

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting

Ref: HCC/15/9/2021

Location: Virtual meeting using Zoom

Date: 15/9/21

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 5

Present

Nigel Hobbs (nh)
David Dunlop (dd)
Mark Arthur (ma)
John Chambers (jc)
Graeme Richardson (gr)
Sharon Chambers (sc)
Kathy McFall (km)
John McEvoy (jmc)
Bill Haddow (bh)
Carol Murray (cm)

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

Ex-Officio

Representing

In Attendance

Kevin Christie (kc)

Representing

Gryffe High School

Apologies

Gordon Wright
Ian Andrew
Jake Fulton
Janet Mason
Councillor Doig
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Dowling

Representing

Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Houston Community Council
Renfrewshire Council
Renfrewshire Council
Renfrewshire 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 Graeme Richardson and Bill Haddow.

2) **Police Report**

Police Officer reported for 20/8/21 to 14/9/21 the following incidents:

Theft by Housebreaking/Attempt (1 Theft from garage of mobile phones. 1 Gryffe High School kitchen doors damaged, no entry gained to school)

Community Police Report- On Friday 10/09/2021 the community police football tournament took place at the On-x sports centre in Linwood. Thanks again to Houston community council for the funds in order for us to purchase the winners trophy and medals for the kids attending. The winners were Houston Primary school in a closely fought affair with St Fillans primary who were the runners up.

3) **School Update**

Kevin Christie was present at the meeting and gave an update on Gryffe High School. KC reported that extracurricular activities have started back up again and there are plans to expand the number of activities on offer. The school are currently awaiting guidance from the First Minister regarding allowing access to outside visitors in the school. The school are planning a coffee morning and are waiting for the go-ahead to say it is okay. The school are in the process of updating all their technology and are currently looking at purchasing 20 new ActivPanels which contain all the smartboard technology teachers and pupils require for the classroom. The S6 Pupil Management Group is now up-and-running and have determined their focuses for the rest of the year. KC mentioned that the Communities Group handles the litter-picking and that they are trying to cover every area in the village. The Pupil Council is currently being elected and when they are, they will look at the proposals for improving Ardgryffe Park and collect feedback on it from the whole school. KC also mentioned that the school was looking to get extra bins put in around the village to help with the litter problem. KC reported, in relation to the attempted break in at the school, that there were at least two young people in the building that night who are currently unidentified, however nothing was stolen.

SC congratulated the school on their litter picking efforts and mentioned that it seemed to be making a difference, especially on North Street. KC thanked SC and assured HCC that they will keep their efforts up.

DD asked KC about the school's progress on a grant application for a reverse vending machine that was started by previous Head Teacher Colin Johnson. KC said he was unaware of the project but would check with Colin Johnson and report back.

4) **Councillors' Reports**

Submission for the October 2021 Issue of the Gryffe Advertiser from Cllr Audrey Doig:

My council postbag has been very full with Houston residents being concerned about planning application 21/1504/TE, which is by CK Hutchieson Networks for a new phone mast in Magnus Road. I can advise constituents they can make direct representation to the Council on this matter, by e mailing the planning officials at dc@renfrewshire.gov.uk and making their views known.

Now that we are slowly easing out of lockdown Councillors are allowed to have ward surgeries once again. I think this is a positive step as some people would rather forgo the cyber wizardly of e mail for an old fashioned face to face chat on what at times can be very personal and sensitive matters. My forthcoming ward surgeries will be on Thursday 21st October at the Brookfield Village Hall, on Thursday 28th October at the TESCO Café, TESCO Linwood, and on Thursday 18th November at the Carrick Centre, Houston, all beginning at 6.30pm.

The ruling administration in Renfrewshire is taking its roads repair schedule very seriously indeed as was agreed as part of our Budget proposals for 2021/22. Whilst no one likes delays and road closures you cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs, accordingly I am delighted to see the full resurfacing of Main Street in Houston, and I am pleased to say it will be followed by comprehensive pavement repairs in Brookfield.

No other Councillors were present or submitted reports.

5) Treasurer's Report

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

6) Chairman's Report

1. A local resident has reported that another two areas of the graveyard perimeter wall at Kilallan are dangerous and near to collapse. Renfrewshire Council have inspected the wall and have appointed a civil engineering company to carry out repairs.
2. Another local resident has complained about the overhanging trees and Ivy around the perimeter wall of Gryffe Nursery obstructing the footpath. I have contacted Elderslie Estates and they are checking the lease agreement to clarify who is responsible for cutting/pruning the foliage.
3. I reported last month that a local resident had requested warning signage on Fulton Drive for wildlife crossing, Renfrewshire Council looked in to the request and have agreed to erect signage warning drivers to slow down.
4. I reported at our August meeting that I will be resigning from my post of Chair and from the Community Council at our AGM in October. As I will be moving out of the village in the next few weeks the position of Chair will need to be filled and to date I have not had any expressions of interest. Can I ask you all to again consider stepping forward and taking up the position. Please feel free to contact me to discuss the role and its responsibilities.

KM said that there should be some serious discussion about what would happen if HCC do not find a replacement for the Chair. JMC said that he was unsure of the exact protocol for if a Chair could not be found but it is likely that HCC would have to disband, however, he suggested asking for a comment from Ann McNaughton who would be sure of the protocol. JF suggested putting out a message to the community to see if anyone was willing to volunteer for the position. NH mentioned that only members can be elected to positions at the Annual General Meeting, so if someone from the community wanted to take the position, they would first have to become a member of HCC before the AGM.

7) Action Log

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

Action 63.0- MA reported that the Elderslie Estates have said they would support the project, however, they would like HCC to talk with the Church as they were looking for a Car park there. MA said he will speak to the Church and if they say no, the project would be unable to continue.

Action 139.0- KM is starting work on the leaflet.

Action 143.0- Jake Fulton met with Michael Fowles and did a walkaround to identify areas to plant trees. Many suitable locations were found.

All other actions were progressing successfully.

8) Proposed 5G Telecommunications Mast

NH reported that the idea of 3 and Vodafone sharing masts was not possible as the two companies do not cooperate on 5G masts. NH mentioned that the planning application has gone in and HCC and local residents have until the 30th September to comment. KM has put a post on Facebook making residents aware of how to comment. NH said that until some residents come to HCC asking us to support/object to the project, it is not our place to take a stance and therefore it would be best to stay silent on the matter and point local residents in the correct direction to give their feedback to Renfrewshire Council. So far, HCC have heard from residents that are both for and against the mast. MA said that the rollout of 5G masts is almost inevitable and so there is no point in opposing the masts and it would be a losing battle, especially as they are smaller and less of an eyesore than previous masts already installed. NH asked those present if HCC should take a stance on the mast. All present agreed that HCC should not take a stance on the mast.

9) #YouDecide Campaign

NH suggested that we apply for funding for some aspects of the Connecting Houston project. A lot of the required planning work has already been done and it would be worth putting that into the fund to try and secure some extra funding. All present agreed it was a good idea. NH also mentioned that we could apply for the Safe Rural Walking Initiative with some of the consultant's ideas.

10) Future HCC Meetings

NH asked those presents if future HCC meetings should be held online or in-person. All present unanimously voted in favour of having meetings in person. All present also agreed to continue to run an online meeting for those who are unable to make it in person. It was also decided to hold the meetings in Room 5 in the Carrick Centre rather than Room 4. Room 5 has better ventilation and is larger to allow for social distancing. BH will book the room.

11) Connecting Houston Update

NH met with Peter Leslie. The Consultant's reported that the summary report is nearly completed and should be finished soon. Peter Leslie also reported that there is a deadline for a funding application, and he will have a submission for HCC before that deadline.

12) Outdoor Gym Update

JMC reported that he had a very positive meeting with Nicola Drummond, the Lead Officer for Environmental Coordination at Renfrewshire Council, who administers the Green Spaces grant, and

Graham Fernand, the Technical Officer for Environment and Infrastructure at Renfrewshire Council. They are both very enthusiastic about the proposal and raised no objection when JMC asked if they could raise the budget from £10,000 to £25,000. Two site meetings are planned, the first with the MD of the Great Outdoor Gym Company, and the second with Louis Jeffrey of Houston United Football Club who had expressed concerns about the location of the gym.

13) A.O.C.B.

JMC mentioned that he had been in contact with Gryffe High School about getting feedback from pupils about what they would want improved at the skatepark in Ardgryffe Park.

NH reported that Isla S from St. Fillan's and Isla P from Houston won the Christmas design competition.

GR said that Bee Happy were looking for funding to plant daffodil and crocus bulbs around the village. It would cost around £500-£1000. All present agreed to fund the project.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 20th October 2021.