

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting
June 2018

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

Time: 7:30pm

Ref: HCC/06/2018

Date: 20/06/18

Sheet: 1 of 5

Present

John McEvoy (jmc)
David Dunlop (dd)
John Chambers (jc)
Sharon Chambers (sc)
Mark Arthur (ma)
Janet Mason (jm)
Nigel Hobbs (nh)
Elizabeth Dalgetty
Jake Fulton (jf)

Representing

Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council

HCC position

Chair
Vice-Chair
Treasurer

In Attendance

Jill Jack (jj)
S Campbell
Cllr James Sheridan (js)
PC Gordon Aitken

Representing

Houston Community Council Secretary
SGN
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Police Scotland

Apologies

Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)
Helen Parker (hp)
Gordon Wright (gw)
Kathy McFall (kf)
Carol Murray (cm)
Liam Smith (ls)
Cllr Alison Dowling (ad)
Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)

Representing

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

Distribution: HCC members and uploaded onto HCC website and issued to Renfrewshire Council

Minutes taken by: Jill Jack

Meeting chaired by: John McEvoy

1.0 Apologies

Apologies noted by the people above.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

Sharon Chambers approved Mays minutes and seconded by Janet Mason.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to HCC action log.

4.0 Police Report

4.1 PC Aitken left the meeting after police report given.

4.2 2 offences with 1 detected during period 16/05 to 20/06. Summary:

1 x assault in street detected

1 x anti-social – 1 x wilful fire raising (bins at Co-op). Still pursuing culprit.

5.0 Gas Mains Replacement Works on Barochan Road – Update by Project Manager S Campbell

5.1 Barochan and Kilmacolm Rd currently 3 weeks ahead of schedule. This is the most complex part of the project.

5.2 Traffic light system is in place. At times no work taking place as tar must cure for 24 hours so no work on these days.

5.3 Bespoke leaflets letter dropped through neighbouring doors. HCC asked that they go into local businesses before start work on Main St to check delivery schedules and any other impacts.

5.4 Renfrewshire Council resurfaced North St before SGN had carried out their gas works which will involve digging up the road. It was noted that SGN had informed the Council 6 months prior to starting on site. Cllr Sheridan asked for details to be sent to him and he will raise at a Council meeting he has with Chief Executive, as this causes unnecessary inconvenience to residents and local businesses. HCC also agreed to write a separate letter to Renfrewshire Council as to why works not co-ordinated. S Campbell will send details to John McEvoy to support this.

5.5 Further set of traffic lights at War Memorial by Scottish Water carrying out emergency works due to customers being without power, which was unavoidable.

5.6 David Dunlop commented that SGN have set high standards and to be commended for job done so far.

5.7 David Dunlop will post a works update on HCC Facebook page.

6.0 Councillors Reports

Cllr Jim Sheridan

6.1 The Citizen Advice Bureau in Paisley may close at the end of June due to lack of funding. This provides valuable support to residents and hopes there will be an agreement to continue, as they do a fantastic job.

6.2 Community buses – those in existence work 7 days a week and workers having to be salaried so running out of money. The Scottish Government need to give Local Authorities more control re running buses. See Chair report 9.9.

7.0 Treasurers Report

7.1 Income and expenditure covered for period 16/05 – 20/06. Opening balance £6256. Income nil. Expenditure £513 including Secretary, insurance, hall hire, website domain renewal and lubbe bulbs. Closing balance £5743.

Bee Happy balance to date £325.

7.2 Not included in balance above LAC Grants Christmas lights/gardening £15,000, LAC Grant Micro Hydro Scheme £4123, Bee Happy Kirk Carnival £77, Bee Happy donations £30, bottle stall £482, gardening receipts of £235 to be deducted and work on Yew Tree of £14.

8.0 Secretary Report

8.1 Paisley & Gryffe Transport Forum

Letter from Brain Turner who is pursuing a long running campaign to get the railway back into the Gryffe Valley. They have been trying to get the Council and other organisations to recognise the value of bringing back the railway.

Money has been made available by Westminster and Scottish Governments to improve transport infrastructures.

The group understand that there has been positive support from within our village, even though the railway route is some distance from the centre of our population. They envisage a park and ride facility at a new station in Brookfield and others in Linwood and Bridge of Weir.

There is a mission statement which gives the background of how the group was formed and ideas for dealing with Renfrewshire's infrastructure need with rail access to Glasgow Airport. Their proposal is to choose a route which could also then be extended to solve the Gryffe Valley problem.

The group have limited resources and would like to call for one or more public meetings and set themselves up on a more formal basis, with official representatives from each community.

There key question to our community is - Does Houston care about the railway and are there residents who are prepared to put in time and effort with several others to bring about its restoration?

HCC members agreed not to pursue support for the restoration of the Gryffe Valley Railway. Members were concerned about the loss of the cycle track. A feasibility study is already underway to look at improving routes for easier access for residents to get on the cycle track. This would present a greener option and potential link to other stations.

Costs were also raised as a concern.

HCC are willing to help publicise any communications on our HCC Facebook page which has over 2K resident members.

Secretary will respond to letter.

8.2 Alex Pars Property Report re Co-op railings

Kids had peeled off large sections of the Hammerite test patch within a couple of days. Layers of paint have now been stripped back to the bare metal and looks good, and it cannot be vandalised any longer.

8.3 CCTV

Pars Property initially thought of holding off the CCTV installation because of ongoing discussions that might alter the layout of the units. However, there was a serious arson attack at the shops around 2am on 25 May. A youth was caught on the Co-op's (poor) CCTV system setting fire to various bins at the rear using an accelerant. Lucky not to have lost the building for a second time. As a result, installing CCTV now and going to use the highest resolution cameras available. The youth concerned has not been apprehended despite some potential tip-offs and getting little feedback from the police to date. If the Community Council has an ongoing relationship with the police I would be grateful if you could persuade

them to continue their efforts to identify the culprit as we are very concerned about a future reoccurrence. HCC raised during police report.

8.3 Metal bridge, Ardgyffe Crescent

Jenny Cowan's has emailed Cllr Alison Dowling for an update from Taylor Wimpey. Last communication was on 28 February 2018. Attempting to upgrade metal bridge for over two years now.

Asked for HCC and our Local Councillors to join forces in communicating with Taylor Wimpey. Cllr Jim Sheridan will chase Cllr Alison Dowling for response and provide update.

9.0 Chair Report

9.1 Wrote to Barratt Homes after it became clear that they were selling homes for occupation on the site of the former Merchiston Hospital despite their request to allow this being refused by Renfrewshire Council. Their response failed to answer any of my questions.

9.2 Wrote to Renfrewshire Council Planning Department on 17 May and 30 May asking them what sanctions were available to them to levy against Barratt Homes for breaching the terms of their planning consent and what action they intended to take. Because they failed to answer my questions I submitted an FOI request for the same information on 7 June.

Fraser Carlin emailed the following day saying that they would take no action against Barratt Homes but did not say what sanctions were available to the council. They have not yet responded to my FOI.

9.3 Along with Carol Murray had a productive meeting with Kam Kaur of Renfrewshire Council who gave us valuable information on the sources of potential grants to fund a cycle path between Houston and Bridge of Weir. I would like to propose that we set up a small subcommittee to apply for and obtain the necessary funding, which would include a feasibility study.

9.4 Renfrewshire Council has confirmed awarding of LAC grants, £7,500 each for Christmas/winter lights and our gardening projects. £4123 for the feasibility study for our proposed micro-hydro electricity generating proposal.

9.5 We have received a Fee Proposal from David Telford of Sonas Energy to carry out a feasibility study for the generating proposal.

9.6 We ran a successful bottle stall and raffle at the Houston Agricultural Show. John Chambers has given the details in his report. Thank you to everybody who contributed and helped.

9.7 Paisley Museum is closing later this year for a major redevelopment. They are seeking members for two advisory panels they are setting up - one access panel and one community panel. If anybody is interested I will forward them the details.

9.8 There will be an open conversation in Johnstone Town Hall from 1pm to 8pm on Monday 25th June to discuss plans for introducing car Parking charges in the town. David Dunlop confirmed he has submitted comments.

9.9 The Scottish Government is to introduce a new Transport Bill, which among other things will increase the powers of local authorities to deal with bus companies who offer poor services or withdraw services.

9.10 The Scottish Government has announced a new round of Community Choices Fund (Participatory Budgeting) We could perhaps investigate to see if this would pay for a feasibility study into creating a cycle path.

10.0 Report on Meeting with Kam Kaur

10.1 See Chair report items 9.3 and 9.10

10.2 Subcommittee formed: - Carol Murray to chair, David Dunlop, Nigel Hobbs, John McEvoy to carry out feasibility study.

10.3 Past deadline for Sustran funds.

10.4 Raised that need better signage for cycle tracks and cycle racks.

10.5 Potential routes – Mill Lade path to Bridge of Weir and Houstonhead Dam owned by Elderslie Estates. Strip of land along edge of field could be made available. Await outcome of estate management meeting. Further route suggested at Warlock Rd which subcommittee will review.

11.0 Report on Public Meeting on Changes to Bus Services

11.1 SPT representation at public meeting was poor.

11.2 Cllr Sheridan advised way forward would be to exclude McGill's from tender and let smaller bus companies take over.

11.3 Villagers have requested another meeting in July.

12.0 Houston Show

12.1 Day went well with suggestion for next year to be earlier with bottle donation.

13.0 Benches Purchase Update.

13.1 No update due to apologies from Gordon Wright who was unable to attend HCC meeting.

14.0 Update on Flower/Planting Scheme

14.1 Glenartney bed now finished including garden of gold.

14.2 B & Q funding unsuccessful however will resubmit application. Await outcome of Co-op funding.

14.3 Looking into new beds in Magnus and Leeburn areas.

14.4 Potential site for orchard in RC owned land at large roundabout.

14.5 Merket Cross – looking at planters for this area.

14.6 Large stone from burn to be removed this weekend by Jake, John C and Mark.

15.0 Any Other Business

15.1 Elizabeth mentioned to keep an eye on dirt bikes being used behind Cormorant and Brierie Hills area. Nothing mentioned in Police report.

Meeting closed at 9:30pm. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 15 August at 7:30pm in the Carrick Centre.