

## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Title:** Houston Community Council Meeting

**Ref:** HCC/16/3/2022

**Location:** Carrick Centre, Houston

**Date:** 16/Mar/22

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Sheet:** 1 of 5

### **Present**

Ian Andrew (ia)  
Carol Murray (cm)  
John McEvoy (jmc)  
John Chambers  
Sharon Chambers  
Kathy McFall (km)  
Mark Arthur (ma)  
John McEvoy (jmc)  
Bill Haddow

### **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

### **Ex-Officio**

Councillor Alison Dowling  
Councillor Audrey Doig  
PC Brian Dick

### **Representing**

Renfrewshire Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Police Scotland

### **In Attendance**

Kevin Christie and S6 pupils  
Jake Fulton  
Trevor Hillman

### **Representing**

Gryffe High School  
Resident  
Resident`

### **Apologies**

Janet Mason  
Gordon Wright  
Councillor Scott Kerr  
Councillor James Sheridan

### **Representing**

Houston Community Council  
Houston Community 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 – approved.**

All changes were accepted by members present. The updated minutes were approved by Ian Andrew and Mark Arthur.

**2) Police Report**

10 reported crimes, 5 detected.

- 1 theft £2600 - enquiry ongoing
- Assault and robbery – family in house – one person arrested
- Broken window, stolen car, racial breach of peace and possession of knife – 3 crimes related to one person
- Scam being investigated– Facebook Marketplace – screen shot as if payment has gone through
- Fraud
- Dead deer (shot) and badger baiting

Community Speedwatch – Langbank and Bishopton are considering it.

**3) GHS Report**

Two S6 pupils attended from the Communities Team.

Litter picking: Four or five different rotas for in place – activity dropped slightly due to winter months. To encourage pupils to continue, GHS jackets and new equipment purchased and placed in social areas, pick up volunteer hours. Including 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years during PDA period.

Engagement with Parent Council, church and residents. Planning an Easter service for the first time in a few years. New clubs planned e.g. philosophy club, supported by community participants. A debating club was also suggested by Audrey Doig. Further engagement has been difficult due to pandemic.

JF highlighted plastic collection point at Sainsburys that gives voucher returns – may be something for GHS to consider. This had previously been proposed to Mr Johnson, former head, with grants thought to be available for purchase. Mr Christie to take forward.

Mr Christie was present at the meeting and gave a report on Gryffe High School.

- Saturday study support – S4, 5 and 6 for SQA exams (over 60 children attended)
- Easter School study support – more than 30 staff volunteered – programme available on website
- COVID cases on the rise within the school, primarily affecting staff. GHS continue to encourage the use of masks for pupils.
- School received calls from local residents on litter issue; renewed focus and review of rotas, backward step, now on top of it.
- Helicopter park (Sam Love), requested support from school around a consultation, this will be picked up by the Pupil Voice team.
- Community coffee morning – paused at this stage but hope to get a date in the diary when safe to do so.

AD reported that £1.2M was being made available for synthetic pitches and GHS on top of list. Great news for the school and Mr Christie thanked Audrey for the support.

#### 4) **Appointment of Office Bearers**

- Chair – Mark Arthur proposed by John Chambers, seconded by Ian Andrew. Mark accepted the position.
- Vice-Chair – Ian Andrew proposed by Sharon Chambers, seconded by Carol Murray. Ian accepted the position.
- Secretary – Gordon Wright proposed by John Chambers, seconded by John McEvoy. This was discussed prior to the meeting and Gordon accepted the position.
- Minute Secretary – HCC to approach GHS to advertise for this position to be paid £50 monthly.

Mark Arthur took the Chair.

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

Councillor Audrey Doig:

- Synthetic pitches, as previously reported.
- Ardgryffe Park – residents had asked about lighting as often on when no-one was using the park – a press button to control the lighting will be installed over the coming months.
- List for new roads and pavements will be released soon, includes many within Houston. RC has added an additional £10M has been added to the funds.
- Trees – reports of damaged trees being removed / cut back, but ownership not always RC.
- GHS – great to see community engagement and school going from strength to strength.

Councillor Alison Dowling:

- Meetings attended – Safe Rural Walking initiative / Cala Homes / Conservation Village (Stuart McMillan and David Love).
- AD to forward email to MA to schedule a meeting re. Conservation Village.
- Magnus Road Telecoms Mast – The appeal lodged with the Scottish Government Reporter to overturn Renfrewshire Council's refusal of a 2nd telecoms mast in Magnus Road was dismissed. It is hoped there will be more engagement in any future plans.
- Roads update – South Mounds resurfacing required, complaints around Deafhillock (this should start imminently), Neuk Crescent (resurfacing scheduled for end of May) Old Bridge of Weir Road (recommended for future resurfacing); HPS entrance – repair programme scheduled and to be added to this years' resurfacing programme.
- Home Heating Support fund – available to all – closing date 31<sup>st</sup> March. HCC shared via FB pages.
- Cala development – disappointed to see number of trees taken down, Cala insist that trees were old and diseased and couldn't be retained. Cala have committed to a substantial replanting programme. Need to ensure Cala follow through on their commitment.
- Crosslee Crescent – defibrillator requested near shops area, Cala to support financially.

JC requested that RC inspect roads that have been repaired – standards are not being met, meaning a huge amount of wasted money and repairs needing repaired regularly.

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

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

## 7) **Action Log**

MA to review for next meeting.

## 8) **Sponsorship Correspondence**

This item was agreed and closed by email prior to the meeting

## 9) **Bee Happy / Litter Crew**

JF reported that Bee Happy and Litter Crew have decided to become an independent group, but thanked HCC for their support over the past 6 years.

Existing BH monies – any grants were awarded to HCC and therefore has overall responsibility in terms of reporting; receipts etc on expenditure will need to remain with HCC.

LAP funding – MA was responsible for grant applications and will now hand over any relevant paperwork to BH/LC.

Equipment inventory and insurance to be discussed between MA / JF.

HCC wish BH/LC every success for the future, and will continue to support and work with BH/LC. HCC would welcome a BH/LC committee member to be part of HCC.

## 10) **Outdoor Gym Update**

JMC gave an update on the outdoor gym.

- Further sponsorship received, including £2400 (inc VAT) from Cala Homes.
- Grant money / funds awarded still not received to date; being followed up with RC/Councillors.
- Agreed that order should be raised with company and deposit paid to secure equipment at agreed price.
- Final call to local businesses for sponsorship – 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## 11) **Connecting Houston Update**

Peter Leslie (PL) will continue to lead on this project. Visual representations recently received to satisfy the brief, therefore final payment will be made. Still some funding available for open consultation. MA to liaise with PL and see if he is available to attend next meeting.

## 12) **Queens Jubilee**

- Elderslie Estates have planted the circle of oak trees on Bogston Hill to mark the occasion.
- No road closures from pubs requested for the event (3<sup>rd</sup> June); events will take place in carparks.
- Mark Crichton Maitland offered timber for proposed bonfire for the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. MA to reply to email. License may be required.
- Houston & Killellan Kirk and St Fillan's Church organising a shared event.
- The Houston Agricultural Show takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.

- Suggested that HCC support the various events and propose a meeting to discuss; MA to take forward with interested HCC members.

### 13) **Cala Homes**

Cala Homes had requested to attend the meeting but there was no representation at the meeting.

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

KMF handed MA summary document of recent correspondence for attention. JC suggested that correspondence be added as a regular item to the agenda

Social media presence – IA suggested further support may be needed over the next few weeks. Discussion also followed on sharing reports and minutes on our various platforms. To be discussed at next meeting.

Representation or liaison with the local residents' associations and other CCs to be considered.

Website maintenance discussed, and to be added to agenda for next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Date of next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022.