

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting
January 2019

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

Time: 7:30pm

Ref: HCC/01/2019

Date: 16/01/19

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 (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)
Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)
Cllr Jim Sherdian (js)
Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)
Representatives from
Representatives from

Representing

Houston Community Council Secretary
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Gryffe High School
Police Scotland (PS)

Apologies

PC Dick & Norwood
Archie White

Representing

Police Scotland (PS)
Community Payback Scheme

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

November minutes approved by Janet Mason and seconded by Nigel Hobbs.

3.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to HCC action log.

4.0 Police Report

4.1 Police Scotland representatives left meeting after police report given.

4.2 19 offences with 3 detected during period 21/11 to 16/01. Summary:

3 x theft – mobile and cash (recovered), attempt to car and break in to container with attempt to steal

2 x common assault – historical to child and to child outside public building

2 x drug offences detected – in possession

4 x anti-social – damage to hutch, wilful fire raising to business premises and school garden, spray paint public walls and substation

4 x road traffic offences – dangerous driving and hit/run

4 x other – historical sexual offences, animal offence and attempt extortion

4.3 Community Speed Watch – Nigel Hobbs has carried out the training and provided his email to police for communication. Police advised they will be in contact regarding the scheme.

4.4 Discussion took place regarding fire raising and Police confirmed Houston not alone re crime.

4.5 Cllr Sheridan asked if Police have any view on LED lighting being a contributory factor to accidents involving pedestrians? Police will refer to traffic dept and report back.

5.0 Gryffe High School Update on Community Work

5.1 Sleep out in Barshaw Park has raised £1000 for homeless. A 4th year pupil has also raised £2000 for The Beatson. Target is £10K.

5.2 Attended School Captain Conference to develop links with other schools.

5.3 Eco Committee: –

Paper bulletin is going electronic.

2 routes of litter picking carried out daily after lunch. Wish wasn't happening at all, however, seeing an improvement in litter but not reduced significantly. Exams are on just now so more difficult for routes to be cleared. Bus driver recently stopped to say thanks to pupils carrying out litter pick.

5.4 Quality Assurance – HMI visit every 9/10 years and GHS is due a visit. In leadership, learning and teaching, attainment and achievement, expectations have increased. Quality indicators are excellent across areas audited so far and no other school in our area has achieved this recently.

Pupils came across well especially in confidence.

5.5 David Dunlop asked if Geography curriculum looks at ways on how to improve the community? Head Teacher advised Field Trip analysis carried out but not many other connections.

Also advised surveys carried out counting the number of cars on the road and different house structures plus look at ways to reduce pollution.

6.0 Speeding Crosslee Rd and Gladman Planning Application

6.1 Resident previously at HCC October meeting to raise concerns.

6.2 Mark Higginbotham did advise no plans to reduce speed limit from 60mph to 30mph. Did offer to discuss with HCC. After discussion HCC decided to accept his offer. John McEvoy will contact him with an invitation to attend February meeting.

Cllr Doig requested a site meeting on 25/01 when road will be walked, and residents are invited. Will await outcome of site meeting and Cllr Doig will advise John McEvoy if council will be coming to our next meeting.

6.3 Concern re proposed development that there will be two entrances from Crosslee Rd. There have been no further communications at present, and Gladman have not submitted an application as yet. Resident advised there is subsidence on the road and verge is getting narrow and is an accident waiting to happen. To be discussed with Mark Higginbotham

7.0 North/South Street Trees

7.1 Resident advised 6 trees beside burn on a strip of land owned by the Council are causing concern. 2 beech trees fell and narrowly missed a house by 2/3 feet. Copy of report has been given to the HCC Chair.

7.2 Residents have asked Council for an update as trees pruned only. There is also a deadly fungus which is spreading in the trees and they are very close together. The Council have been made aware and will prune further, however there is concern amongst residents that more trees will come down. John McEvoy agreed to write to the Council asking for their course of action and a timeline.

8.0 Stands at Houston Show

8.1 Secretary Mo Lyle provided update from November Committee meeting.

8.2 Advised HCC only had 2 stalls at Houston Show last year and asked what HCC intentions are for 2019? In the past HCC have not advertised. We hire out gazebos and Janet Mason will supply a list of previous hires. HCC will do an inventory to check if gazebos are serviceable and will provide information by end April to Mo who will attend our April meeting. Details can then be shared on fb page.

9.0 Plans for Upgrading Paths Through Craigends Woods

9.1 Carol Murray gave update on meeting with Peter Leslie - he advised to use phrase pathways rather than cycle path. Peter advised the yew tree path ticks all the boxes for grant consideration and will contact Janet Mason directly. HCC have the option of sticking with unpaid workers or contracting work out. Agreed to check price and pursue grant.

9.2 The application will encompass a variety of connecting pathways in Houston. Require identifying 7 paths which link community and other communities which might tie in with the yew tree.

10.0 Local Councillor Reports

Cllr Sheridan

10.1 Concern re number of bins being stolen and burned. Plus, if there is an issue with any RC refuse collection workers, please let Local Councillors know. Meeting has been held with binmen who are overloaded with work and outlying areas need to be looked at as a priority.

10.2 Wrote to Cllr McGurk to relocate bus shelters and Janet Mason has left messages for call-back too. Advised it will be the next financial year before can look at relocation. Will continue to chase.

10.3 No response received from Council regarding painting road lines.

10.4 Elderly resident had stuff dumped outside their house. It was only when a third party contacted the Council that they agreed to remove it. If this had been actioned on the first point of contact it would have saved a lot of time. Any issues like this please let Local Councillors know.

Cllr Doig

10.5 Proposal to build brand new school nursery in Houston. This is a proposal only and has not been passed yet.

10.6 HCC arranged a great Christmas Light Switch on. It was a great family event and well done to all involved.

10.7 Mark asked re electric charging point for cars in village. Cllr Doig will investigate and advise Mark Arthur.

Cllr Kerr

10.8 Houston Rd traffic management. Concerns re speed at bend near Co-op. Site visit being arranged.

10.9 Pot holes being fixed at South Mound by 21/01. If not contact Cllr Kerr.

10.10 Potential for Council to supply another defibrillator for Houston. Sharon Chambers will email figures/costings to Cllr Kerr.

11.0 Treasurer Report

11.1 Income and expenditure covered for period 21/11 – 16/01. Opening balance £13532.

Income £1660 made up of Coop donation, Carrick Centre Defib donation, Tennis Club and Bee Happy donations, administration grant and glowstick sales.

Expenditure £2399 made up of Secretary, insurance, defib purchase, bulbs, glowsticks/Santa hats, plants and materials, Dj/lights/snow machines. Closing balance £12793.

Bee Happy balance to date £767.

11.2 Not included in balance above – JW Grant, electrical materials, Santa charity donation, kids gift vouchers, generator hire, WI donation and VAT return.

11.3 Gift to be bought for Gary Wilson who supplied electrical materials.

11.4 All sponsors for Christmas Light Switch on paid bar one.

12.0 Secretary Report

12.1 Resident queried how to dispose of shredded paper. RC advised should be disposed of in the grey bin.

The materials recovery facility that processes the recycling cannot recycle anything under 40mm, shredded paper simply falls through the machinery.

RC suggested using a permanent marker or a stamp to obscure address, bank details etc and then recycle it in blue bin as normal.

13.0 Chair Report

13.1 I'd like to start by thanking everyone for another very successful Christmas Lights switch-on event. This was the best one yet and was only made possible by the efforts of a great many of the people in this room. Special thanks to Mark Arthur, who once again did an enormous amount of work for it. Mark will review the event later this in the meeting.

13.2 We have now discovered who are the various owners of the fields between Houston and Bridge of Weir where we would like to install a cycle path. Carol will give a report on progress later.

13.3 All 31 other Scottish local authorities have now responded to my FOI request saying if they collect developer contributions. 22 of them do this and Renfrewshire is one of only 9 that do not.

13.4 Submitted a representation to Renfrewshire Council, saying that we had no objection in principle to the proposed holiday lodges development on Barochan Estate, but asked that they made it a condition of granting planning permission that the developers bring the section of Corsliehill Road between Barochan Road and Barochan House up to a standard where it can become navigable and be adopted by the Council.

Elizabeth Dalgetty and Janet Mason had expressed concern during the HCC online discussion of this issue that we had to be consistent in our approach to planning applications and that we should have objected to this proposal. John McEvoy advised that there had not been widespread unease about the proposal during our email discussion and that where he thought we had to exercise consistency was always acting in the best interests of our residents.

There were factors in the application that reduced the level of concern to the community, for example, the development would not put additional pressure on school places, the developers were installing a septic tank so there would be no additional burden on the sewage system and he had asked the Council that they made it a condition of granting planning permission that the developers upgraded the section of Corsliehill Road between Barochan Road and Barochan House.

Mark Arthur suggested that we approach other rural Community Councils to propose sharing the cost of hiring an expert who could advise us all on how to approach planning applications. Mark and John McEvoy will take offline.

13.5 Submitted our response to the survey on the new draft scheme the Establishment of Community Councils, which we accepted without any recommended changes.

13.6 Have written twice more to Renfrewshire Council requesting that the white lines on Barrochan Road be repainted, pointing out the string of broken promises and misinformation we have had from the Council.

13.7 Wrote to Renfrewshire Council in support of the residents of Crosslee Road asking that the speed limit be reduced from 60 mph to 30 mph. Also prepared a press release stating our position. Unfortunately, the Council do not propose to take any action at this time but offered to attend our next meeting to discuss.

13.8 Received response from Scottish Government to our letter about littering. Unfortunately, we were simply fobbed off. I believe David is following this up – David confirmed this is the case.

14.0 Scheduling Agenda Items

14.1 Nigel Hobbs asked that order of agenda items put in priority order, as in the past items of importance have been rushed at the end due to time pressures. Example of agenda timings presented by Nigel.

14.2 Items also to be given allocated time to avoid meeting running on. Secretary to control timings.

14.3 Members to advise Secretary and Chair of any agenda items **at least one** week before meetings which will avoid any other business. Where applicable reports to accompany agenda items, which will be circulated to HCC members to allow time to read prior to meeting by Secretary.

14.4 Houston resident item to be on agenda as standard.

14.5 Meeting to finish at 9:30pm at the latest. This will mean controlling the number of agenda items being covered and may involve items being carried forward to next meeting.

15.0 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

15.1 HCC members agreed for invite to come along to our next meeting.

16.0 Update on Proposed Cycle Path

16.1 HCC lucky to have Peter Leslie on board to attend subcommittee meetings, who brings a wealth of expertise to this area.

16.2 Mark to supply map of area to identify pathways and land. Three potential owners to land in and around Houston ie RC, Elderslie Estates and Mary Inglis.

16.3 Agreed application for funds from Sustrans to be put in for February next financial year due to time constraints. An 8-page document requires completion (not too arduous). When go to tender for work will get consultant who will do the groundwork for us.

16.4 Keep sub group going with at least 3 people working with consultant.

16.5 Community engagement eg through Houston Show stand, coffee mornings etc.

17.0 Review of Christmas Light Switch On

17.1 Mark will table a report for review at the next meeting.

18.0 Bee Happy Houston Update

18.1 Bee Happy to identify two sites, one in Crosslee and one in Oilfields where two live Christmas trees are to be planted for decoration each December.

18.2 Jake outlined proposals for an orchard. Meeting with Appleman on 21/01. Proposal for 40 trees with £1000 max spend. Path from Quarrybrae will lead to orchard. Suggestion to involve community payback workers.

18.3 Potential for trees to be planted north of cemetery and Woodland Trust can donate trees. Discuss offline with John McEvoy.

18.4 Jake confirmed blade ordered for strimmer which will allow to tackle stubborn overgrown areas.

18.5 Also agreed to substation opposite GHS to be painted which is currently an eye sore and covered in graffiti.

19.0 Update and Installation of Benches

19.1 Gordon Wright confirmed benches are ready and await dimension of concrete pad. Company will install them. To consult with John Chambers.

20.0 Renfrewshire Community Council Forum Delegate

20.1 Gordon Wright offered to accompany John McEvoy to meetings.

21.0 Facebook Policy

21.1 Gordon Wright suggested that our HCC Facebook page should have no option for comments, and it should be to inform our community only.

21.2 After discussion members thought this would be boring and the group page would probably be closed as not enough information to run as a notice board post.

21.3 HCC members to flag up and report on any comments to admin which they see as out with our rules and guidelines. Kathy McFall will review and circulate the rules and guidelines to members. It was agreed that fb can be empowering if managed carefully and a well-placed comment can cut out any nonsense.

22.0 Any Other Business

22.1 Elizabeth Dalgetty advised that a fence belonging to an elderly resident at South St/Main St has been taken down on several occasions due to the excess speed of drivers . Agreed that Elizabeth to write to Council outlining issues and ask what options are available to help with poor junction and speed which is causing accidents. Cllr Doig advised important that accidents reported to Police as Council will look at number of accidents before taking any action.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 7:30pm in the Carrick Centre.