

# HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Title:** Houston Community Council Meeting

**Ref:** HCC/15/4/2020

**Location:** Virtual meeting using Zoom

**Date:** 20/5/20

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Sheet:** 1 of 3

## Present

Nigel Hobbs (nh)  
David Dunlop (dd)  
Jake Fulton (jf)  
Kathy McFall (km)  
Carol Murray (cm)  
Debbie Hobbs (dh)  
Ian Andrew (ia)  
Graeme Richardson (gr)  
John McEvoy (jmc)  
Colin Johnson (cj)  
Harry Manley (hm)

## 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  
Gryffe High School  
Minutes Secretary

## Apologies

Sharon Chambers  
Pauline Purcell  
Cllr Audrey Doig  
Cllr Scott Kerr  
Mark Arthur  
Cllr Jim Sheridan  
Brian Dick  
Martin Norwood  
Janet Mason  
John Chambers

## Representing

Houston Community Council  
Houston Community Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Houston Community Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Police Scotland  
Police Scotland  
Houston Community Council  
Houston Community Council

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

**Minutes taken by:** Harry Manley

- 1) **Previous Minutes** Noted. Approved by John McEvoy and David Dunlop
- 2) **Police Report**

Police reported the following incidents for 15/4/20 to 20/5/20:

- Theft by housebreaking (1 to containers)
- Theft (1 shoplifting, 1 small trees)
- Anti-Social Behaviour (1 cause disturbance, throw stone at moving vehicle & resist arrest)
- 1 Road traffic offence
- Other (1 air navigation offence [drone])

### 3) School Update

Head teacher of Gryffe High School Colin Johnson was present at the meeting. CJ informed those present that prior to the Covid-19 outbreak Gryffe High School was visited by HM's Inspectors. The Inspectors were at the school for a week and were using a new model for inspection. CJ said that the Inspectors produced a report that has not been published due to the current circumstances. He said that the results are yet to be announced. CJ reminded those present that new information was being posted on the school's website and that communication is critical to make sure people understand where the school's focus is, what they are trying to do, and how they are supporting everybody in every part of the school community. CJ said that the pupils were disappointed that they lost the chance to prove how hard they have worked throughout the year due to the cancellations of exams. CJ informed those present that the school was looking for ways to organise a prom for the Sixth Year pupils and other ways to thank them for their service to the school. He said that the school has organised online video lessons for each day of the month of June for the new Primary Seven pupils to replace their induction week, and that they are also focusing on getting the other year groups used to the concept of online working and keeping them motivated and engaged. He said that they have a really good online network that allows them to support the pupils and families who need it. CJ stated that staff and pupils are delivering packages to these families and that they will start delivering Chromebooks and dongles for Wi-Fi access to them in the coming weeks. CJ wanted to make sure that those present understand that there is a lot of online work going on and that they are monitoring pupil engagement and contacting the families of some who are not getting engaged. CJ mentioned that he was trying to force the school open for a couple of days a week to allow pupils to collect items and for the school to hand out resources. CJ informed those present of an emergency mobile phone number that was on the school website. It will only be answered between 9 o'clock and 4 o'clock and it allows people to contact the school even if it is shut. CJ also offered to answer any questions anyone might have.

NH asked CJ how he would manage the reopening of the school in August to deal with social distancing. CJ assured him that there has been significant discussion going on in the school. He informed NH that he chairs the Renfrewshire Head Teachers Association and they meet together with Renfrewshire Council once or twice a week. He is also a representative of the Head Teachers at The Recovery Meeting where directors of all the services are present, such as cleaning and catering. He informed those present that they have lots of contingency plans in place. He said that the school is hoping to get the majority of the staff back to work in June to ensure the building is fit for opening-up to the pupils. He said there might be scope to bring one year group back to school before the summer holidays start in June, possibly the Primary Sevens to get them acquainted with the school. In August, pupils will be brought back to school by year groups or they will alternate which year groups come in on particular days. He said that for quite a while after August, the school will be providing a 'blended service', where pupils will be part-time in school and part-time learning online from home.

KM asked CJ how the teachers were coordinating all the activities for the classes. CJ explained that the school uses Show my Homework and Microsoft Teams to create classes and distribute work to the pupils. He also said that they had another system that they populate with the school timetables and classes that transfers over to Show My Homework however there is usually a delay in the transfer and they do not want to risk it. KM also asked CJ if the school kids will have to play catch-up with their work as a result of the lockdown. CJ responded by saying that all Scottish children are in the same position and that the SQA would keep this in mind for next year's examinations.

#### 4) **Houston Residents**

No Houston Residents were present at the meeting.

#### 5) **Councillors' Reports**

No councillors were present at the meeting however Councillor Jim Sheridan did inform us by email that the recycling centres will be open on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

#### 6) **Treasurer's Report**

NH tabled an update on income and expenditure for the previous month. A copy of this is available on request.

#### 7) **Chairman's Report**

- a. Paperwork now completed to receive the Local Partnership Grant Applications monies for 2019. John Chambers to update NH when money is received.
- b. Christmas Light Switch On - £4,382
- c. Bee Happy - £2,000
  
- d. The application for a Public Entertainment Licence needs to be submitted at least 12 weeks prior to any event. Everyone was in agreement that we should put in the application now rather than wait.
  
- e. Community Council Forum meetings are suspended until further notice, the next meeting was due to be held on the 26/5/20
  
- f. In recent weeks NH passed on to Renfrewshire Council 3 local resident concerns, (Knotweed, tree trunk in Locher Water and bridge repairs at Crosslee Park). Replies in all cases received back within 48 hours and action/ownership taken.

#### 8) **Action Log**

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

#### 9) **Covid-19 Local Support/Initiatives**

HCC will post any new information from Renfrewshire Council onto the Facebook page to inform the local community.

#### 10) **Bee Happy Update**

JF informed those present that Bee Happy had suspended normal operations however, individual members are able to maintain the current plants as part of their daily exercise. They have plans for the summer should they be allowed to proceed.

Bee Happy requested that NH contact Renfrewshire Council to see if they could carry out tree planting on the land adjacent to the cemetery.

## 11) **Connecting Houston**

DD spoke to Peter Leslie who has been in contact with Renfrewshire Council and they have confirmed funding for 2020-2021. They suggest that HCC work with Sustrans to deliver the £5000 budget. Details will start to be made in early June and public consultation will begin around autumn.

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

Janet Mason will be asked to look into placing signposts to direct people towards the Yew tree.

A new sub-committee has been formed to develop a leaflet about the 10 most interesting places to walk to in Houston. IA, JMC, GR and JF have all agreed to take this idea forward. JF will contact the owner of the Houston and Crosslee Heritage Facebook page to get his suggestions on the most interesting places in Houston. KM has agreed to design and produce the leaflet when the information is ready.

JF will design a wire holding for the War Memorial to keep the wreaths in place at the base and prevent them from blowing away. He will contact the British Legion beforehand to discuss the matter with them.

NH will challenge Renfrewshire Council's decision to not allow people to walk through the Gryffe Manor Nursery's carpark to access the continuation of the path around Houston House.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020.