession of cannabis at Ardgryffe Park (2 males). 1 x possession of cannabis at Whirlie Rd (1 female).

1 x vandalism - 1 x smashed car window at Crosslee Park, 1 x vandalism to 3 separate cars in Ninian Ave, 1 x damage to parked car on North St (1 male identified), 1 x damage to information sign at Yew Tree.

1 x road traffic offence – Driving with no insurance and MOT.

5.2 Crime and Trends – Extra attention will be given to area due to recent thefts/attempts from vehicles.

5.3 Continued assistance and support offered to Gryffe High School due to the recent drugs issue, with possible initiatives between both the school and Police Scotland.

5.4 We will offer our continued support in conjunction with Gryffe High School in relation to littering within the village.

Jake requested that robust police action required in view of littering not getting any better. Enforcement required with parent involvement who are influencers. Police confirmed meeting with Head Teacher for over an hour last week. Carrying out walkabouts and plain clothes officers involved. Wardens cannot fine if <16 yrs. Head Teacher also invited to HCC meeting. Police are taking this seriously however, at present there are bigger issues to deal with.

5.5 Gordon asked if facebook comments regarding vandalism to Yew Tree signage can be used to gather evidence, as there are a couple of comments that might throw light on the event. Police confirmed can take photo of anyone committing an offence even if they are under 16 years of age to pass onto Police or school. This has got to be justified. Important not to post on social media.

6.0 Local Councillor Reports

Cllr Audrey Doig

6.1 As from 23 March 2018 the McGill bus service No. 19 is to cease. Public rally being called 23/02 for people to meet up, at the Tweedie Hall, Linwood 11am-11.30am. All are welcome to attend and show their concern for these cuts, sign a petition etc. Various Local Councillors will be in attendance as well as MSP Tom Arthur.

Objection to getting rid of routes of which 2 are being cut in villages and need to look at a resolution.

Cost is a big factor to cutting routes. Ralph Roberts who owns private company McGills advised buses need to meet a standard specification including spares. It costs £250K to maintain one service.

Bill going through parliament to change rural services provision.

SPT look after licensing and if they now fund these routes they will be rewarding McGills for cutting services.

Aging population require bus service and important for social inclusion. 'My Bus' provide transport for hospital visits etc however to get on membership list is difficult.

Any turnaround to services will not be in place for cut off day but will progress any resolution as fast as they can, but these withdrawals will be implemented before any change in the law takes effect....rural services provision.

6.2 Council budgets will be announced w/c 26/02.

6.3 LAC report being reworked due to area/boundary changes. Houston will be grouped together with all villages. Suggest David, Janet and John have a good read of changes.

Decision will be made by LAC for Renfrewshire at public meetings in March.

Implementation is April 2019.

6.4 Changes to Glasgow Airport Flight path – Unsure if affects Houston. Audrey to email meeting dates, where maps of changes will be available to view.

6.5 Drew McNab commented that Private Members Bill has now been incorporated into forthcoming Transport Bill for change to 20mph speed limit - await outcome

7.0 Treasurers Report

7.1 Income and expenditure covered for the period 15/01 to 21/02. Opening balance £5825. Income £2110 which includes Bee Happy donations, sponsorship, glowsticks, donation National Women's register. Expenditure £1056 including Secretary, insurance, kid's gifts, DJ, glowsticks, Carrick Centre, Plants and Relief Fund payment. Closing balance £6879.

Bee Happy balance to date £155.

8.0 Secretary Report

8.1 PARS Properties LTD and Taylor Wimpey Metal Bridge– Outstanding works are being chased.

8.2. Residents copied HCC in on emails to RC re potholes/blocked drains in and around Houston.

8.3 Email from Kirk Carnival organisers regarding advice on road closures. Advised to attend HCC meeting when they could direct question to Community Police in attendance.

8.4 After submitting a very worthy Lord Provost nomination in community group category for Bee Happy, unfortunately the nomination was unsuccessful.

9.0 Chairperson Report

9.1 Along with David Dunlop and Jake Fulton met twice with June McCrae's Action Group and Councillors James Sheridan and Alison Dowling to agree a plan to have telecommunications mast in Magnus Road relocated. Article and photograph of objectors published in Gazette and target for June's group of 1000+ signatures for petition has now gathered over 700 signatures. An action plan for June's group has been agreed. We have been asked to write to Vodafone, Telefónica and C.T.I.L. requesting that the mast be moved. Agreed to write letter.

9.2 Many Houston residents have contacted us to ask for support to have the decision by McGill's buses to discontinue the no. 19 route reversed. Councillors Dowling and Sheridan have organised a gathering at 11.00 a.m. Friday, 23 February at the Tweedie Hall in Linwood at which residents can show their concern. Details of this have been posted on our Facebook page.

9.3 Unfortunately our nomination of Janet for the Provost's Award for Community Volunteer of the Year was unsuccessful. We would nevertheless like to acknowledge all the work that Janet put into this project.

9.4 Adam McCartney has asked that we support the Kirk Carnival again this year by taking out an advert for our stands at the Houston Agricultural Show at a cost of £40.00. All in favour.

9.5 As agreed at January meeting I purchased 5 small charity collection tins for placement around village and passed on to Kathy for labelling.

9.6 Have tried numerous times without success to contact Mark Faichney of Renfrewshire Council by phone and by email to get agreement for new position of park bench. Got an email from Mark at 17.22 this evening which was generally supportive, but we still need some clarification.

9.7 As intimated at our January meeting agreed with Dorothy Kerr of Renfrewshire Council that a member of the roads team would attend this meeting and I am pleased to welcome Drew McNab.

I spoke with James Weir of RC planning department to ask for clarification on why Barratt Homes had asked for a variation in the planning consent to release 94 homes for occupancy before the road widening works at the Barrochan Interchange were started. The reason given was "unforeseen circumstances" connected to the protracted roadworks at Deafhillock.

9.8 Houston resident John McDonald contacted us with details of flooding sewer close to Riverside. This has been reported to SEPA by phone and Scottish Water by phone and follow-up email. Both organisations seem to be treating the report seriously. This is also a challenge for new house builds.

9.9 Chris Logan of Persimmon Homes contacted us to ask for a meeting with "a small number of your committee" discuss their proposed residential development which would extend from Old Bridge of Weir Road close to South Mound up to and beyond Houstonfield Dam. I responded saying their email was noted and we would revert to them in due course. Agreed John, Elizabeth and Lyall and possibly Mark to attend meeting.

9.10 Contacted Renfrewshire Council Planning Department to ask for details of the planning application by Bankhead Developments of Bridge of Weir to build seven homes on the Chapel Farm site. The application is for 8 homes with 1 x 2 bed, 3 x 3 bed, 3 x 4 bed and 1x 5 bed houses. They have also applied to install a single-track access road with 1 x passing place leading from the site to Barrochan Road.

9.11 We have received an email from Renfrewshire Council Community Planning publicising a series of consultation meetings designed to discuss proposed changes to Community Level Governance (Local Area Committees). Publicised on our FB page and circulated HCC members.

9.12 Reported vandalism to new sign for Craigends Yew to police. After the many months of hard work put into this by Janet Mason I would like to record the Community Council's disappointment that the new sign was vandalised after less than a week.

9.13 We have had abusive comments about one of our Renfrewshire Councillors on our Facebook page and need to agree a view on this. Agreed if trolling to remove and admin to send message to advise not acceptable.

10.0 Update on Craigends Yew

10.1 Vandalised signage getting fixed w/c 26/02. Path to bridge with timber edge and hardcore getting laid.

11.0 Update on Planters/Flowers

11.1 Plant scheme for annuals with same colour scheme throughout will be submitted to gardening subcommittee for approval by Bee Happy.

11.2 Agreed purchase of 2 x benches. One at Houston Park and one picnic bench at Riverside. To confirm with Parks Dept and that no interruption to mowing. If need be bench can be placed at Yew Tree. Unpaid workers to do concrete base.

12.0 Persimmons Homes Development Proposal

12.1 Land bought from High School to Houstonfield dam.

12.2 Discussion re Homes for Scotland website which supports freeing up more greenbelt and in marketable areas. Cllr Doig advised that need to exhaust brownfield sites before any greenbelt looked at. This is of commercial importance to the builder only. 5 applications previously gone to appeal and all 5 refused on different grounds and for good reason.

12.3 HCC against development. Require a robust case as will change dynamics of area and wildlife. Bus routes are being cut so will be more cars on the road. Objection will be the same for every development.

12.4 Developers are attracted to high performing schools. They need to look at affordable housing, downsizing, regeneration of Braehead and Paisley.

12.5 Projected housing needs >20years is single occupancy and elderly people downsizing.

12.6 Potential to look at heritage for Houston and community right to buy.

12.7 Agreed to meet with planners at Council – John Chambers, Elizabeth, Lyall and potentially Mark to attend. David will devise a briefing note.

14.0 Any Other Business

14.1 Agreed to write to Head Teacher Colin Johnson at Gryffe High School for help in keeping our village vandal free.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm. Next Meeting in The Carrick Centre on Wednesday 21 March at 7:30pm.