

Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting March 2018 Ref: HCC 3/2018
 Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston Date: 21/03/18
 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)
 Carol Murray (cm)
 Nigel Hobbs (nh)
 Helen Parker (hp)
 Mark Arthur (ma)

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
 Cllr Jim Sheridan
 Brian Melichan
 Soheila Keyani

Representing:

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

Apologies:

Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)
 Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)
 Cllr Alison Dowling (ad)
 Cllr Audrey Doig

Representing:

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 February minutes by Janet Mason and seconded by David Dunlop.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to the HCC action log attached via excel document.

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

4.1 8 offences – 3 detected during reporting period between 21/02 – 20/03

Summary:

2 x attempt break in – Houston Inn with damage to exit door panel and property at South Mound had door handle damaged.

2 x theft – from car on Kirk Rd (roof aerial) and vehicle number plates from car at Houston Inn.

2 x common assault – Domestic at Neuk Cres and common assault at Bogstonhill Rd, threw ice/snow then punched to ground.

1 x drug offences – Cannabis near to River Inn

1 x other – Vandalism to car, accused punched car.

4.2 Proactive high visibility patrols within Houston and Crosslee.

4.3 Continued assistance and support offered to GHS due to recent drugs issue, with possible initiatives between both the school and Police Scotland. Police presence is restricted as cannot be there every day. There will be a drugs parents awareness night in May. Have already done drugs talks with pupils showing graphic videos of outcomes.

Jake voiced the need to set up a protocol regarding drugs and transfer to litter and then sell idea to other schools.

4.4 Continued support in conjunction with GHS in relation to littering within the village. Head Teacher and pupil representation will attend HCC meeting from May/June 2018.

5.0 Local Councillors Reports

Cllr Jim Sheridan

5.1 Council tax increase – desperate for increase due to freeze in previous years. Money to be used wisely.

5.2 Met with McGill's 3 senior Directors.

Cllr advised there is lack of competition, no accountability and no communication.

McGill's stance is they are not a charity, if you don't use bus service you will lose it. Services are difficult and complex to run and cost a lot of money.

Discussion re no direct transport to Paisley providing limited service for workers.

There is a rural fund, if residents complain it may get subsidised.

SPT have no involvement in bus routes. They have one tender ie McGills

Lothian is a great example of a good service to the community and look after their workers.

There is also a lack of real time information at bus stops making it very vague for commuters. Digital noticeboard would be good.

Resident asked if it would make a difference if McGills put a smaller bus on routes – answer no.

Need to convince all political parties to deregulate buses as current system not working. If every party agrees contact made through Parliament. There is a transport bill coming out but no date yet.

Resident suggested community partnership being involved and consultation regarding bus routes – suggested Ralph Roberts and a point of contact.

5.3 Deafhilllock – Senior member of Council to write to Scottish Government as Utility Companies are tearing up roads. Levy should be put on them if no work taking place costing them money.

There is a 1991 legislation in place but the Council do not enforce it. HCC suggested it would be interesting to know how many fines/charges there has been and if any applied to Deafhilllock works.

5.4 Mobile phone mast – Gone as far as we can go at Council level. Scottish Parliament need to change legislation to amend consultation.

Vodafone did consult Local Councillors, but they were no longer in post due to change over in Councillors.

6.0 Treasurers Report

6.1 Income and expenditure covered for the period 21/02 to 21/03. Opening balance £6879. Income nil. Expenditure £301 including Secretary, insurance and yew tree materials. Closing balance £6577.

Bee Happy balance to date £155.

Donations of £75 from Kirk Guild and £47 to be Bee Happy to be added.

Bee Happy subscriptions set up from 01/03.

Donation buckets still in operation and sponsorship money to be chased up.

7.0 Secretary Report

7.1 Grit bins – residents requesting replenishment and that council should have topped up ahead of the bad weather forecast. Confirmed that RC already had a plan in place to refill all bins which has now been actioned.

8.0 Chair Report

8.1 Attended Renfrewshire Community Council Forum meeting where we were given a useful presentation on sourcing funding for projects. John McE to send list of all different funding opportunities. Members to come prepared to next meeting with top 10 list eg community bus at peak times?

8.2 As agreed at last meeting submitted the Community Council's objection to the development proposal at Chapel Farm and placed post on our Facebook page telling residents we had done this and inviting any others who were similarly minded to also object.

8.3 Had communication from Colin Johnson, Head Teacher at Gryffe High saying that he would like to attend future meetings of the Community Council along with some of his pupils. All in favour.

8.4 Submitted funding applications to LAC covering Flower planting programme, Christmas and winter lighting proposal micro-hydro electricity generating scheme. Gordon and Mark will report more fully on these later in the meeting.

8.5 The Scottish Parliament's Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee has asked us to comment on the impact of bank branch closures in our area. The number of bank branches across Scotland reduced by a third between 2010 and 2017. The deadline for submissions is Friday 13 April. I copied the email to our Facebook page to enable residents to submit their views. Is this something we wish to comment on? No comment from members.

8.6 St Fillan's Primary School have embarked on a project to paint underpass next to the school and improve the area around it. They have invited the whole community to join them. Jake has discussed with Head Teacher. How should we get involved? All in favour of donating £250 to funding the project.

8.7 Following request from June McCrae wrote to Vodafone, Telefónica and CTIL asking them to re-site mast in Magnus Road. Responses were not encouraging.

8.8 Following an incident where somebody fell into the burn in the village centre, we have been given a quote from Ian McKenzie to place gates on steps at cost of £90.00. HCC members agreed that not our responsibility.

8.9 Mark Ruskell MSP responded to an enquiry from me saying that his Private Members bill on speed restrictions will be introduced just before summer and that there was no indication a switch in the default urban limit will be part of the Transport Bill.

8.10 Along with David Dunlop attended consultation process on introducing parking charges in Johnstone. We both put forward arguments opposing their introduction.

8.11 Received email from Carol Rankin, who is upset by litter left in South Street following Gryffe High lunch break and asked us to bring this up with Renfrewshire Council & Councillors. She understands that Renfrewshire Council provides a street clearing service after lunch break in Paisley schools and asks why this isn't done here, and for us to give her a timetable if it is done in Houston. After discussion Cllr Sheridan asked that email be forwarded to him to investigate and respond.

9.0 LAC Grant Submissions

9.1 The fruits of Bee Happys planting labours will soon unfold making Houston look fantastic.

9.2 £10k LAC application submitted for flower planting and environment enhancing programme for Houston this year as follows:

Bulbs £2K, Shrubs £2K across 24 sites, tools £1250, Community orchard backing onto big roundabout with fruit trees £1K, benches £2K, summer/winter bedding £1k, wildflower meadow £250, poppy memorial bed to commemorate 100th anniversary of end of World War 1 £500.

9.3 Circulate submission to Bee Happy.

9.4 Christmas lights – £10K applied for to cover cost of winter lights, children's competition lights, permanent light for war memorial and lights at burn. Includes purchase of microphones for kids and trailer supplied by Malcolms subject to conditions.

9.5 £4123 applied for to pay for feasibility study for micro-hydro electricity generating scheme.

10.0 St Fillans Primary School Plan to paint Underpass

10.1 Project to paint underpass close to school involving whole community. RC permission and payback team to jet wash area and clear grassy bank/land round about it. Jake happy to liaise with school re gardening.

10.2 They plan to raise £1500 and after discussion HCC members agreed to donate £250 for this worthy cause.

10.3 Jake to discuss with Steve Blackmore a professional artist re painting underpass – Kathy will forward his details.

10.4 HCC to touch base and support every way we can and invite Head Teacher to our next meeting.

11.0 Any Other Business

11.1 Community Police run an annual football tournament and looking for £20 donation from HCC. HCC members agreed to support.

11.2 Link to be posted on our Community fb page giving guidance to followers on general data protection.

11.3 Resident asked if car share scheme could work on our fb page. Discussion around timing – would need to be in advance.

Meeting closed at 9.06pm. Next Meeting in The Carrick Centre on Wednesday 18 April at 7:30pm.