

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting

Ref: HCC/16/08/2023

Location: Carrick Centre, Houston

Date: 16th August 2023

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 6

Present

Mark Arthur (MA)

Ian Andrew (IA)

Kevin Christie (KC)

Bill Haddow (BH)

Janet Mason (JM)

Lorna Dunlop (LD)

Karen McShane (KMc)

David Dunlop (DD)

Gillian White (GW)

Cllr Audrey Doig (AD)

Jake Fulton

Steven Heron (SH)

Mark Higginbotham (MH)

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Gryffe High School (GHS)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Resident (R)

Resident (R)

Resident (R)

Resident (R)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Bee Happy Houston (BHH)

Renfrewshire Council Roads (RCR)

Renfrewshire Council Roads (RCR)

Apologies

John McEvoy (JM)

Kathy McFall (KM)

Gordon Wright (GW)

Cllr David McGonigle (DM)

Trevor Hillman (TH)

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Distribution: HCC Members, uploaded onto HCC Website, issued to Renfrewshire Council.

Chaired By

Mark Arthur

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Minutes taken by

Lucy James

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
1.0	Apologies All were welcomed to this month's meeting with apologies noted above.	Note	
2.0	Approval of Minutes of Meeting from 21st June 2023 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record of that meeting. Approved: Ian Andrew Seconded: Janet Mason. No further matters arising / raised.	Note	
3.0	Police Report PS/bd and PS/mn were unable to attend so provided a written report (see appendix A).	Note	
3.1	No further matters arising / raised.		
4.0	Gryffe High School Report GHS/kc issued his report at the meeting and went through each item with the following points noted.	Note	
4.1	GHS/kc confirmed that HCC's purchase of waterproofs for GHS pupils went through. It will greatly help the pupils with litterpicking.	Note	
4.2	HCC/ia will be in touch with the computing department about HCC website and social media.	HCC/ia	
4.3	HCC/ia there would be benefit in a HCC member coming to the school and talking to the children about joining. HCC/ia will get in touch with HCC/dg who had set this up, and put him in touch with GHS/kc. It will be best to target S5 and 6.	HCC/ia	
4.4	Drug problem in Crosslee park – RC/ad confirmed that 2 sights have been identified – The Coop and Ardgryffe park. Specific vans and cars have been passed onto the police. In certain areas of Crosslee park, dealers have been giving free drugs out to Gryffe children. Police says they have heard no further reports but expected to spike as school starts. GHS/kc will take this to senior management and guidance team, and the topic will be input into PSE.	GHS/kc	
4.5	R/kmc runs a community group for people with dementia every Wednesday in Johnstone Town Hall. She is looking for children who are good with computers to come every 6-8weeks to help set up equipment, including headphones and projector for watching films. GHS/kc says GHS has a minibus so transport is possible. GHS has also started a new subject named Music Technology, which is relevant to R/kmc's request. He asked if she	R/kmc	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
	could email Gryffe's enquiries mailbox and it will be picked up from there.		
5.0	SWECO Report Drawings with potential changes to the village (covering Houston and Crosslee) derived from recent report SWECO was discussed in the meeting.	Note	
5.1	It was confirmed that public opinion was taken into account in the production of the report.	Note	
5.2	Gateway features (designed slow drivers down on Barrochan Road coming into Main Street past Fox and Hounds) general opinion is that they aren't strong enough. Putting forward idea with a buildout, by pushing footway into the middle of the road and forcing the driver to give way. There was a suggestion of moving the 30 limit further forward. The idea of introducing physical measures for drivers before the bend at the War Memorial will be taken forward. There is also an idea of another measure once in the village.	Note	
5.3	Main Street into South Street – HCC/ia asked RCR look at what Connecting Houston recommend – better buildout to increase visibility to drivers turning out from South Street.	Note	
5.4	A similar problem at the Bowling club was mentioned, but it was confirmed that it was part of the gateway measures.	Note	
5.5	North Street – HCC/ia suggested a potential 15mph limit to show the danger. But HCC/ma pointed out that the residential roads are already decreasing to 20mph.	Note	
5.6	It was suggested that funding could be sought from Sustrans as Houston is a conservation village, as well as the idea of adding green space to the buildouts.	Note	
5.7	There was a concern that the addition of buildouts near the Main Street roundabout would cause congestion. HCC/ma agrees that this area of Houston isn't an issue for speeding traffic, and the area where children cross the road has good visibility.	Note	
5.8	St Fillain's roundabouts – there isn't much on the plan other than 20mph speed limits on approach, as a buildout wouldn't be effective due to traffic.	Note	
5.9	Old Bridge of Weir Rd past GHS – HCC/ia suggested that the 20mph limit for part of the day be made mandatory for the entire day.	Note	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
5.10	Area surrounding Gryffe High School – will look at adding traffic calming measures on all roads around the school. RCR was hesitant about employing this on Bridge of Weir Road, but GHS/kc encouraged one of them to come out to GHS for 30mins at the end of a school day to visualise the movement of children for themselves.	Note	
5.11	Big Roundabout – HCC/ia suggested a visibility restriction for drivers joining the roundabout to reduce their boldness. BHH/jf stated that he has raised this with the council, but the council does not see an issue with this area.	Note	
5.12	People in Cala Homes have identified pathway that comes from houses straight onto main road, with no barrier to stop a child from running out. The residents are requesting that the pathway is closed off.	Note	
5.13	Suggestion that Houston Road coming into Crosslee be made a 20mph as well.	Note	
5.14	Whirlee Road and Back O’Hill were brought up, but although these aren’t relevant to the current report they will be looked at by HCC in future.	Note	
5.15	Crossing from Magnus Road to Crosslee Road is in HCC’s list.	Note	
5.16	RCR will take the drawings back to those who created them with HCC’s suggested improvements. Will look at designs of Main Street to South Street and bring back another more detailed design.	Note	
6.0	Councillor’s Reports		
6.1	<u>Councillor Audrey Doig</u> Drug dealing in Crosslee park – RC/ad confirmed that this issue has calmed down as main antagonist has been away, but it looks as though he is still having drugs delivered. RC/ad has alerted community police and asked wardens to patrol. Social work is involved to work with the family involved. She has also kept in contact with residents about the issue. She acknowledges that this is a police issue and all that can be done is ask for updates. HCC/ia will get in touch with police as well. It is agreed that enforcement and consequences are necessary.	HCC/ia	
6.2	Council owned hedges – RC/ad confirmed that she has had a few contacts about hedges and trees that belong to the council. She states that tree officer will investigate any enquiries that come in, but if the tree on council land healthy it will not be cut down. If a tree is coming over your property, you have a right to cut the branch.	Note	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
7.0	Action Log Review HCC/ia gave a verbal update regarding the progress made over the month and closing out historic actions on the log. Please refer to the updates on the attached action log for further details.	Note	
8.0	Treasurer's Report HCC/km issued the treasurer's report for the months of June and July prior to the meeting which confirmed a current balance of £9,658.70 (Refer to Appendix B) with no further matters / items raised after review.	Note	
7.0	Chair's Update HCC/MA issued a copy of his report prior to the meeting (refer to Appendix C) and went through the report at the meeting.		
7.1	HCC/ma announced that he will not be going for re-election due to lack of time amongst his work schedules. HCC thanked him for his services of 8 years, particularly as he stepped up at a difficult time and was a great help.		
8.0	HCC Matters Arising / Correspondence since the previous meeting for Discussion / Decision		
8.1	<u>Carrick Centre Board</u> Mark sits on Carrick Centre Board due to his role as a community councillor, but as he is not going for re-election somebody else will have to fulfil the role.	Note	
8.2	<u>Christmas lights switch-on</u> If there is not a community council due to lack of members, the Christmas lights switch-on will not happen. HCC/ia has someone he will ask. It was acknowledged that the task needs to be spread out between people as it is difficult on its own.	HCC/ia	
9.0	Emails / Communications Since Last Meeting HCC/ma went through the various correspondence with the following recorded and discussed.		
9.1	HCC received an email from Houston Farms concerned about state of trees in woodland on Kirk Road. It states that a plan is required on what to do with the site. HCC/ma thinks this space could be a lovely, so will meet with the emailer to discuss clearing the space and potentially adding benches and a path. The emailer is happy to do the work but would like Bee Happy and HCC to provide their thoughts. BHH/jf agreed to visit the site also.	HCC/ma BHH/jf	
10.0	AOB		
10.1	Bee Happy Houston – BHH/jf confirmed that BHH's Biggest project is putting a line of flowering cherry trees from the big roundabout along past Leeburn Avenue.	Note	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
	Underneath the cherry trees they are keen to plant tens of thousands of crocuses and were wondering whether HCC would be willing to donate £1,000 towards this. BHH/jf would need to order them as soon as possible to plant them around October. HCC/jm to speak to HCC/km about making this donation to confirm it is feasible alongside other outgoings. If they have money to spare they are happy to make the donation.	HCC/jm	
10.2	The potential to plant wildflowers in areas of the village was discussed but not taken forward.	Note	
10.3	A resident stated that they were interested in joining HCC but were unsure of its exact role. RC/ad stated that the legal brief for a community council is that they are the first line for consultation with/about planning in their area. Any planning applications come to the community council. They are also involved in community activities and raising money for different projects in the village. HCC/ma acknowledged that a downside to the role is that many residents don't voice opinions until after a decision has been made. HCC needs more publicity but there are not enough members to spread the message.	Note	
10.4	Jake was congratulated on the development of Bee Happy.	Note	
11.0	Date and time of next meeting 20 th September 2023 at 7.30pm	Note	
12.0	Distribution HCC members and uploaded onto HCC website and issued to Renfrewshire Council.	Note	
	The meeting was closed by HCC/ma at 9.28pm		

APPENDIX A

OFFICIAL



**HOUSTON & CROSSLEE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST2023**

Update from Previous Meeting

Crime Summary

Between 19th July and 16th August there have been a total of seven recorded crimes, none have so far been detected.

CRIME/OFFENCES OF NOTE	NUMBER	DETECTED	CONTEXT
Theft by Housebreaking/Attempt	1	0	1 x attempt to storage area
Theft	0	0	
Robbery	0	0	
Serious Assault	0	0	
Common Assault	0	0	
Drug Offences	0	0	
Anti-Social (breach of the peace/vandalism/street drinking)	1	0	1 x vandalise cars
Road Traffic Offences	3	0	1 x drive on land[not road], 1 x careless driving, 1 x hit & run
Other	2	0	2 x fraud[1 online, 1 via text]

Crime Trends and Policing Priorities

Community Police Report

(Include focus of activity, any initiatives, partnership working)

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APPENDIX B

Houston Community Council

Treasurer's Report

1st to 31st August 2023

Opening Balance	£9658.70
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Income

Total	£0
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Expenditure

Insurance (Keegan & Pennykid)	34.70
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Lucy James (secretary)	50.00
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Total	£84.70
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Closing Balance	£9574.00
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As per electronic statement to 31/08/2023

APPENDIX C

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Monthly Meeting

Report Purpose: Chair's Report

Issue Date: Wednesday 16th August 2023

Author: Mark Arthur

1.00 Activities completed since last meeting attended (17th May 2023)

1.01 Public Consultation with McGills Buses: Chaired the consultation which was attended by two residents and Houston Community Councillors and Councillors on Wednesday 17th May.

2.00 Activities to be carried out before the next meeting that I can attend in person (20th September 2023)

2.01 I shall arrange for the kids Christmas motif competition forms to be dropped off and collected from St Fillan's and Houston Primary School with the winners being chosen at September's HCC Meeting on Wednesday 20th September.

3.00 Urgent Matters to Raise

3.01 After 8 years as a Community Councillor, I have decided not to run for re-election.

I wish Houston Community Council success in the future and thank all my colleagues and participants at monthly meetings for their support over the years.

End of Report



Mark Arthur
on behalf of Houston Community Council