

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting
September 2018

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

Time: 7:30pm

Ref: HCC/11/2018

Date: 21/11/18

Sheet: 1 of 5

Present

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

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
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council

HCC position

Chair
Vice-Chair
Treasurer

In Attendance

Jill Jack (jj)
Archie White
Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)
Cllr Jim Sherdian (js)
Representatives from
Gryffe High School
PC Brian Dick
Peter Leslie
Susan Flintoff

Representing

Houston Community Council Secretary
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Police Scotland (PS)
Houston Residents
Houston Residents

Apologies

Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)

Representing

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

Amendments to October minutes – All HCC members present agreed no amendment to complaints procedure, as detailed in the Draft Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils 2019.

Elizabeth Dalgetty advised she submitted an apology re non-attendance at HCC October meeting via text to the Chair.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to HCC action log.

4.0 Police Report

4.1 PC Dick left the meeting after police report given.

4.2 5 offences with 1 detected during period 17/10 to 21/11. Summary:

1 x break-in to house

1 x theft from insecure car and fraud

1 x anti-social behaviour (broken window)

1 x hit and run

1 x sexual offence, breach of the peace and assault

4.3 Nigel advised re Community Speed Watch. Police unaware of it. In summary community volunteers trained to monitor speeds which acts as a deterrent. Cllr Doig advised tried elsewhere, however not much affect.

Agreed Nigel to apply online and research what is involved. PC Dick will check out details.

4.4 Discussion took place regarding litter and involvement of community, HCC, local businesses and schools which has seen great improvements. Jake advised could make things even better. Jake agreed to organise a meeting early in the New Year with Community Police, Gryffe High School representatives, local businesses and Cllr Doig.

5.0 Speeding Co-op Area

5.1 Resident Susan Flintoff advised due to speeding on Houston Rd there has been a numerous near misses.

Local Councillors have been advised and asked to help solve the problem and has met with Cllr Kerr to improve the speed of traffic.

John McEvoy agreed to send surveys previously carried out by MSP Derek McKay re Crosslee and MSP Tom Arthur re Craighends. From memory 76% in favour of reduction to speed and calming measures. Since then there has been a Councillor election and there is cross party support.

Private members bill going through Holyrood, however RC can bring in reduced speed of its own accord regardless, however, this process would be more expensive. (It would take less time and could even have been completed by now, but it would cost twice as much, so all involved decided to support Mark Ruskell MSP's Private Member's Bill, but should this Bill fail they will implement their own 20 mph speed limits on restricted roads in Renfrewshire.)

Susan would like to see traffic lights at school crossing on Houston Rd.

John McE will also forward email to Susan to submit proposals to consultation.

6.0 Cycle Path Houston to Bride of Weir

6.1 Resident Peter Leslie has cycling background and willing to support Carol through sub-committee re cycle path route from Houston to Bridge of Weir. In his day job Peter has links involving new cycle route projects and would bring a high-level knowledge of expertise to the committee. Carol will liaise with Peter and share the map produced for Houston plus the current options being explored.

7.0 Gryffe High School Update on Community Work

Pupils presented to following:

7.1 Pupil Management Group and Pupil Council meet to discuss litter and high on the agenda. The next meeting is on 10 December. Will obtain pupil feedback on location of waste bins. If considering relocation John C advised must be on existing route and consultation to go through council.

Daily 4 to 8 pupils litter pick hot spot areas which goes towards their Saltire award.

7.2 School supporting Beatson and St Vincent's charities. £1000 raised for Beatson to date.

7.3 Fairtrade has been running for 4 years and school continues to raise awareness both in the school and the wider community.

Mr Johnston Head Teacher gave summary of the following:

7.4 GHS have gained their second green flag which is exceptional for a high school, status digital school award and sports gold award. Well done to all involved.

7.5 Staff has been linking with China within the school Confucius system.

7.6 Publication of Sunday Times will show GHS in top 5 schools in Scotland.

7.7 Pupils and staff undertook bespoke training on anti-bullying practice. Brian Donnelly former Service Director of Respect Me Scotland shared with staff and pupils how to create a school environment where bullying cannot thrive. Pupils gave a presentation to all staff and pledge drawn up. RC publishing an anti-bullying policy.

Cllr Sheridan asked if more prevalent in boys or girls? Advised 50/50. Social media is not biggest form of bullying.

7.8 Advised school have waste bins in canteen which cost £400 each as part of recycling and dismayed that all dumped in one bin.

8.0 Archie Whyte Community Payback Team

8.1 Continuing to liaise with Janet Mason re work on Yew tree, including signage and paths. The payback team is free manual labour. £579 has been spent on the path so far and consideration is being given to extend the path to the Yew tree. Hardcore is too costly, whereas bark is next to nothing.

Archie will price up options and advise at next meeting.

9.0 Councillor Reports

Cllr Doig

9.1 Work is required to Lylesland steps and railings. On list for April 2019.

9.2 30 mph limit on Crosslee Rd - arranging site meeting and to walk road. Sheila McCarthy to be invited.

9.3 Still complaints re bus routes and pushing for a local solution.

9.4 Last council meeting for 2018 will be held on 13 December 18.

9.5 Budget proposals will be in February 2019.

Cllr Sheridan

9.6 Advised transport bill needs nationalised.

9.7 Re bus shelter relocation, require confirmation from McGills that not going to use route again.

9.8 Both Councillors congratulated HCC on all the hard work put in by every HCC member working on various projects in their own time to make HCC a great success.

10.0 Treasurer Report

10.1 Income and expenditure covered for period 19/09 – 21/11. Opening balance £21342. Income £722 made up of bank payment and Pauls chippy donation. Expenditure £8532 including Secretary, insurance, planters, material for burn, yew tree, Christmas lights, hall rental and plants/materials. Closing balance £13532.

Bee Happy balance to date £756.

10.2 Not included in balance above – Defibrillator cabinet -£490, entertainments licence fee -£178 (may not come off). Donations received from Co-op £100, Bee Happy £11, Carrick Centre Defib £100 and Tennis Club £100.

10.3 To send invoice to companies donating to Christmas lights event.

11.0 Secretary Report

11.1 Cllr Dowling requested Taylor Wimpey be invited to our next meeting in January 2019. All HCC members in agreement.

11.2 Every Family Deserves a Christmas Dinner Appeal - Johnstone Business Consortium advised successful in raising funds to feed 60 families in crisis in Johnstone last year. This year wanting to provide enough food for 90 families in crisis in Johnstone. There is an online donation option and printed sleeves for 20 donation cans. To obtain a donation can, contact Carole on carolemacfadyen@yahoo.co.uk. There is a JustGiving Crowdfunding Page: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/carole-mclellan-1?utm_id=1&utm_term=YrvdWmy2m.

Jill to share information on HCC fb page.

13.0 Chair Report

13.1 Renfrewshire Council has issued a Compliance Certificate following our application for a Public Entertainment Licence for our Christmas Lights Switch-on event on 1st December. We have not been made aware of any objections to the application.

13.2 Attended Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Ceremony at the war memorial. John and Sharon Chambers also attended.

13.3 Attended Big Remembrance Sing at Houston and Killellan Kirk on 9th November. Excellent evening with fantastic singers.

13.4 To date 21 responses to the Freedom of Information requests to the other 31 local authorities in Scotland have arrived. 16 ask for these 5 do not.

13.5 300 Glowsticks and 500 Santa hats ordered and delivered.

13.6 In consultation with David Dunlop submitted objection to Barratt Homes Application to vary the terms of their planning consent for their development at the former Merchiston Hospital and invited residents to do the same via our Facebook page.

13.7 Attended briefing meeting about setting Local Community Partnerships. The first actual meeting will be in January.

13.8 Anna Newman of Elderslie Estates is having difficulty determining ownership of the Lade Mill Path. She suggested we try the Registers of Scotland. This will incur a fee. Agreed to proceed.

13.9 Attended Renfrewshire Community Council Forum meeting at which last year's office bearers were re-elected. Main Discussions centred round responses to community council enquiries to Council officers and responses to draft Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, particularly the suggestions for a new complaints procedure. Most opinions expressed opposed this change on the grounds that community councillors are volunteers and people would be deterred from serving as community councillors. We need to submit our own decision that we agreed with the draft new scheme with no suggested amendments. All agreed. There is also a vacancy due to Helen Parker's resignation and I invite volunteers/ nominations.

13.10 The Scottish Government Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee are scrutinising the Restricted Roads (20 mph) (Scotland) Speed Limit Bill and have launched a fresh consultation. In the original consultation last year, we responded with the results of the two surveys of residents' views carried out by our MSPs and I suggest we respond to this consultation in the same way. All agreed.

14.0 Update on Proposed Cycle Path

14.1 See item 6.0 and 13.8 for update.

15.0 Update on Christmas Lights Proposals for Approval

15.1 Mark gave a comprehensive overview of the proposed programme and activity schedule for the day.

In addition, winter tree lights still to be put up.

15.2 £535 left of budget to spend. Projected income for event £2450 to HCC.

15.3 HCC members agreed to meet from 4pm on event day at stage area to allocate tasks.

15.4 All HCC members congratulated Mark for all his hard work in pulling this together with the sub-committee.

16.0 Bench Purchase Update

16.1 No firm date for installation.

17.0 Any Other Business

17.1 Jake suggested litter being a set item on agenda to get full support of initiatives. Members agreed outputs of meetings with school, police, local businesses and Councillors to be put on agenda for members approval.

HCC members reiterated the successes and fantastic improvements that Jake and the volunteers have achieved in Houston.

17.2 Jill will post details of the Provost Community awards 2019 on HCC fb page. Deadline for nominations is 12 December.

Meeting closed at 9.33pm. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 7:30pm in the Carrick Centre.