

## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Title:** Houston Community Council Meeting  
August 2019

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

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Ref:** HCC/06/2019

**Date:** 21/08/19

**Sheet:** 1 of 6

### Present

John McEvoy (jmc)

David Dunlop (dd)

John Chambers (jc)

Sharon Chambers (sc)

Kathy McFall (kmf)

Gordon Wright (gw)

Jake Fulton (jk)

Elizabeth Dalgetty (ed)

### Representing

Houston Community Council

Houston Community Council

Houston Community Council

Houston Community Council

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### HCC position

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer

### Ex Officio

Cllr Jim Sheridan (js)

### Representing

Renfrewshire Council (rc)

### In Attendance

Police Scotland (ps)

Sue Campbell

Ken Lyons

Matthew Hill

Craig Ross

Mirren Murray

Colin Johnson

### Representing

Resident

Resident

GHS Pupil

GHS Pupil

GHS Pupil

GHS Headmaster

### Apologies

Carol Murray (cm)

Mark Arthur (ma)

Janet Mason (jm)

Nigel Hobbs (nh)

Cllr Audrey Doig (aud)

Cllr Allison Dowling (ald)

Cllr Scott Kerr (sk)

### Representing

Houston Community Council

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Renfrewshire Council (rc)

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

**Minutes taken by:** Kathy McFall

## **School Update**

Colin Johnson spoke of the pupil group of about 20 students that meets every Friday at 8.00am, and introduced those in attendance.

Craig updated on the litter picking rota, which has two different routes, one near the Paper Shop and the other at the Co-Op. A GHS litter contract to the residents of South St. had been drafted and is hoped to be signed off by date of next meeting (copy circulated).

JF congratulated school and pupils on their litter picking efforts.

A Charity Sleep Out is arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> December at football pitch (and Church Halls), in collaboration with the church and other youth groups. 1st and 6th year students will take part to raise funds for the homeless.

Mirren offered an open invitation for anyone in the community to attend school fundraising events, theatre and dance shows.

Matthew explained how the school was working towards reduce its impact on environment, including using less paper, recycling in the classrooms, and digital publications. In addition the eco committee hoped to work with HCC and RC to install an electro vehicle charging point in school car park. A survey had been circulated in school to get feedback on this.

JS noted that there was a push to get the red ash area of the school grounds regenerated to enhance the sports facilities available; it was thought GHS was behind other schools within the Renfrewshire area.

## **Residents**

Manse Field – residents had met with David Henderson who was able to advise on a Community Asset Transfer of the field. It was not possible for HCC to acquire the land, but there is an option for a group to be established as a company limited by guarantee; needs approximately 20 members, all with an interest in the community.

JMcE is waiting information from DH on how to set this up, then a business plan will be prepared by the residents in attendance.

### **1.0 Apologies**

Apologies noted by the people above.

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

March minutes approved by Sharon Chambers and David Dunlop, subject to one minor change under 7.0 Action Log. The new format had been approved at the June meeting.

### **3.0 Police Report**

**3.1** Between the 19<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> August there have been a total of 4 recorded crime reports, 1 has been detected. The crime summary is:

2 x Theft (1x motorhome and contents, 1x wheelie bin)

1 x Anti-social (1x set hay on fire)

1x Other (1x communications offences)

**3.2** Speed checks continued in the village with 5 drivers warned in two recent checks Houston Rd near Ardgyffe Crescent.

**3.3** JS highlighted the recent campaign from residents for a pedestrian crossing and/or lollipop man in Main St. As speed checks didn't cover that area, JS asked if they could speed check that area as it may be helpful for the campaign. Initial response from RC was not positive.

### **4.0 Councillors' Report**

**4.1** JS reported that complaints had been received about the noise coming from the kennels, mostly from the new residents close by. It is currently being investigated, though agreed it was not a matter for HCC.

### **5.0 Treasurer's Report**

JC tabled an update on the income and expenditure within the period of 19<sup>th</sup> June to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019. A copy of this is available on request.

HCC agreed that spending for imminent planting etc should be taken from Bee Happy funds.

### **6.0 Chairman's Report**

**6.1** Wrote to the members of the Board at Renfrewshire Council asking about their plans to introduce 20 mph speed limits in residential areas of Renfrewshire in the event that the Private members Bill to do this nationwide was not passed by the Scottish Parliament and received a response from Cathy McEwan saying that the Council had not agreed to do this. Have asked Councillor Audrey Doig for clarification.

**6.2** At the June session of the Local Partnership we were awarded approximately £4000 for our Christmas Lights switch on event and £2000 for our gardening and related projects. The latter grant is contingent on us achieving match funding for this award.

**6.3** Along with Gordon Wright met with David Henderson of COSS and residents of Manse Crescent to discuss options for setting up a new group to take over Manse Field. This followed advice that there would be major problems with community council applying for an asset transfer of the site. These options are now being explored.

6.4 Peter Leslie emailed Carol Murray and me to say that he is progressing with the application, including land plans and drawings, to Sustrans for the grant for paths. I must be submitted by 26th August and we will hear the first week in October

6.5 Email from resident Terry Ralph

I'm pretty sure that my own problem with household drainage is affected by network main drainage.

I am on the old Houston Rd and it's not only my home drainage but also the manholes and roadside kerb grilles which are backing up.

I know we have had heavy rains lately but even so they are pretty inefficient and I feel that they need maintenance downstream on the system.

Any guidance or advice would be most welcome...

JMcE to send details of who to contact in RC.

6.6 Am having difficulty getting responses from Renfrewshire Council at the moment.

(i) Have made numerous calls to and have emailed the Estates Department to speak to somebody about planting tree at junction of Barrochan Road and Magnus Road. Nobody has responded.

(ii) For our Public Entertainment Licence we need a letter from Renfrewshire Council giving us permission to use Main Street. Have tried lots of times to get to speak to whoever does this but without success.

6.7 Jack Haugh from Gazette contacted me asking for a quote from me/HCC on Woodend House PoAN. As previously agreed, I told him to write to us at [info@houstonvillage.co.uk](mailto:info@houstonvillage.co.uk) and he would be given a response on behalf of full HCC.

JMcE to prepare press statement and circulate for approval before release.

6.8 Anne McNaughton has asked us to vote on the following amendments to our proposed new constitution in time for the RCCF forum meeting on 27 August

**Proposal 1 – that paragraph 3.8.8 be amended to correct a typographical error and change “formal” to “format”;**

Approved unanimously.

**Proposal 2 – that paragraph 3.8.18 be amended to replace “must” with “should” to remove any undue pressure on community councils to monitor social media accounts 24/7;**

‘monitor its social media accounts to ensure content is appropriate, engaging and promotes the work of the community council in a positive manner. The community

council social media platforms should not be used to conduct arguments, bully or harass any individual or organisation.'

HCC voted 6 to 2 in favour of retaining 'must not'.

**Proposal 3- that paragraphs 11.6.1 and 11.6.2 be amended to take account of the recent introduction of a single point of contact for community council enquiries;**

11.6 Making Enquiries about Renfrewshire Council Services Community councils should send all enquiries about services to [communitycouncilenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitycouncilenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)  
Service enquiries will be: logged and tracked; receipt acknowledged within 5 working days; replied to within 10 working days where possible or otherwise advised (within 10 working days) of an appropriate alternative date for reply should the matter be complex and require detailed investigation

Approved unanimously.

**Proposal 4 – that paragraph 7 be amended to remove the requirement for candidates for membership of community councils to be proposed and seconded, thereby permitting self-nomination.**

Individuals seeking election to a community council require to complete and submit a candidate nomination form by the date set down in the election timetable. Nomination forms submitted after that date will not be accepted. Candidates do not require to be proposed or seconded, self-nomination is permitted.

HCC voted 6 to 2 in favour of status quo.

## **7.0 Action Log**

**7.1 Planters / benches** - Abbey Services are preparing the benches for install, now to be done by RC.

**7.2 Renewal of white lines on roads** – completed.

**7.3** Plans for a second **defibrillator** within the BT Phonebox is progressing; phone box purchased for £1.00 and awaiting prep and install.

**7.4 Bus shelters** - completed.

**7.5 Yew Tree** – JM had reported the works should be completed by the end of August.

### **8.0 Hydro Scheme**

MA had sent out enquiries to five ecology companies and all five have declined to price the works. Next step is to approach Renfrewshire Council's procurement team and issue an open tender via Publics Contract Scotland for the works which David shall scope out in the ITT notice.

### **9.0 Christmas Light Switch-On**

A productive sub committee meeting was held in August with a second planned for September. The school competition for the lights is underway with the shortlist being completed by 13th September; winners will be selected at the September HCC meeting. Discussion with lighting company in relation to requirements for this year underway

### **10.0 Community Council Elections**

Current CC stand down as of 30<sup>th</sup> September until re-election (if applicable). JMCE had issued two notices in relation to nominations for CC via Facebook. Closing date 13<sup>th</sup> September. HCC FB page would continue for the community but there would be no official posts made by HCC.

### **11.0 AOB**

JF reported that HCC would benefit from the Co-Op Fundraising scheme to the tune of £716.00, with more to follow through plastic bag sales. JF had also applied for next year's scheme. JF hoped to attend a RC event on how to access grants and make applications for external funds.

**Meeting closed at 9.30 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Carrick Centre.**