

## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Title:** Houston Community Council Meeting  
April 2019  
**Location:** Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston  
**Time:** 7:30pm

**Ref:** HCC/04/2019  
**Date:** 17/04/19  
**Sheet:** 1 of 4

<b>Present</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>HCC position</b>
David Dunlop (dd)	Houston Community Council	Vice Chair
John Chambers (jc)	Houston Community Council	Treasurer
Sharon Chambers (sc)	Houston Community Council	
Kathy McFall (kmf)	Houston Community Council	
Jake Fulton (jf)	Houston Community Council	
Gordon Wright (gw)	Houston Community Council	
Carol Murray (cm)	Houston Community Council	
Nigel Hobbs (nh)	Houston Community Council	

<b>In Attendance</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Ken Lyons	Resident
Sue Campbell	Resident
Fiona Calvert	Resident
PC Dick	Police Scotland (ps)
PC Norwood	Police Scotland (ps)

<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)	Renfrewshire Council (rc)
Cllr Jim Sheridian (js)	Renfrewshire Council (rc)
Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)	Renfrewshire Council (rc)
Representatives from	Gryffe High School
John McEvoy (jmc)	Houston Community Council
Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)	Houston Community Council
Janet Mason (jm)	Houston Community Council
Mark Arthur (ma)	Houston Community Council

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

**Minutes taken by:** Nigel Hobbs

### **1.0 Apologies**

Apologies noted by the people above.

### **2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes**

March minutes approved by Gordon Wright and Sharon Chambers

### **3.0 Police Report**

**3.1** Between the 20<sup>th</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> April there have been a total of 9 recorded crime reports, 2 have so far been detected. The crime summary is:

2 x Theft by Housebreaking/Attempt – 1 x House, 1 x Shed

2 x Theft, 1 x lead from a commercial roof, 1 x wheelie bin

1 x Serious Assault, Assault in the street

3 x Anti-Social (breach of the peace/vandalism/street drinking), 1 x breach of the peace and taking of a car without consent, 1 x damage to a car, 1 x broken window

1 x Road Traffic Offence, 1 x hit and run damage to a car

**3.2** The Police set up a speed check in Main Street after reports of speeding vehicles. There were very few vehicles witnessed speeding with limited warnings given out.

### **4.0 Land Adjacent to Manse Crescent Planning Application**

**4.1** Three residents from Manse Crescent attended the meeting to state their objection to the proposed change of use of the land adjacent to Manse Crescent. They stated that most of the residents in Manse Crescent objected to Renfrewshire Councils proposal to allow the building of 10 self build homes on the land.

**4.2** Gordon Wright explained that at a recent meeting with Renfrewshire Council they met an employee whose role it was to maximise the value of any council land and generate income. The Manse Crescent land would not only generate significant income if the council were to sell it with planning permission, but also the ongoing income from Council Tax once the houses were completed. It would appear that Renfrewshire Council have been petitioned for sometime from a local resident to release land in the village for self build purposes.

**4.3** The land at Manse Crescent used to be classified as Greenbelt but was recently reclassified as White land. This appears to make it easier to reclassify it as building land as it does not now fall foul of the Councils policy of not building on Greenbelt land.

**4.4** HCC have approached Renfrewshire Council to explore the potential of 'Community Asset Transfer' to HCC for the retention and bio-diversification as public open space for the long term benefit of Houston and Crosslee residents. Situated on the land is currently the newly planted community orchard that Bee Happy and the local primary schools collaborated on. This was funded by Renfrewshire Council and the land is used for a wide variety of local recreational purposes, including children's play, dog walking as well as wildlife.

**4.5** HCC is opposed to the building of houses on the land adjacent to Manse Crescent and any other scaled developments in the village on the basis of the cumulative impact on local infrastructure (schools, roads, drainage, amenities etc.) which require significant investment to cope with additional residents. There is also significant brownfield land currently available in Renfrewshire which requires regeneration and this should be prioritised before further greenbelt, the green network or useable green spaces are lost in the next 5-10 years.

**4.6** The attending Manse Crescent residents agreed to galvanise support from their neighbours and co-ordinate a campaign against the building of houses on the land adjacent to Manse Crescent.

## **5.0 Treasurer's Report**

**5.1** Income and expenditure covered the period 20th March to 17th April. The opening balance was £12,831.51 with income of £231.91 in the form of a VAT repayment. Expenditure of £70.24, made up of building materials, hall rental and insurance. Closing balance of £12,993.18. Bee Happy balance £807.24

**5.2** Not included in the above figures – Santa Charity Donation -£100.00, Bee Happy Donation £40.00, Litter Crew find £5.00, Lubbe Bulbs £528.00.

## **6.0 Action Log Review**

**6.1** The action log was reviewed and updated.

## **7.0 Update on Houston Paths**

**7.1** Sustrans have for this financial year changed the way they consider applications for funding. Sustrans will initially only consider applications from those that had previously applied for funding. HCC therefore cannot apply for funding until May this year and after Sustrans have made their first allocations of funding. This may mean that there could be limited funding available to HCC.

**7.2** Peter Leslie and some members of HCC will be walking the proposed pathway routes to get a better understanding of potential issues and solutions.

## **8.0 Proposed Brief for Planning Consultant**

**8.1** HCC have taken the decision to postpone this agenda item to concentrate on preparing an urgent and detailed response to the Renfrewshire Council Proposed Local Development Plan.

## **9.0 Update on Response to Proposed Local Development Plan**

**9.1** HCC has until the 10<sup>th</sup> June to respond to the Proposed Local Development Plan. Views will be sought from local residents prior to submission.

## **10.0 Update on Proposed Micro-Hydro Electricity Scheme**

**10.1** Mark Arthur submitted a report on the investigative work carried out so far.

**10.2** The burn will not provide a huge amount of potential electricity via the micro hydro scheme at the existing weir. The government has stopped the feed in tariff support so we have little incentive available apart from the export revenue straight to the grid which is minimal. The hydro scheme as you would expect produces more energy in the winter when the burn flow is high compared to the summer when it is low. There is still an option to create a very small micro-hydro scheme using a Breastshot Wheel at the existing weir, with the re-creation of the pond and nature habitat. There could be a number of benefits for the village of installing a micro-hydro scheme, for example: educational benefits by getting the village schools involved in the project, the village gains a nature habitat and a small income from the electricity generated.

**10.3** Next steps are for HCC to decide whether to proceed with the already funded ecology report.

## **11.0 Bee Happy Houston Update**

**11.1** Renfrewshire Council in 2018 launched a campaign 'Team Up Clean Up'. The 5-year campaign is supported with funding of £2.5M. The campaign is to improve the cleanliness, appearance and local health of the environment. As part of the campaign Renfrewshire Council is presenting Bee Happy Houston with a number of electrical gardening tools and appliances.

**11.2** Houston's three village pubs have collectively donated £450 to Bee Happy Houston to be spent on village projects.

## **12.0 Other**

**12.1** HCC confirmed its intention to run a bottle stall at this year's Houston Agricultural Show on the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Meeting closed at 8.50pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Carrick Centre.**