

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Meeting

Ref: HCC/21/06/2023

Location: Carrick Centre, Houston

Date: 21st June 2023

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 14

Present

Ian Andrew (IA)
Kathy McFall (KM)
Janet Mason (JM)
John McEvoy (JMc)
Trevor Hillman (TH)
Cllr David McGonigle (DM)
Cllr Audrey Doig (AD)
Duncan Greenhorn (DG)
William Haddow (WH)
Karen McShane (KMc)
Mary O'Brien (MO)
Bob Watson (BW)
Lucy James (LJ)

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Renfrewshire Council (RC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)
Resident (R)
Creating a Sustainable Gryffe (CSG)
Creating a Sustainable Gryffe (CSG)
Houston Community Council (HCC)

Apologies

Mark Arthur (MA)
Gordon Wright (GW)
Brian Dick (BD)
Martin Norwood (MN)

Houston Community Council (HCC)
Houston Community Council (HCC)
Police Scotland (PS)
Police Scotland (PS)

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

Chaired By

Ian Andrew

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 17th May 2023		
2.1	HCC/JMc suggested an amendment to Item 4.9 of the minutes of the previous meeting, which was agreed to be made. The minutes will now read 'steering group' rather than 'staining group'.	Note	
2.2	The remainder of the minutes were agreed as a true record of that meeting. Approved: Janet McEvoy Seconded: Trevor Hillman	Note	
3.0	Matters Arising from Minutes not otherwise listed on agenda. No matters arising.	Note	
4.0	Police Report		
4.1	PS/BD issued his report prior to the meeting to HCC/MA and extended his and PS/MN apologies for not being able to attend the meeting in person due to day shifts. HCC/IA went through Police Scotland's report and no further matters were raised or discussed (refer to appendix A)	Note	
5.0	Gryffe High School Report No report received this month	Note	
6.0	Councillor's Reports		
6.1	<u>Councillor David McGonigle</u> Brown Bins – RC/DM confirmed that he had received several complaints regarding brown bins, with people reluctant to pay the fee.	Note	
6.2	Fly Tipping – RC/DM confirmed that there has been an increase in fly tipping, which is likely due to brown bin fee although it has not yet started. Fee runs from April-end of March, so likely that this spike in fly tipping will reach an end.	Note	
6.3	Roads – RC/DM confirmed that there has been frequent speeding. The police have been out with several mobile speed checks in use. There have also been parking issues with cars abandoned in inappropriate places.	Note	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
6.4	Additional Support Needs (ASN) children – RC/DM confirmed that there have been issues arising when ASN children are assumed to enter mainstream schools. Such issues include teachers not having capacity, distraction from other children, negative impact on parents. A protest regarding this is due to take place on 22 nd June.	Note	
6.5	<u>Councillor Audrey Doig</u> Drug Dealing in Crosslee Park – RC/AD confirmed that drug dealers are using a family housed in Crosslee Park as a staging post for dealing. This issue has not been followed through correctly, so RC/AD will go back to the liaison officer to apply pressure. Dealing has reportedly moved to Co-op car park and are dealing to GHS children. A request has been put in for more CCTV at the Bridge near the co-op and are hoping for more action. Situation particularly dangerous as reports are of tablets and it is likely they are adulterated so no idea what the user is getting.	HCC/AD Note	
6.6	McGills – RC/AD confirmed that they are still looking for them to add routes.	Note	
6.7	Council Meeting – The last full council meeting of the session is coming up.	Note	
6.8	Pavement – RC/AD confirmed that pavement work will be ongoing in the next couple of weeks which she has put onto Houston enquiry site asking them to alert residents.	Note	
7.0	Treasurer's Report		
7.1	HCC/KM gave a verbal treasurer's report for the month of May prior to the meeting and confirmed a current balance of £9160.67 (Refer to Appendix B).	Note	
7.2	HC/KM confirmed that it was agreed to renew our membership of Scotland's Town partnership. As this was not used in the last year, it shall be reassessed in the coming year to ascertain if it continues to be relevant to HCC. If not, it should be dropped.	Note	
7.3	A spend of £71.00 on rent was clarified as rent for the main hall for the public McGills meeting.	Note	
8.0	Action Log Review / Update		
8.1	HCC/IA gave a verbal update regarding progress over the month. Refer to attached action log Appendix C.	Note	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
8.2	HCC/IA noted that time spent on this at the meetings should be cut and anyone who has an action they can update should get in touch with HCC/IA directly.	Note	
9.0	Residents Issues		
	<u>Creating a Sustainable Gryffe (Bob Watson & Mary O'Brien)</u>		
9.1	CSG are a sustainable group who address climate issues with consideration of social justice. They hold open meetings and have applied for charity status. They also run a Facebook group.	Note	
9.2	They wish to work in partnership with HCC and RC. An RC consultation meeting is being held next week, which CSG will attend. The council are scoping out community groups for funding.	Note	
9.3	Some common themes of their agenda are community energy, active travel and public transport and community asset transfer. HCC have experience in all those areas and HCC/IA referenced the solar farm proposal presently at planning.		
9.4	HCC agreed to promote CSG's meetings on their Facebook page. CSG will send over their priority list so that HCC can support with this.	CSG/MO	
9.5	It was suggested that a CSG member could join HCC to form a direct link and to assist HCC in ensuring projects remain sustainable. CSG and HCC are both open to working with neighbouring with CCs to promote a sustainable programme.	Note	
9.6	RC/DM offered to help with community asset transfer process. HCC has had difficulties pursuing this in the past, but the process has been simplified and RC are now keen on supporting transfers.	RC/DM	
	<u>Johnstone Dementia Community Group (Karen McShane)</u>		
9.7	Group meets Wednesdays at 13.30-15.30 at Johnstone Town Hall and are looking for volunteers to join the committee. She is facing a lack of support from the community due to stigma and a lack of financial support.	Note	
9.8	They have a Facebook page named 'Johnstone Dementia Community Group', which HCC agreed to share on their page.	HCC/IA JMc	
9.9	The group runs sessions varying from music to sport and partake in trips out, a recent one being to Bowness.		

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
<p>9.10</p>	<p><u>Traffic Issues Back O'Hill / Whirlees Road (Karen McShane)</u> R/KMc lives in Back O'Hill and witnessed a person reversing dangerously close to child in a pram while performing a three-point turn. She voiced concerns that there are too many parked cars on Whirlee Road which is worsened by the tight bend and speeding and suggested that the road is made one-way.</p>	<p>Note</p>	
<p>9.11</p>	<p>HCC/WH mentioned that 20mph restrictions are being introduced, but it is acknowledged that this is likely to have minimal effect. HCC/JMc stated that a one-way system had been considered for North Street but discarded as it tends to speed up traffic when drivers have no concern about oncoming traffic.</p>	<p>Note</p>	
<p>9.12</p>	<p>RC/DM agreed to progress in consultation with R/KMc. RC/AD stated that a new system is difficult to bring about as police have to sanction it and tend to be opposed, but she could have influence if the school are involved.</p>	<p>RC/DM & AD</p>	
<p>9.13</p>	<p>In event RC/DM and RC/AD have difficulty progressing, HCC will keep apprised and take this issue forward if required by writing to RC and including in other traffic projects being brought forward.</p>	<p>Note</p>	
<p>10.0</p>	<p>Further Agenda Items</p> <p>Connecting Houston HCC/IA confirmed that a Stakeholder's meeting is being arranged to include RC, Bridge of Weir CC and landowners. The project's main priority is the cycle path on Bridge of Weir Road where, assuming stakeholders agree, funding can be sought. Sustrans set out what is required for the cycle path, with RC drawing out the plan. He confirmed that Peter Leslie is still involved.</p> <p>Renfrewshire Community Council Forum HCC/IA confirmed that Gavin Hutton Head of Operations and Service Development for Renfrewshire Council, attended the last meeting but the main topic discussed was the policy requiring payment for garden waste uplifts.</p> <p>It was confirmed that there will be a sticker on each brown bin to show that you have paid. HCC/TH asked if the costs versus benefits of this idea have been weighed up, with RC/AD confirming that evidence was taken. Initial fly tipping is predicted to stop, and fly tipped waste is likely to compost, minimising the problems caused. RC/AD reminded that the fee does not have to be paid, households can collaborate with neighbours, and those on a benefit such as pension credit can apply for a benefit licence. She also confirmed that food waste must be in</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Note</p>	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
<p>10.3</p> <p>10.4</p> <p>10.5</p>	<p>the brown bin rather than the small bins previously used to be collected.</p> <p>Community Council Elections HCC/IA advised that all present community council members stand down with effect from 30th September and they must stand for re-election if they wish to remain. It was suggested that a member could visit the secondary schools at the beginning of the year to advertise for younger members. It was also agreed to try and involve representatives from more local businesses if they are residents.</p> <p>Stewart Milne Planning Application Barochan Road, Houston, Case Ref RE30259 All information about the development and community engagement is on Renfrewshire Council site. The majority of submissions are against the project but there has been little word on its progress and it is not yet scheduled to come before the planning board. It was agreed that this could be slow-moving, but HCC will keep an eye on it, nonetheless.</p> <p>Smart Meters (Raised by HCC JMc) HCC/JMc confirmed that there is a strong chance SMES2 smart meters, the new system which allows transfer between companies, will not transfer the data they are required to in the Houston area. He also confirmed that there is no requirement from the government for energy companies to make them work, aside from British Gas. In many cases, gas meters can't communicate with electricity meters so gas meter data can't be sent. If your bill is accurate rather than an estimate, it means your smart meter is working properly.</p> <p>As this is a UK Government initiative, it was agreed for HCC/JMc to approach Gavin Newlands MP to pursue the issue.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>HCC/JMc</p>	
<p>11.0</p> <p>11.1</p>	<p>Review Emails/Communications</p> <p>HCC were copied in an email about the Brown Bin collections which raised an issue regarding all the garden waste lifted in one garden being leaves from trees on RC ground. As the original was to RC it was agreed they are best placed to deal with it, but it is an issue HCC should note.</p>	<p>Note</p>	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
12.0	Any Other Business		
12.1	<p>HCC/KM suggested that HCC thinks about more projects for the next 12 months. HCC/MA has applied for events grant for the Christmas lights.</p> <p>RC/AD stated that the LAP fund could still have money available which has not been allocated so HCC could send an email to whoever manages the funding asking if a late application could be put in. HCC/MA has all the details, HCC/IA will email him to progress.</p>	<p>HCC</p> <p>HCC/IA</p>	
13.0	<p>Date and Time of next meeting</p> <p>16th August 2023 at 7.00pm</p> <p>The meeting was closed by HCC/IA at 8.20pm</p>		
	<p>Distribution</p> <p>HCC members and uploaded onto HCC website and issued to Renfrewshire Council.</p>		



**HOUSTON & CROSSLEE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE2023**

Update from Previous Meeting

Crime Summary

Between 17th May and 21th June there have been a total of 8 recorded crimes, 3 have so far been detected.

CRIME/OFFENCES OF NOTE	NUMBER	DETECTED	CONTEXT
Theft by Housebreaking/Attempt			
Theft			
Robbery			
Serious Assault			
Common Assault	2	2	2 in houses
Drug Offences			
Anti-Social (breach of the peace/vandalism/street drinking)	2	1	1 x carry baseball bat , 1 x Shouting and swearing
Road Traffic Offences			
Other	4	0	1 x stalking , 1 x attempt fraud, 1 x extortion, 1 x breach of bail

Crime Trends and Policing Priorities

Community Police Report

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

Houston Community Council

Treasurer's Report

1st to 31st May 2023

Opening Balance	£13,400.84
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Income

Total

£0

Expenditure

Trevor Hillman (Cake Competition)	106.23
Trevor Hillman (Cake Competition)	134.90
Insurance (Keegan & Pennykid)	27.54
ICO	35.00
J Fulton (Oak Tree)	49.73
HOST (Rent)	71.00
Lucy James (secretary)	50.00
Clydeview Joinery (Coronation)	3600.00
Scotlands Town Partnership	118.80
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (printing)	46.97

Total

£4240.17

Closing Balance	£9160.67
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As per electronic statement to 31/05/2023

Houston Community Council Action Log
Live Items

Raised Date Minute/ID No.	Description	Owner	Date Due	Status
18/05/22 5.0	<p>McGills Buses Houston & Crosslee Timetable – Councillor Doig confirmed if re-elected she would like to revisit a motion passed, but put on hold due to Covid, that the Council would look into public versus private sector bus routes similar to Edinburgh Council which run the buses in the capital / city. Agreed to add to May’s HCC agenda. (Update 15/06/22 – Unfortunately RC/ad could not attend tonight’s meeting so agreed to retain on action log to be discussed at August’s HCC Meeting) (Update 17/08/22 – Agreed HCC/ma shall write to McGills complaining about bus service. HCC/jm to forward details) (Update 19/10/22 – WIP) (Update 16/11/22 – email from Johnstone CC seeking liaison as they also have numerous complaints about the bus service – JM will contact) (Update 12/01/23 From MA no progress on letter) (Update 18/01/23 From JM WIP) (Update 15/02/23 – Cllrs to contact McGills) (Update 15/02/23 – McGills responded to letter, meeting at RDC on 05/04/23 JM attending) (Update 05/04/23 – meeting postponed, public meeting to be arranged) (Update 19/04/23 – public meeting to be arranged and held at start of next HCC meeting) (Update 17/05/23 public meeting held, 3 members of public attended. MA writing to Renfrewshire Council about services, cc Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Scottish Government)</p>	<p>MA</p> <p>MA – RC/AD JM – MA</p> <p>JM</p> <p>MA/JM</p> <p>JM</p> <p>JM</p> <p>IA WH RC/DM</p> <p>MA</p>	<p>May</p> <p>17/08/22 ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>19/04/23</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>	
15/06/22 2.0	<p>Website/Social Media - It was suggested previously that someone from Gryffe High School could help with this. Agreed to liaise with Kevin Christie HT to see if this would be possible.</p>	<p>IA</p> <p>KM – IA</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>	

Raised Date Minute/ID No.	Description	Owner	Date Due	Status
	(Update 17/08/22 – GHS have now confirmed they can help. HCC/km and HCC/ia to take lead with GHS to progress) (Update 19/10/22 – WIP) (Update 16-11-22 – WIP) (Update 12-1-23 – WIP) (Update 18/01/23 – IA discussed with KC will be put in touch with computing teacher) (Update 5/2/23 – IA and KM in touch with computing teacher, progressing) (Update 5/3/23 WIP) (Update 14/04/23 WIP) (Update 15/05/23 Carry over to next school year)	KM - IA KM - IA KM – IA KM – IA KM/IA KM/IA KM/IA KM/IA KM/IA	ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP	
21/09/22 3.0	Barochan Road Stewart Milne Development RC/aad also confirmed we may wish to liaise with Marjorie Love of Brookfield who has experience of writing to the Scottish Government’s Reporter regarding a similar development outside the village of Brookfield. (Update 19/10/22 – WIP) (Update 16/11/22 – WIP) No update ... (Update 12/01/23 - No progress made over the period.) Open until we hear feedback from RC re – Application (Update 19/04/23 application apparently now scheduled for 23/5 meeting; Cllr DM will check) (Update 17/05/23 – from RC/AD still with RC officers, not yet referred to planning board – Action to remain open)	 HCC MA MA MA RC/DM Note	ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP	
19/10/22 5.0	Houston solar farm and BESS PAC (raised by HCC/jmc) – Agreed to invite the energy company (Elgin Energy) to November’s HCC meeting to give us a presentation on the proposed development and we should in the interim monitor residents’ views both positive and negative before taking a Community Council view and stance on the project once we establish a clear mandate from the community. (16/11/22 – Elgin attended meeting as per minutes. No clear mandate from	JMc	Nov 22	

Raised Date Minute/ID No.	Description	Owner	Date Due	Status
	community, keep action open and assess any further feedback) (17/1/23 Action Remains Open)	JMc – IA JMc - IA		
18/01/23 10.0	Connecting Houston HCC are not well sighted on how this important project is progressing. IA to contact David Dunlop to have either a member from the project team attend HCC meetings or have a member of HCC attend the project meetings. (Update 19/01/23 – Email to David Dunlop) (Update 23/01/23 – IA contacted both David Dunlop and Peter Leslie. Project is now at implementation stage; IA will liaise further with Peter Leslie and report to March meeting) (Update 15/02/23 – Update from IA. Agreed project to be progressed to next phase) (Update 19/04/23 – from IA attempting to arrange meeting with all stakeholders) (Update 17/05/23 – RC/AAD speaking to RC Officers will liaise with IA. IA to contact David Dunlop to see if he will come back on project) (Update 23/05/23 – IA met with DD to chart way ahead) (Update 30/05/23 – IA met with DD and PL, issues raised relate to lack of response from RC. IA will progress with councillors and Gavin Hutton, PL to try one final email) (Update 17/06/23 – work underway to arrange stakeholder meeting during summer)	IA IA IA IA RC/AAD – IA RC/AAD – IA RC/AAD - IA	15/03/23 15/03/23 ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP ASAP	
15/02/23 17.4	New Members HCC/ma commented that the HCC must be more proactive about recruiting new active members to ensure its survival. It was proposed by HCC/km that an open evening is carried out on the day of the June meeting. HCC/km to liaise with HCC/ma about this. (Update 15/02/23 – advert created for publication.) (Update 19/04/23 – arrange possible input	KM	Jun 23	

Raised Date Minute/ID No.	Description	Owner	Date Due	Status
	at Gryffe High, Approach churches, KM to arrange wording for May meeting) (Update 17/05/23 – advert published, IA to post invite on FB for residents to attend June meeting) (Update 18/05/23 – FB post created) (Update 14/06/23 – Further post on FB)	KM IA IA/KM	17/05/23 ASAP	
15/02/23 8.1	Speed of traffic on Bridge of Weir Road After some discussion, the following was concluded. RC/RI to ask the road department what they have planned regarding the control of speeding at the four entrance points to the village. (Update 19/04/23 from RC/DM. Police requested to carry out speed checks. Near miss involving cyclist at River Inn HCC/KM to post on Facebook about cycle awareness) (Update 17/05/23 – RC/AAD working with RC Officers and parents in area to come up with traffic calming in Main Street, will liaise with IA and link to Connecting Houston)	RC/RI KM RC/AAD IA	ASAP ASAP ASAP	
15/02/23 9.3	Crosslee Phone Box Defibrillator DG to look at ongoing maintenance (14/04/23 from DG installation appears in order, will watch for issues) (Update 19/04/23 – From KM, Sharon Chambers wishes to pass responsibility back to HCC, to be approached)	DG DG	ASAP ASAP	
15/03/23 8.2	Christmas Lights It was confirmed that this deadline for this is 10 th April. It was agreed to proceed with LAP funding for the Christmas lights only. HCC/ma to progress the application. (19/04/23 – MA will update later) (Update 15/05/23 – from MA – deadline for LAP funding missed) (Update 17/05/23 – MA to seek events grant)	MA MA	10/04/23 Closing date	
19/10/22 2.0	Cala Homes development at Woodend – RC/aad confirmed there are still unresolved matters after her recent meeting with Cala Homes which she shall follow up with them. (16/11/22 – No update) (18/01/23 – no update)	RC/AAD	Nov 22	

Raised Date Minute/ID No.	Description	Owner	Date Due	Status
	<p>HCC/ma shall write a letter to Renfrewshire Council Planning Department requesting a meeting on site to discuss progress and visibility of their site inspection reports to date etc. (16/11/22 – No update) (12-01-23 – MA Update : No progress made over the period. Open) (Update 15/02/23 - No further issues – closed.) (Update 19/04/23 – Re-opened, WH noticed tarmac placed to form road onto Houston Road part way along site and kerb dropped. RC/DM to contact contractors and liaise with RC/RI) (Update 17/05/23 – RC/AD has been dealing with Cala, will take last month’s issue forward)</p>	<p>MA MA RC/DM & RC/RI RC/AAD</p>	<p>Nov 22 15/02/23 ASAP ASAP</p>	
<p>17/05/23 4.10</p>	<p>Bridge of Weir Road Repairs Inadequate repairs not covering full area of concern RC/AAD will address with RC officers.</p>	<p>RC/AAD</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	
<p>17/05/23 10.0</p>	<p>Houston Show Trophy WH reported they had found a trophy donated by HCC for tug-o-war at the Houston Show, but it is in poor condition. Agreed WH and KM should ascertain if it is wanted by the show and how much it will cost to refurbish.</p>	<p>WH/KM</p>		
<p>21/06/23 9.12</p>	<p>Speeding and Parking Whirlees Road Resident raised issue of irresponsible drivers speeding and parking without consideration for pedestrians and other road users. RC/ DM and RC/AD will discuss with Renfrewshire Officers to seek a solution</p>	<p>RC/DM &AD</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	
<p>21/06/23 10.5</p>	<p>Smart Meters Issues with SMETS2 not working in area due to interference from airport and companies still fitting despite knowing the issue because it is UK Government funded. JM will write to Gavin Newlands MP to seek clarification and resolution.</p>	<p>JM</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	