

## Minutes of Meeting

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting April 2018

Ref: HCC 4/2018

Location: Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston

Date: 18/04/18

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 7

### Present:

David Dunlop (dd)  
John Chambers (jc)  
Sharon Chambers (sc)  
Kathy McFall (km)  
Jake Fulton (jf)  
Gordon Wright (gw)  
Mark Arthur (ma)  
Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)

### Representing:

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

Vice Chair  
Treasurer

### In Attendance

PC Martin Norwood  
PC Brian Dick  
Jill Jack (jj)  
Cllr Audrey Doig (ad)  
Donna Cunningham

### Representing:

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

### Apologies:

John McAvoy (jmc)  
Liam Smith (ls)  
Nigel Hobbs (nh)  
Helen Parker (hp)  
Janet Mason (jm)  
Carol Murray (cm)  
Cllr Jim Sheridan (js)  
Cllr Alison Dowling (ad)  
Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)

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Renfrewshire Council (RC)  
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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**

Approval of March minutes by Gordon Wright and seconded by John Chambers.

### **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** 9 offences – 4 detected during reporting period between 21/03 – 18/04

Summary:

1 x domestic assault

2 x anti-social – domestic breach of peace and vandalism at business premises

3 x road traffic offences - disqualified driver with no insurance or mot, speeding and careless driving

3 x other – wildlife offence, attempt fraud (telephone) and sexual offence

**4.2** Continued assistance and support offered to GHS due to recent drugs issue. There will be a drugs parents awareness night on 14 May with involvement of paramedics. Police supervisor visiting GHS on 20/05.

**4.3** Resident questioned attempted break in to a garage w/c 16/04. Police confirmed they were in attendance, however no sign of break in and nothing stolen. A gust of wind may have blown open garage door. Residents looking at upgrading security of property.

**4.4** Kathy raised concern about danger of parking next to residential home on Barrochan Rd. Police have visited property. There has been issue with speeding on road (family pet killed). Traffic dept monitoring and road warning signs are in process of being arranged through Renfrewshire Council.

### **5.0 Portable Community 24/7 Accessible Defibrillator**

**5.1** Donna Cunningham a Houston resident has recently attended a CPR heart start refresher course. Use of a cardiac machine would dramatically improve survival rates.

**5.2** The Co-op, Houston Kirk and Carrick Centre all have defibrillators, however they are not community owned and cannot be accessed 24/7. Nor can they leave the buildings due to insurance implications.

**5.3** Initiative required to move a defibrillator to an external wall, so it can be easily accessed within our community. There are costs involved in this and maintenance of replacing the battery. Suggestion if local house developers could contribute to costs? Other CCs have raised money locally. Linwood also have a security casing and camera on their community defibrillator which requires a call to the police on 101 to release a pin code which only takes a couple of minutes.

**5.4** Agreed to speak to Angus at Carrick Centre which is obvious location. Also investigate structure of fitting externally including electricity supply, lighting up and planning permission requirement. Other site suggestion was at Doctors surgery.

**5.5** HCC agreed to discuss online with Donna providing details by email of make and models of existing defibrillators within Houston, who to contact in case of emergency and how to raise profile eg through social media.

## **6.0 Local Councillor Report**

### **Cllr Audrey Doig**

**6.1** McGills buses – Timetable connections not marrying up and village centres are missing out. Talks with SPT and Ann-Marie McGurk – there will be a meeting for the community in the Tweedie Hall in Linwood on 15/05. HCC community to be advised. Questions will be provided beforehand so we get answers on the day. The council have put in £3.7m to SPT. Councillors are receiving complaints on a regular basis. Cllr Doig advised it is important that the bus service is used and is writing to MSPs for support.

Since the April HCC meeting Cllr Doig has confirmed by email that meeting to be held on 22/05 with deadline for questions to SPT to be submitted to Cllr Doig by 14 May.

**6.2** Next Council meeting is 03/05.

**6.3** LAC consultation – board papers will be studied in advance by panel and application process requires more detail eg look into if awarded grants in the past. Meeting is on 06/06 at 6pm.

**6.4** Potholes – 100 roads will be resurfaced this year. Log any complaints on the RC site.

**6.5** David raised that faulty LED lights raised in November 17 still not sorted. Cllr Doig advised to resubmit and copy her in.

## **6.0 Treasurers Report**

**6.1** Income and expenditure covered for the period 21/03 to 18/04. Opening balance £6577. Income £40 to Bee Happy. Expenditure £149 including Secretary, insurance and strimmer/weed killer. Closing balance £6467.

Bee Happy balance to date £195.

**6.2** Not included in balance above – Woman's Guild donation £75 to Bee Happy, Bee Happy donations £55, donation to St Fullan's underpass -£250, vat return period 01/12/17 to 28/02/18 completed with £24.48 due to HMRC.

## **7.0 Secretary Report**

**7.1** Pars Properties Ltd - One outstanding repair being chased. Painting of railings at Co-op steps. Alex from Pars awaiting more settled weather to employ local painter Adam Gallagher to paint railings with silver Hammerite paint.

**7.2** Metal bridge - Cllr Alison Dowling has been in contact with Taylor Wimpey regarding the repairs and maintenance. Taylor Wimpey are looking for RC to adopt both the metal and wooden foot bridges over the River Gryffe.

Renfrewshire Council has agreed in principle and have requested that Taylor Wimpey instruct an independent inspection of the two footbridges and undertake the recommended works. Taylor Wimpey have put the bridge inspection works out to tender and that once they have a preferred contractor they will update Alison with timescales. RC have asked to be involved in this process. Asked for confirmation of the tender submission deadline, advising that this would greatly assist with putting an indicative timeline on the work.

**7.3** Dry stone wall collapsed at entrance to public park and on Quarrybrae. After discussion agreed to pursue RC for repair work.

**7.4** Resident has complained re overhanging branches onto road past GHS on way to Bridge of Weir which is scraping cars and causing a hazard. Facebook discussion mentioned Bee Happy tacking job - this is a dangerous spot and must be directed through proper channels ie Council.

**7.5** There are 3 bus shelters that are no longer in use on Houston Rd due to reduction in bus services. David Dunlop will investigate relocation to uncovered bus stops in Magnus Rd. (David has now contacted SPT and they have advised it would be the Council who would deal with relocation of shelters and suggest we write to Andy McNab of Road on this.

## **8.0 Chair Report**

**8.1** Responded to request to enter dialogue with Chris Logan of Persimmon Homes by telling him we fully supported Renfrewshire Council's opposition to this proposal. He replied saying that Persimmon remain keen to build on the site and their proposed range of houses will range in size from 2 to 5 bedrooms.

**8.2** Received an email from local resident Allan Kelly who has specialised knowledge of renewable power generation and has offered to help with our proposal to install micro-hydro generator. Mark will contact him after we hear result of LAC funding application.

**8.3** Gave telephone interview to Paisley Daily Express on subject of phone mast in Magnus Road and passed on to June MacCrae.

**8.4** Stuart Bell spoke to me suggesting that he slice and polish sections of the Craigends Yew to form coasters and place mats and that the Community Council sells them to generate funds. He has the equipment to do this and would not charge us. We could possibly sell these at the Houston Agricultural Show or at the Christmas Lights switch-on. Members may have other suggestions as to how we could generate funds from the sections of the yew that were removed by the tree surgeons. HCC members agreed to put some thought to the coaster opportunity.

**8.5** The Women's Institute have asked for a speaker from Bee Happy Houston for their September meeting. They will contribute to funds. Jake and Jill are handling this. (At time of typing minutes meeting has been changed to November).

## **9.0 Gardening Projects Update**

**9.1** Bluebells have been planted.

**9.2** Applied to Co-op for funding for Bee Happy. Next funding tranche is for £6K which will be split 3 ways and if Bee Happy successful will get a share of this. There are conditions attached to this eg book keeping requirements, keep records for 6 years (receipts), submit report every 3 months, if group folds funds will be claimed back. Jake will email a copy of the terms and conditions to John Chambers and Jill Jack.

**9.3** Delighted to have established a connection with the B & Q Community Champion who will donate £500 worth of kit to Bee Happy. This was established through our Facebook posts.

**9.4** Bee Happy have provided Gordon Wright with a list of plants they need for the planters and asked to order.

## **10.0 Planning Application for site of former Johnstone Hospital**

**10.1** 110 homes in plan which is double the number agreed by the Council. There are no flats or quarter villas. Original plan states 50 homes.

**10.2** Planners can say no to development.

**10.3** Brownfield sites still focus of regeneration including ROF Bishopton and Ferguslie Park. A737 and schools at capacity impacting infrastructure. Decrease in public transport services resulting in more need to have a car. Should be looking at retirement village for aging population.

**10.4** We have now made a 'strategic submission' to encourage the council to pursue their agreed policies vigorously.

## **11.0 Suggestions for future Community Council Projects**

**11.1** Ideas such as outdoor gym, designated walkways, tree carving (tree stump along from traffic lights at top end of Magnus Rd).

**11.2** Charitable funds are available with a 5-year strategy plan to target funding.

**11.3** Agreed to discuss further ideas at next meeting.

## **12.0 Bee Happy Stall at Kirk Carnival on 12/05**

**12.1** Focus is to promote work of HCC, Bee Happy and litter crew with HCC being the hub.

**12.2** Activities will include guess the number of sweeties in the jar (kindly donated by Houston Paper shop) and the name of the cuddly bee toy, organic seed plant pots will be available too to give away.

**12.3** Bee Happy creating Houston stones for children to find – will advertise on fb.

**12.4** Knitted animals will be handed out to children.

**12.5** There will be a collage of before and after photos and a smaller version of the bug house will be on display.

**12.6** Future projects will be on display ie orchard and mandates will be available if people wish to donate to Bee Happy.

**12.7** All of this is free and hopefully it will add colour and variety to the Houston Kirk Carnival event as the Kirk have given kind donations to Bee Happy in the past.

**12.8** HCC agreed to donate £100 towards prizes and costs for the day.

**12.9** As Blue Planet theme agreed to keep to no plastic on the day.

### **13.0 Littering in Village Centre - A Multi-Agency Approach**

**13.1** Jake Fulton gave an in-depth review of littering in Houston.

**13.2** Drive by litter is difficult to tackle, however GHS lunch time littering easier to do something about. This issue is happening all over and not isolated to Houston.

**13.3** The areas around the village centre and surrounding lanes at lunchtime are hotspots. Jake has spoken to 7 residents in the village for feedback - 1 x mild annoyance, 5 x have phoned GHS to complain (71% of those surveyed) and 1 x affecting life so much that cannot look out their window.

The persistent nature of this has remained unchallenged for too long.

**13.4** Plan to engage partner agencies with Local Councillors using political authority to write to Police. Cllr Audrey Doig will send letter to Inspector Glass and copy in Jake.

The Police enforcement can have a huge impact on children that go to school with parent letters being sent where applicable. Jake spoke to Head Teacher at GHS w/c 21/04 and he is keen to get involved and come to HCC meetings.

**13.5** Plan to tackle with engagement with the Big 4 – Council, Police, School and HCC.

Wardens also have a part to play and wrapping supplied by shop keepers.

**13.6** There are 20 bins in and around Houston with many on route to schools however, can still look at positioning of bins.

**13.7** Other suggestions – school talks, speak to residents for feedback, Team Up Clean up promotion through RC, Facebook page for messages and RC itself.

**13.8** There is an array of fire power which will assist in altering behaviour of kids.

**13.9** HCC will continue ethos of ongoing improvement around our village and important that HCC take ownership of the problem. Initially key players get together to form strategy and if that doesn't work will get more partner agencies onboard and try that.

Scottish Government also need to put deterrent measures in place.

**13.10** All HCC members present agreed to drive forward with the big 4 with Jake taking the lead.

Cllr Doig advised parents should be asking children what they do with their lunch money and tell them to be responsible.

Wardens/Police reluctant to challenge <16 yrs as child will have criminal record before they get a job. They should be speaking to parents.

Adults also need a connection with the school to stamp out this anti-social behaviour.

**14.0 Any Other Business**

**14.1** Kathy showed new charity tin label including Bee Happy Logo. All HCC members approved design.

**14.2** Houston Show – start to think about event and to be on agenda at May meeting.

**14.3** Private property fence diagonally opposite St Fillans main entrance is in a poor state of repair and detracting from work Bee Happy are doing. Is there anything we can do about it? Agreed as private very limited to what can be done.

**Meeting closed at 9.25pm. Next meeting will be held in the Carrick Centre on Wednesday 16 May at 7:30pm.**