

## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Title:** Houston Community Council Meeting

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

**Location:** Virtual meeting using Zoom

**Date:** 17/6/20

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Sheet:** 1 of 3

### Present

Nigel Hobbs (nh)  
David Dunlop (dd)  
Jake Fulton (jf)  
Kathy McFall (km)  
John Chambers (jc)  
Gordon Wright (gw)  
Ian Andrew (ia)  
Graeme Richardson (gr)  
John McEvoy (jmc)  
Bill Haddow (bh)  
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  
Carol Murray (cm)  
Debbie Hobbs (dh)

### 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  
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 Ian Anderson

2) **Police Report**

Police reported the following incidents for 20/5/20 to 16/6/20:

- Theft (1 van)
- 1 Road traffic offence ( 1 no insurance and speeding)

3) **School Update**

Head Teacher of Gryffe High School Colin Johnson was present at the meeting. CJ informed those present that since last meeting all staff members have now been back in the building at some point, they are starting to measure the classrooms to comply with social distancing rules. He said the plan was to have pupils in the classroom for half the time and online learning for the other half, they have had their first pupil management meeting to discuss how to engage more pupils with the online learning. The School will start receiving Primary School visits in small groups for the new students coming to Gryffe.

NH asked CJ if the social distancing measures were reduced to 1 metre, could the School operate as normal. CJ said no, with 2 metres they are averaging 12 pupils per classroom with 30 pupils in a normal class. He estimated that with a 1 metre rule, they could safely have half the school return at one time. NH then asked if the school were looking at using any local buildings to run some classes in. CJ said that the Church Halls were a possibility but it would most likely be too hard to organise the logistics of setting up a safe classroom in the Halls.

KM asked if they have a timescale on when they can end the blended learning and resume normal teaching. CJ said that they are not receiving much information and so do not know when they will be allowed to go back to normal, but he is keen that it happens as soon as possible.

JMC asked how much of the curriculum CJ thinks they will be able to get through in the next year. CJ said that it depends on when the schools can start running as normal again. As it is now with the blended learning, there is no possibility of the full curriculum being completed and so they are awaiting word from the Scottish Qualifications Authority about what will happen.

4) **Councillors' Reports**

No councillors were present at the meeting, however, Councillor Audrey Doig sent in a report via email. She said that all waste centres will be fully opened as of 28<sup>th</sup> of June, that she fully supports the Sustrans initiative to connect the Schools in Houston with cycle paths, and that grasscutting has resumed but with a reduced staff that will mean it will take longer for them to get around to every area.

## 5) Treasurer's Report

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

## 6) Chairman's Report

1. Local Partnership Grant monies for 2019 now received.
  - a. Christmas Light Switch On - £4,382
  - b. Bee Happy - £2,000
2. There is little information coming our way from Renfrewshire Council and with the Community Council Forum meetings still suspended I can't see that changing in the near future.
3. I've had notification of a change to the proposed route for a 132Kv overhead cable that runs from Erskine to Devol Moor. The proposed route takes the cable further away from Houston than the current cable route. The closest it gets to Houston is North East of Formakin and North of Haddockston House near Netherton.
4. In recent weeks I've had requests from local residents/Jake regarding repairs to illuminated bollards and signs on the roundabout adjacent to the Co-op, a request for additional signage warning drivers of pedestrians/horse riders to slow traffic on Kilallan Road, Japanese Knotweed adjacent to the ramp between the Co-op and Houston Primary. Renfrewshire Council have responded promptly and positively and agreed to action all requests.

## 7) Action Log

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

## 8) Connecting Houston Update

DD had spoken to Peter Leslie about ways to make it easier to social-distance around the village, Peter developed a rough sketch of how these measures might work around Gryffe to allow students to walk down narrow paths safely, they agreed to circulate this. DD suggested that we could refine some of Peter's ideas and try to persuade Renfrewshire Council to incorporate these ideas into their original plans. DD said that it was most likely not possible to broaden the pavements between Houston and Bridge of Weir without cutting off some of the fields. JMC said that we already have the agreement of 2 out of the 3 landowners that own the fields between Houston and Bridge of Weir so the chances of being able to broaden the footpaths are relatively high.

NH asked DD if he was involved in communications between Renfrewshire Council and Peter Leslie in April. DD said that he was not involved until June, he thought this was intended to get a discussion started with Renfrewshire Council. He also said that Renfrewshire Council have not given any feedback on Peter Leslie's Drawings.

### **9) Bee Happy Update**

JF said that Bee Happy were starting back up again while maintaining social distancing. They are creating a new flower bed opposite the cemetery gates however it must be drained first, clearing the burn between the Fox and Hounds and the Houston Inn, weeding out the War Memorial, cutting the grass at the corner of St. Fillans Primary and sow wildflower seeds at the cemetery.

NH asked if most of the Bee Happy crew were back working. JF said that most of the crew were concerned about coming back but they still get around 8 or 10 individuals which is enough to go on for now.

### **10) Walk Around Houston Update**

JF said that he had been in contact with Ian Jackson, chairman of the Houston Historical Society, who offered to do all the necessary research for the booklet, however he insisted that HCC were in charge of this, he will research what HCC ask him to research. JF said that HCC must come up with the areas they want included in the booklet. The Houston Historical Society was having a zoom meeting later in the week and JF will attend to tell them what HCC want. JF said that an A6 sized leaflet would be ideal because it allows for easy storage and limits the writing to only the necessary facts. He also suggested that the Sub-Committee hold a Zoom meeting to decide what they want to be included in the leaflet.

NH said that he believes the Historical Society is much more likely to know the places of interest in Houston than HCC and so suggested that the Sub-Committee come to the Historical Society prepared with a few ideas but push them to give their own ideas. IA agreed and suggested that HCC should be responsible for plotting out the route and publishing the booklet.

KM suggested that HCC develop a smaller trail map with only points of interest and no information because that could be developed quicker to allow people to use it before the end of summer.

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

JF asked how he could deliver Bee Happy receipts to JC. JC suggested that JF post the receipts to him and JC will transfer the money directly to JF's bank account instead of using a cheque.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020.