# HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting Ref: HCC/19/2/2020

Location: Carrick Centre, Main, St Houston Date: 19/2/20

Time: 7:30pm Sheet: 1 of 5

#### **Present**

David Dunlop (dd) Jake Fulton (jf) Gordon Wright (gw) Kathy McFall (km) Bill Haddow (bh) Janet Mason (jm) Debbie Hobbs (dh) Ian Anderson (ia) Graeme Richardson (gr) John McEvoy (jmc) Harry Manley (hm)

#### **Ex-Officio**

Cllr Audrey Doig (ad)

## In Attendance

Craig Ross (cr)

## **Apologies**

Carol Murray Pauline Purcell **Sharon Chambers Nigel Hobbs** Cllr Scott Kerr John Chambers Mark Arthur Cllr Jim Sheridan

## Representing

**Houston Community Council Houston Community Council Minutes Secretary** 

# Representing

Renfrewshire Council

# Representing

**Gryffe High School** 

## Representing

**Houston Community Council Houston Community Council Houston Community Council Houston Community Council** Renfrewshire Council

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

# Minutes taken by: Harry Manley

- 1) Previous Minutes Noted. Approved by Janet Mason and John McEvoy
- 2) Police Report

Police Officer reported for 15/1/20 to 17/2/20 the following incidents:

- Theft by housebreaking (1 to house)
- Theft (1 cash)
- Anti-Social Behaviour (2 damage cars)
- Other (1 Dangerous Dogs Act offence, 1 wildlife offence)

## 3) School Update

A senior pupil was welcomed to the meeting. CR informed those present that the wee sleep out raised over £9000 and was attended by many despite the bad conditions of the night. He also informed us that the PTA Burns night raised a total of £550 for the school. He also mentioned that the leaders of the citizenship committee went to a Rainbow Turtle charity event and found out lots of different ideas for the upcoming Fairtrade Fortnight. CR also reported that this year's MADD show had an eco-theme and featured a clothes swap, where you could trade-in old clothes for newer ones. We were also made aware that S4 have started their YPI (Youth Philanthropic Initiative) project, which will involve them doing a presentation on a charity of their choice, the winners shall receive £3000 for their chosen charity. Finally, CR advised that 4 Education Scotland inspectors were visiting the school this week.

The Community Council members thanked CR for his report.

## 4) Houston Residents

No Houston Residents were in attendance.

## 5) Councillors' Reports

AD mentioned that in the last two weeks a lot more potholes were appearing in roads and she urged anyone and everyone to report any potholes they might find. AD also informed us that she attended a meeting about a scheme to monitor contents of recycling bins; wrong items being placed in bins was costing RC money and often jeopardised the recycling of other items. Bins that have the wrong items in them will be marked with a red warning sticker, and repeat offenders will eventually be fined. She also mentioned that the Scottish Government is currently voting on a new budget that could cut Renfrewshire Council's capital income by up to 20%. She said that if this happens, the roads and pavements could be the first thing to get cut. RC had hoped to continue to invest in the roads and pavements, but this was looking unlikely. She also mentioned that the refurbishment of schools will also suffer. AD also mentioned that Team Up to Clean Up has received another national award and that their numbers are going up.

# 6) Treasurer's Report

DD tabled an update on income and expenditure for the previous two months. A copy of this is available on request.

# 7) Chairman's Report

- I. Local Partnership Grant Applications to be submitted by midnight on the 9th March. So what projects do we want to submit for funding?
- II. We have been asked to submit feedback on projects previously funded by the Local Partnership. The Local Partnership want to understand how the money we received has made a difference to our community. An online form is available. Who has this information?

- III. RC Grant Applications Dept have asked MA to submit a record of expenditure together with receipts for the Christmas Light Switch on event. MA says he has this in hand.
- IV. There will be drop-in events happening across all Local Partnership areas in the next couple of months. These events are an opportunity for people to find out more about the Local Partnerships, discuss the Local Priorities, and share information about what's going on in the Local Partnership area. Timetable TBC.
- V. The Local Partnerships scheme is currently under review as it has been in operation for just over a year. There is an online form if anyone wishes us to submit feedback?
- VI. NH contacted Mark Higginbotham regarding the proposed speed calming measures on the B790 Houston Road. Mark confirmed that residents local to the site will be consulted. The speeding issue was brought to their attention by a local councillor, a speed survey carried out and the results supported the traffic calming measures being introduced.
- VII. Mark said that Main Street has been surveyed for help for people to cross the road but the number of people crossing and the number of vehicles passing was not large enough to trigger any action.
- VIII. Mark is not aware that Main Street has ever been surveyed for traffic calming measures. The decision to install traffic calming measures is based on the number of accidents, speed of traffic, difficulty in crossing the road, numbers of vulnerable road users and pedestrian trip attractors such as elderly clubs and nurseries. This makes sure that streets are prioritised in terms of need. I feel there is more still to be done here and intend to keep the pressure on.
- IX. HCC last year sponsored a half page advert in the Houston & Killellan Kirk Carnival programme at a cost of £60/70. All present agreed to do it again.

## 8) Action Log

DD took the group through the Action Log which will be updated for the next meeting. All projects were progressing successfully.

## 9) Renfrewshire Council's School Policy Review

AD reminded those present of RC policy of denominational children receiving priority when applying for denominational schools. The consultation document had been circulated to residents by HCC social media.

# 10) Community Speedwatch

Review meeting held at Johnston Police Station on the 13th February. Confirmation that we're on target for a late March, early April launch.

7 volunteers all police vetted and ready to go. First training session for 3 volunteers being held tomorrow (20th Feb).

Renfrewshire Council apologised for leaking the scheme, despite the police requested embargo. RC on target to install Speed Watch Signage on all entrance/exits routes for the village prior to launch.

Both village primary schools are engaged in the project and running competitions to design Speed Watch posters.

The Police are looking to hold a Local Residents Community Speed Watch information event to be held either at a school or the Carrick Centre (tbc) prior to launch.

The Community Speed Watch activity has been added to our public liability insurance policy at no cost.

We had initially approved a £500 budget for the Speed Watch campaign, but with Police Scotland now providing the speed gun, the budget for high visibility vests and caps shouldn't exceed c£80.

The Police are planning a press launch event with confirmed attendance from Renfrewshire Council, Scottish Fire & Rescue and the Scottish Ambulance Service. The Community Speed Watch campaign is being promoted as a public educational exercise to make motorists more aware of their speed in residential areas. The Fire & Ambulance services will be in attendance to share their experience of RTA's caused by excessive speed and there will be statistics showing survival rates of RTA's at various speeds.

# 11) HCC 4 Year Plan

A list of potential plans was discussed by those present; DD to update the document with more detail, which will then be circulated for further discussion and prioritising.

## 12) A.O.C.B.

JF informed those present that Bee Happy have a new trailer and asked for £52 a year to insure all equipment. This was approved.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.