

**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Title:** Houston Community Council Meeting  
 September 2018

**Location:** Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Ref:** HCC/09/2018

**Date:** 15/09/18

**Sheet:** 1 of 7

**Present**

John McEvoy (jmc)  
 David Dunlop (dd)  
 John Chambers (jc)  
 Sharon Chambers (sc)  
 Mark Arthur (ma)  
 Janet Mason (jm)  
 Kathy McFall  
 Elizabeth Dalgetty  
 Jake Fulton (jf)  
 Gordon Wright (gw)  
 Carol Murray (cm)

**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  
 Houston Community Council

**HCC position**

Chair  
 Vice-Chair  
 Treasurer

**In Attendance**

Jill Jack (jj)  
 S Campbell  
 Cllr Alison Dowling (ad)  
 Representatives from  
 Gryffe High School  
 PC Martin Norwood  
 PC Brian Dick

**Representing**

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

**Apologies**

Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)  
 Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)  
 Cllr Jim Sheridan (js)  
 Nigel Hobbs (nh)

**Representing**

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

**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**

Gordon Wright approved August's 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 Dick and PC Norwood left the meeting after police report given.

**4.2** 6 offences with 2 detected during period 15/08 to 19/09. Summary:

2 x theft at Co-op

1 x vandalism of car in Locher Cres

2 x road traffic offences, minor bumps in Main St and Kirk Rd

1 x computer fraud enquiry which is ongoing

**4.3** Further thefts from Co-op. Staff have been spoken to about being more vigilant when on duty and advice given about the coverage of the store's internal CCTV cameras.

**4.4** On 28/09/18 Renfrewshire Community Police Primary Schools Football Tournament takes place in Linwood involving Houston and St Fillans Primary School.

**4.5** Discussion took place regarding litter and involvement of community, HCC, local businesses and schools. Jake asked if anything further Police could do to. After further discussion Community Police agreed to ask if they could wear plain clothes at lunchtime in order to tackle both litter and drugs at lunch time in village.

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

**5.1** Completed Old Schoolhouse and Cricketfield Lane. Residents happy with work and private gardens re-turfed after works.

**5.2** Haggart and Speirs Rd will be finished mid-October, which will complete all works.

**5.3** HCC asked that redundant signs be removed. SGN advised signs gifted to local pubs. Signs to be stored unless in use.

**5.4** SGN requested feedback both positive and negative for works carried out. John Chambers to action.

**5.5** John McEvoy confirmed to SGN that excellent works and high quality of communication evident throughout project.

## **6.0 Councillor Reports**

### **Cllr Alison Dowling**

**6.1** Rescue package in place for CAB in Paisley, however long-term uncertainties remain.

**6.2** Full Council meeting will be held on Thursday 27 September.

**6.3** Motion still to be passed to support Renfrewshire wide events eg Christmas events involving road closures, how to plan, contacting stall holders etc.

Cllr Dowling will report back at next meeting and update Mark Arthur and John McEvoy who would be happy to be involved.

**6.4** Carpark charges at Johnstone not proceeding, however charges at Paisley may be going ahead.

**6.5** The new bin pick-up changes are imminent, which are being brought in to support recycling targets. There is a worry that grey bin collection will be 3-weekly. If you have any feedback, please let Local Councillors know. Already highlighted that problems with flattened areas.

**6.6** Confirmed chasing Taylor Woodrow to make metal bridge safe at Ardgyffe for last 6 months.

There have been ownership disputes and residents have been contacting HCC for action. A structural survey has been commissioned and a report sent to the Council 3 weeks ago. Specialist skills are required to do the work and trees need to be protected.

Looking to arrange a face to face meeting with Taylor Woodrow including HCC representatives.

Owners of bridge have a legal liability and duty to care to maintain. The Council will adopt if it is brought up to a good standard, however concerns Taylor Woodrow could close it off. HCC agreed would not take on but pleased to meet with Taylor Woodrow or invite to HCC November meeting with a pre-meeting time of 6.30pm with Mark, Carol and John Chambers.

ClIr Dowling will send out communication and copy Jill Jack in.

## **7.0 Gryffe High School Community Involvement**

**7.1** School Captain spoke about work carried out on littering and involvement with S1 pupils which has helped them settle in.

The pupil management team meet weekly to focus on litter hot spot areas in free periods.

**7.2** Eco Committee also help with litter and have gained second green flag.

Also looking at anti bullying and ways to solve and help teachers.

**7.3** Burns Captain discussed being voice of pupils and discussion at school assemblies.

**7.4** Head Teacher advised bullying happens in school and the message is driven at assemblies that not tolerated and school have a moral responsibility to support all individuals.

Morning meetings take place and pupils that have come through the school and now in 6<sup>th</sup> year can be approached for support by younger pupils. Next stage is for Depute Head involvement, followed by parental participation. Sanctions and support are then put in place.

**7.5** Jake thanked school and pupils for support with litter pick. The HCC fb page has 3000 members which has lots of praise for involvement of pupils and efforts are appreciated.

Invite pupils to join HCC fb page.

School embrace Community Council and HCC to work with school. Important HCC get pupils vision for Houston as well as learning about historic Houston.

Fb page is for clubs or events happening in the community and to help raise pupil awareness and volunteering opportunities.

GHS have a newsletter section on Community works and going forward will work with HCC on this.

On publication the school newsletter will be posted to HCC Secretary.

## **8.0 Treasurers Report**

**8.1** Income and expenditure covered for period 15/08 – 19/09. Opening balance £5285. Income £157 made up of Bee Happy donations. Expenditure £1048 including Secretary, insurance, materials for burn, yew tree and plants and materials. Closing balance £4394. Bee Happy balance to date £636.

**8.2** Not included in balance above - LAC grants Xmas lights/gardening £15000, LAC grant micro hydro scheme £4123, VAT refund £251, Rotary Club donation £100, Bee Happy donation £20, Police donation -£20 and Kirk Carnival advert -£45.

## **9.0 Secretary Report**

### **9.1 O'Brien Recycling at The Old Mill, Crosslee**

O'Brien Properties pay a fee of £260 per annum to have their blue recycling bin emptied by Renfrewshire Council. Unfortunately, this does not happen on a regular basis and have difficulty getting a response from RC. They have tried contacting other departments and left messages to no avail.

O'Brien stated that Renfrewshire Council are not interested about recycling and just seem to be making it harder for everyone to do so.

HCC advised this may out with the realms of Community Councils however asked O'Brien to refer to Local Councillors.

### **9.2 Remembrance 11 November 2018 10am War Memorial Houston**

Cllr Jim Sheridan will lay the wreath on behalf of Renfrewshire Council. It is the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. Any interested parties are welcome to attend.

### **9.3 Community Asset Transfer Roadshow**

HCC Secretary emailed members on 02/09 – There is a Community Asset Transfer Roadshow on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 2pm** at The Tannahill Centre, 76 Blackstoun Road, Paisley PA3 1NT. The event is in relation to Community Asset Transfer, the application process and how Renfrewshire Council are progressing applications from initial inception through to conclusion. In addition, will provide information on the Community Empowerment Fund launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. Representatives from DTAS / COSS, Engage Renfrewshire, Just Enterprise and funders such as Scottish Land Fund, Big Lottery will be in attendance. There will be a short introductory presentation followed by optional drop in workshop style events. This will allow groups to stay for as long or as short a time as they wish.

Mark Arthur will attend from HCC.

## **10.0 Chair Report**

**10.1** Sandra Black, Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council, has declined our invitation to attend one of our meetings to discuss our concerns over some aspects of the level of service being provided by Renfrewshire Council and noted that the Council Leader will be attending.

**10.2** Along with Carol Murray and Mark Arthur met with Anna Newman of Elderslie Estates to discuss cycle path route and micro-hydro electricity generating scheme. Carol and Mark will give full details in their reports.

**10.3** David Dunlop forwarded me details of locally owned renewable energy funding opportunities from the Scottish Government, which I passed on to Mark Arthur.

**10.4** Gladman Scotland have submitted a POAN ( no 18/0572/N0) for a residential development between Barrochan Road, Crosslee Road and the River Gryffe. We need to

agree a view on this and I've asked David Dunlop to lead our discussion. Thanks to Councillor Sheridan for first alerting us to this.

**10.5** The Scottish Government would like to see a complaints procedure for residents who are dissatisfied with a community council or one of its members. Renfrewshire Council has sent us a draft proposal for comment. The Community Council was satisfied with the draft proposals and would be happy for them to be implemented as outlined.

**10.6** Dorothy Kerr of Renfrewshire Council has been in touch to say that a new bus shelter is to be erected on Old Bridge of Weir Road at the corner of South Mound. Thank you to all those who worked to bring this about.

**10.7** Renfrewshire Council has sent us a copy of their draft Strategic Housing Development Plan (relates to affordable housing) for comment. Since there is nothing in the plan that directly affects Houston we need to decide if it would be inappropriate for us to make any comment. David Dunlop has observed that it underlines that demand is coming from smaller households and why we have no apparent need for homes above 4 bedrooms.

**10.8** Was unable to attend September meeting of Renfrewshire Community Council Forum, but at Secretary's request submitted details of those communications that Renfrewshire Council failed to respond to. After the meeting Dorothy Kerr sent out details for first point of contact emails to Renfrewshire Council.

**10.9** Renfrewshire Council has confirmed that the white lining between the B790 Houston Road to the section beyond Sandholes Road has still to be completed and that this will be done as soon as possible.

**10.10** Mr John McDonald, a resident of Houston, copied us on an email he sent to Renfrewshire Council about out of action street lights on Quarry Brae. Followed this up with Renfrewshire Council who advised that the issue had now been resolved.

**10.11** The new Westminster parliamentary boundaries have been announced by the Boundaries Commission and I am pleased to confirm that they listened to our input and that we will now be placed in a new constituency along with neighbouring villages like Bridge of Weir and Kilmacollm and will not be included with distant communities like Largs, West Kilbride and The Cumbræes. I would like to thank David Dunlop for his hard work and expertise in drafting the letter that brought about this change of heart.

**10.12** David Low of Renfrewshire Council has forwarded details of Big Lottery Funding Information Sessions to be held in the Cube, 27 High Street, Paisley from 14.00 to 16.00 on 15 October, 26 November and 17 December. Anyone interested can book a place by emailing [econdev.community@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:econdev.community@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

### **11.0 Update on Proposed Cycle Path**

**11.1** Objective is to form link between Houston and Bridge of Weir that would allow residents to commute to places of work and pupils to travel to Gryffe High School by bicycle.

**11.2** For Sustrans funding must be for work not pleasure.

**11.3** Site meeting took place to assess potential routes with Anna Newman – Mill Lade path to Bridge of Weir owned by Elderslie Estates. Grass from surrounding fields could be made into a cycle path from underpass to Goldenlea Sawmill.

**11.4** Development of cycle route could bring money into village.

**11.5** Potential to ask Elderslie Estates to make land available. Anne Newman was very supportive of the project.

**11.6** Suggestion to have points of interest along cycle path.

**11.7** LEADER funding will be available until 2020.

**11.8** HCC agreed for sub-committee to continue with feasibility study and potential to ask for volunteers from fb page. Ann Newman on board and extremely positive.

#### **12.0 New Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies**

**12.1** Refer to Chair Report item 10.11

#### **13.0 Letter on Littering to Scottish Government**

**13.1** Draft sent to Chair to sign. HCC members to advise David Dunlop of any amends and then proceed.

#### **14.0 Proposed Residential Development at Crosslee by Gladman Developments – meeting on 30 October 2018**

**14.1** Gladman Scotland have submitted a POAN ( no 18/0572/N0) for a residential development between Barrochan Road, Crosslee Road and the River Gryffe, adjacent to O'Brien Offices.

**14.2** Capacity of schools, traffic generation, undermining of village setting all to be raised. Bishopton still have 2500 homes to build and finish development at Braehead. Also need to support regeneration of Paisley.

**14.3** Consider what Community Councils want in terms of developments as seeing change in attitude of residents – potential to have a survey or open night.

**14.4** John McEvoy to email HCC members the public consultation process.

**14.5** David Dunlop will send HCC members link to details.

#### **15.0 Community Councils Draft Complaints Procedure**

**15.1** See Chair Report item 10.5

#### **16.0 Update on Christmas Lights Proposals for Approval**

**16.1** Vote took place on Christmas Light motif for Houston and St Fillans Primary Schools.

**16.2** Council will not support Christmas lights in Crosslee. There will be some additional lights in village. Mark will draw up draft communication for Kathy to put on HCC fb.

**16.3** Sub-committee to look at Christmas tree location and light operation.

#### **17.0 Update on Progress with Micro-Hydro Electricity Generating Project**

**17.1** Mark shared ordnance survey drawings of potential site. Thoughts are on spinning water wheel.

**17.2** Community charging points and solar panels also in feasibility study.

**17.3** HCC agreed for feasibility to continue and well worth exploring.

**17.4** Potential for an eco-village.

**17.5** Sub-committee is Gordon, John C, David and Carol.

#### **18.0 Bench Purchase Update**

**18.1** Agreed approval of additional planters at underpass on railings at both sides of the road at St Fillans and Co-op.

**18.2** How to spend rest of budget will be presented at next meeting.

**19.0 Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**19.1** To be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 17 October in the Carrick Centre, Main St, Houston. Main business to be presentation of annual accounts for year to August 2018 and the election of office bearers for the year 2018 – 2019.

**20.0 Any Other Business**

**20.1** John McEvoy will contact Environmental Health regarding rubbish at Bogstonhill near Post Office.

**Meeting closed at 10.03pm. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 17 October at 7:30pm in the Carrick Centre. Please see item 19.0 regarding AGM.**