



**Minutes taken by:** Harry Manley

1) **Previous Minutes** Noted. Approved by Ian Andrew and Sharon Chamber

2) **Police Report**

Police Officer reported for 18/11/20 to 23/12/20 the following incidents:

- Theft (1 car[recovered])
- Robbery (1 mobile [recovered])
- Road Traffic Offences (1 hit & run, 1 no insurance, 1 fail to provide details of driver)
- Other (1 online fraud)

Police Officer reported for 24/12/20 to 20/1/21 the following incidents:

- Common Assault (1 in street)
- Anti-social behaviour (1 scratch car, 1 slash tyre, 1 make threats)
- Other (1 internet fraud)

3) **School Update**

No representatives from Gryffe High School were present to make a report.

4) **Councillors' Reports**

The report from Councillor Audrey Doig is as follows:

In true Scots tradition I would like to wish all my constituents and their families a very Happy New Year for 2021. We do indeed live in very uncertain times but in fact it has always been the case, and few of us will regret the passing of the turbulent 2020. So my New Year's resolution as a Councillor is to try and support all the communities in my ward to make small positive changes which should help to create brighter and better communities for all as we tackle the challenges of 2021.

With the current drop in temperatures one of the main casualties is always our roads and pavements. As the severe frost bites into any existing damage and lifts up the asphalt under the impact of more and more traffic and increasingly bigger domestic vehicles, more and more mooncraters develop. When out and about taking your lockdown exercise please contact me on [cllr.audrey.doig@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.audrey.doig@renfrewshire.gov.uk) if you see any potholes that need filled and I will report them to the Council.

Another challenge of the current drop in temperatures is that we all need to stay safe and keep ourselves mobile and be alert to the risk of icy pavements. I am very aware of this as a few weeks ago my husband fell on icy pavements in Johnstone, no harm done except to his pride, but it could have been much worse. Can I please appeal to Houston residents that if they see that any of the local grit bins in the village are empty or nearly empty, please contact the officers on [ei@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:ei@renfrewshire.gov.uk) and request that they be restocked.

No other Councillors were present or submitted reports

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. I attended the Spaces for People online meeting on Thursday 3rd December. The meeting focused on the proposed plan to install a temporary cycle lane between Gryffe High School and Bridge of Weir. There were c15 attendees, Renfrewshire Council employees, Bridge of Weir residents and community council members, only one Houston resident and myself. Apart from the RC employees, one BoW resident and myself all other attendees expressed concerns over the project.

The main objections appeared to be from the BoW end and were about parking spaces and a bus stop being relocated further down the road, the narrowing of this section of road to accommodate the cycle lane, residents concerned about exiting their driveways across the cycle lane and concerns over the safety of walkers on what will be a shared pathway. BoW Community Council suggested two alternative routes to join Kilmacolm Road. The consultation period has now expired and RC confirmed to me earlier today that a decision on the project has not yet been reached.

I hope the project does go ahead as it'll be a good test bed for our Connecting Houston project.

2. Other updates:

- a) The Fox and Hounds have applied for a variation to its liquor licence:  
Add theatre as an activity during and outwith core hours.  
Add outdoor drinking as an activity outwith core hours  
Amend wording to allow premises to open from 9.30am for funerals and amend to allow the external area to be used prior to licensed hours for teas, coffees, breakfasts etc.  
Increase capacity to 531 to include 121 additional persons for new outdoor decked area
- b) I'm still awaiting several updates from Renfrewshire Council regarding ongoing repairs etc in the village.
- c) I'm attending a webinar in early February on an Introduction to Community Asset Transfer. Given the conversations we had back in 2019 regarding the Manse field, I thought this information maybe of future value to the community council. If anyone else is interested in attending I can forward on the invitation.

## 7) Action Log

NH took the group through the Action Log which will be updated for the next meeting

Action 106.0 - Taylor Wimpey have responded saying that they're awaiting quotations to jet wash the wooden bridge and design proposals from their consultant regarding the metal bridge.

Action 142- Still no response from Renfrewshire Council. NH will try and contact them again.

All other actions were progressing successfully.

#### **8) Scotland Town's Partnership**

DD suggested that members take a look at Scotland Town's Partnership which is an umbrella organisation for villages, towns and cities across Scotland which shares ideas on how to improve them. It has a database which is regularly updated that highlights potential grant support that is available for many different types of projects. DD mentioned that there are towns very similar to Houston that are involved and so it is a great way to find out what other people are doing. Councils are members of it but also a whole variety of community organisations such as community councils and community trusts are also members. It is a subscription-based organisation and DD suggested that it would be worthwhile becoming a member as we would be invited to meetings, webinars and be able to talk to similar towns and share ideas.

NH asked what the price of the subscription was. DD answered saying that he was unsure of the exact cost, but it was less than £200 a year.

NH asked David to send a link out to all members about the partnership. It will be on the agenda next meeting for members to discuss.

#### **9) Connecting Houston Update**

DD, JMC, IA, NH, JC and Peter Leslie evaluated and ranked eleven submissions and selected a consortium overseen by a landscaping architect company, Benton Scott-Simmons, who have been involved in projects all over Scotland. They are supported by Nick Wright who has worked with many communities in particular the Foxbar Place Plan which is used by the Scottish Government as an exemplar for how communities can develop their own plan. His particular area of expertise is community engagement. Since we have appointed them formally, we have held a series of walkabouts and online meetings to discuss what we are looking for as a community.

DD and IA walked with the team around Houston and looked at the networks of burns and rivers that have affected the way Houston has developed. They create important green corridors around Houston that are able to be developed but also preserved and protected. They also recognised that the historic village in Houston has a lot of potential.

DD and JC met with the team to discuss Houston from an engineering and design perspective. They discussed how Houston is connected, how the connections operate, any particularly congested spots and other things like that. The team are trying to paint a picture of how Houston hangs together, what the main opportunities are, where it is that people want to go to-and-from Houston and how Houston is connected to nearby towns and villages such as Linwood and Bridge of Weir.

Nick Wright has been working on a consultation program to highlight the key gathering points in the community, both online and face-to-face. They have also looked at who the key contacts are in the community and how we can engage with them through social media or at some point face-to-face events in the school. They are hoping that by April they will have a draft document of what the opinions in the communities are.

NH said that we have sent them the contact details for most of the local organisations and that they have already started to make contact with them. They have received responses from one of the primary schools and Gryffe High School. DD added that they have also made good contact with Renfrewshire Council and they are very supportive of the project.

DD said that once we start receiving draft documents from Benton Scott-Simmons it would be beneficial if members would read over them and share them with locals who have knowledge in this area or would be affected by the developments.

KM asked how we would be able to better share this project with the community and suggested that we produce a summary document of the project when we receive more information from Benton Scott-Simmons. JC suggested that when we develop an overall plan for the project we could create a summary version for the local community. NH said that when we begin consultation with the village Benton Scott-Simmons will be in contact with us as they would want to use our Facebook page to get the message out and get the opinions of the local community.

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

JC mentioned that Gary Wilson had looked at the electric supply to the phonebox at Crosslee, which will house the defibrillator. He estimates the cost for an electric supply for the defibrillator and lighting will be in the region of £300-£400. Members approved the cost.

Adam McCartney contacted NH and informed him that Houston and Killelan Kirk had been awarded £10,000 from the National Lottery for their new project the 'The Man Shed'. It will be installed behind the Church Halls and will be available for men and women to socialise and learn practical skills. HCC congratulated the Kirk on their award and would happily promote and support this project.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021.