

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Title: Houston Community Council Meeting
February 2019

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston

Time: 7:30pm

Ref: HCC/02/2019

Date: 20/02/19

Sheet: 1 of 5

Present

John McEvoy (jmc)
David Dunlop (dd)
Janet Mason (jm)
Kathy McFall (kmf)
Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)
Jake Fulton (jf)
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

HCC position

Chair
Vice-Chair

In Attendance

Jill Jack (jj)
Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)
Cllr Jim Sherdian (js)
Representatives from
PC Dick
Houston Residents

Representing

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

Apologies

PC Norwood
Mr C Johnson
John Chambers (jc)
Sharon Chambers (sc)
Mark Arthur (ma)
Gordon Wright (gw)
Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)

Representing

Police Scotland (PS)
Gryffe High School (GHS)
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
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

January 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 representative left meeting after police report given.

4.2 5 offences with 1 detected during period 16/01 to 20/02. Summary:

2 x theft – 1 x cash and 1 x food

2 x anti-social – 1 x breach of the peace at Fox n Hounds and 1 x damage to waste system at Paintballing

1 x fail to stop for school crossing patrol sign

4.3 Community Speed Watch – Police to meet with Nigel to progress.

4.4 Discussion took place regarding fire raising and boy to be charged for Co-op fire and poly tunnel.

4.5 Police resource has been focussed on missing person in Kilbarchan.

4.5 If aware of any wheelie bins being stolen to notify Police.

4.6 Graffiti in Houston showing mb17 (St Mirren casuals). This has been seen near poly tunnel and Co-op. Jake to send photos to PC Dick.

4.7 Spoke to GHS who are continuing with litter pick after lunch. Wardens have no scope to target Houston at the present time. Jake in communication with RC for pavement stencilling to highlight position of litter bins.

5.0 Gryffe High School Update on Community Work

5.1 House week taken place with a series of events to raise money for outing (venue to be decided). Tokens are earned for house points. Gives opportunity for House Captains to be visual with all pupils, creating unity. Activities include The Chase, bubble football, Harry Potter quiz and karaoke on the last day.

5.2 School Captains will attend Renfrewshire event at Gleniffer HS to discuss litter. Jake advised school will be well ahead of other schools re initiatives to combat littering. It's been easier to organise litter picks now that prelims have finished. Pupil management group identified coco noodle pots causing littering. They are devising a sign for shopkeepers showing where bins are located. Potential to create art out of the plastic collected. Discussion took place regarding reverse vending machines developed in Norway which gives you a credit note after making a plastic deposit. Kathy to send link to school.

5.3 School has gone cashless with new parent pay system.

6.0 Crosslee Rd

6.1 Resident previously at HCC meeting to raise concerns.

6.2 Cllr Doig met with Mark Higginbotham regarding work required to drains (some are tarmacked over) and to place warning signage on bad bends to make road safer. Also, to increase width of laybys or commission more laybys to improve passing and repair damage to road as erosion is bad. Local people use road and can be incautious. Resident has agreed actions with majority of neighbours. Mr Higginbotham not in agreement to reduce speed, as

this is a one-track single road with speed limit of 60mph and drivers should drive to road conditions.

6.3 Agreed resident will respond to RC on behalf of neighbours, Cllr Doig and HCC will also send communication to RC to support.

7.0 Local Councillor Reports

Cllr Audrey Doig

7.1 To resolve issue with flooding on Barrochan Rd this will involve overnight closing so road can be dug up to eradicate problem. No dates for work yet.

7.2 White lining on Barrochan Rd – Mr Higginbotham agreed would get the work completed.

7.3 Any new/relocation of bus shelters would be into next financial year.

7.4 Reviewing lighting on Kirk Rd as poorly lit.

7.5 Community event on 16/2 in church halls well attended. Ideas such as youth club for 13yrs+, adventure days, Community to use church halls for keep fit etc. Friday afternoon open to school children for a social hub and engage with Renfrewshire Active schools. Golf event and outings also suggested.

Cllr Jim Sheridan

7.6 McGills have done reverse on price hike.

7.7 Now is the time to submit requests for road repairs. John McE agreed to send list to Jim once circulated to HCC members. Also, to post on HCC fb asking residents to submit photo and location. Care that not all roads adopted by RC.

7.8 Discussion took place to re potential to reopen Moss Rd. HCC agreed to adopt a neutral position.

8.0 Treasurer Report – details taken from report submitted

8.1 Income and expenditure covered for period 16/01 – 20/02. Opening balance £12793. Income £2752 made up of sponsorship from Houston Inn, Dentist, Houston Paper shop and Woman's Institute, plus vat return.

Expenditure £950 made up of Secretary, insurance, generator hire, kids gift vouchers, electrical materials, JW grant, Bee Happy materials, and hall rental. Closing balance £14595. Bee Happy balance to date £767.

8.2 Not included: -Santa Charity Donation -£100.00, land search cycle path -£62.40, printing £162.88, orchard planting -£1050, Bee Happy donation £40.00, Litter Crew find £5.00, Ian Simpson retirement gift -£50.00.

9.0 Secretary Report

9.1 Community council social media accounts must not be used (collectively or by individual members) to engage in Party political debate – email with full details circulated to HCC members.

10.0 Chair Report

10.1 Would like to congratulate David Dunlop on the excellent movie he produced at the Christmas Lights switch on and I agree that this would make an excellent publicity item for the 2019 event.

10.2 Have written to Elderslie Estates and to Mrs Mary Inglis, the last known owner of Mill of Gryffe Farm re making land around the perimeter available for a cycle path but as yet have had no reply.

10.3 Along with councillor James Sheridan met with Mr Mark Higginbotham of Renfrewshire Council to review the white lining on Barrochan Road. Mr Higginbotham undertook to have the work completed. He also confirmed that new bus shelters will be provided on Magnus Road at Leman Drive and on Main Street at St. Fillan's, but that this would be in the next financial year.

10.4 Met with David Dunlop and Mr Bill Gallacher to discuss our approach to any future planning applications in our area and agreed that I would submit Freedom of Information requests to Renfrewshire Council regarding schools capacity in Renfrewshire and to Scottish Water regarding Sewerage Capacity in Houston. After discussion HCC members agreed to proceed with request. Local Councillors advised care with response/opinion as may eliminate yourself from voting.

How to frame Freedom of Information request – keep it simple and be specific ie how many Local Council decisions have been overturned and why, plus what percentage of planning decisions have been upheld and reasons given.

John McE to email list of questions to Elizabeth Dalgetty to review prior to submission.

10.5 Reported out of action street lights in North Street to Renfrewshire Council. The majority have now been repaired but the section between Main Street and the Post Office car park remains unlit. Have reported this as a new fault.

10.6 The issue of Developer Contributions will be discussed at the Renfrewshire Community Council Forum meeting on 20 February with Mr Fraser Carlin of the Council's Housing Department.

10.7 Gordon Wright has agreed to be our new representative on the Renfrewshire Community Council Forum, replacing Helen Parker.

10.8 Worked with Kathy McFall, David Dunlop and Gordon Wright to agree new rules for our Facebook page. This was posted on our fb page which appeared at the top of news feed.

10.9 The Scottish Government have announced a public consultation on the use and regulation of fireworks. Should we respond as a community council? HCC members agreed no response, however, potential to look at licencing of fireworks.

11.0 Update on Proposed Cycle Path from Sub Committee Meeting

11.1 Cycle path to be referred to as pathway as can be used for various activities.

11.2 Ownership of land being established and looking at more connecting paths in Houston with lighting. Plus connecting Houston with other communities with safe pathways.

11.3 Consultant to carry out feasibility study and HCC will then take advice on what is achievable.

11.4 Sustrans funding form is being updated so unable to submit at present. Sustrans want you to be more ambitious with application as more liable for funding to be successful. Look at different modes of transport but also consider that land may not be big enough to have all lane markings. There is a need to be less car reliant. Sustrans fund 50% but do not fund maintenance.

11.5 Cala homes have option on land at Fishing Club on Bridge of Weir Rd which is a potential pathway. Await report from consultant, as land may not be suitable. Land belongs to Mary Inglis at present.

12.0 Proposed Brief for Planning Consultant to be sent to other community councils

12.1 David working on proposal to be sent to village communities in surrounding areas. Potential to look at Inverclyde too.

13.0 Bee Happy Houston Update

13.1 Work on community orchard will commence on 2/3/19 with planting of 20 fruit trees.

13.2 Approach made to RC re 7 other potential projects.

13.3 HCC agreed for funding of a trailer for Bee Happy to use.

13.4 Agreed for plaques to be made for planters. Kathy asked to see artwork.

13.5 John Chambers to provide note of how much funding is left for Bee Happy as important to spend.

14.0 Development of Chapel Farm

14.1 Email sent by architects acting for the developers at Chapel Farm. The proposal compounds the issues of concern by adding an additional two dwellings from 7 units to 10 units. It would generate more traffic onto Main Street and place further pressure on schooling and waste water systems. Although it retains/proposes the refurbishment of an agricultural shed, if the 10 units are agreed the applicant could then come back with a case that this feature is not viable and submit a proposal to replace this with possibly as many as three additional residential units. For consistency the majority of HCC members agreed to object and remind the Council to continue to prioritise the use of brownfield land. Check deadlines for objections. JmcE will draft response and send to members and once agreed send to architect.

15.0 Advertizer and Gazette HCC Articles

15.1 Janet Mason asked if summary of HCC minutes could be sent to Advertizer and/or Gazette. Secretary advised this would be an onerous task to scale down existing minutes and make it fit for purpose for a newsletter article. John McEvoy also advised that deadline submissions for articles did not coincide with HCC minutes so not viable.

15.2 Discussion also took place regarding need for a separate action log and to encompass within the minute document. This would involve creating a new template. No decision was reached in this regard.

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