

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Ordinary Meeting

Ref: HCC/20/03/2024

Location: Carrick Centre, Houston

Date: 20th March 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 12

Present

Ian Andrew (IA)

Alison Calderwood (AC)

Graham Donald (GD)

William Haddow (WH)

Trevor Hillman (TH)

Janet Mason (JM)

Kathy McFall (KM)

Richard McKay (RM)

Mary O'Brien

May Patrick (MP)

Barry Walker (BW)

Cllr Audrey Doig (AD)

Jake Fulton (JF)

Karen McShane (KM)

Alan Thomson (AT)

Norman Clelland (NC)

Ian Jackson (IJ)

Malcolm McGaddie (MM)

Fiona Calvert (FC)

Apologies

David Dunlop (DD)

Gillian White (GW)

David O'Neill (DO)

Cllr David McGonigle (DM)

Kevin Christie (KC)

Chaired By

Ian Andrew

Minutes taken by

Finlay Macdonald (FM) - remote

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

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Houston Community Council (HCC)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Resident (R)

Resident (R)

Resident (R)

Resident (R)

Resident (R)

Resident (R)

Resident (R)

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Gryffe High School (GHS)

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
1.0	Welcome		
1.1	IA welcomed all attendees, apologies noted.	Note	
1.2	IA intimated that Marie White has resigned from Community Council for personal reasons. IA has wished her well in her future endeavours.	Note	
2.0	Approval of Minutes of Meeting from Feb 2024		
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and were approved remotely on 28 th February.	Note	
2.2	Approved: Barry Walker, Seconded: May Patrick.		
3.0	Matters Arising not otherwise listed in agenda.		
3.1	No other matters arising.	Note	
4.0	Police Report		
4.1	Written report submitted (Appendix A) and reviewed by IA.	Note	
4.2	PC Andy Taylor has been appointed as the new community constable. PC Taylor was unable to attend the meeting however he had prepared and submitted the Police Report for review.	Note	
5.0	Gryffe High School Report		
5.1	Kevin Christie unable to attend due to commitments.	Note	
6.0	Councillor's Reports		
	<u>Cllr Audrey Doig</u>		
6.1	Items raised at the last HCC meeting have been resolved with one exception. The noted exception is a pavement repair. This has been identified as pavement not adopted by Renfrewshire Council. She has asked Council Officers if any further action can be done to remedy repair with a reply awaited. The long-term gaps in the path by Piper Road and Leman Drive was a trench made when streetlamps were replaced therefore Renfrewshire Council is liable although recognised this was several years ago.	Note	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
6.2	A student was recently suspended from Gryffe High School due to carrying a knife in school. The incident generated student discussion online via social media. A concerned parent intimated there would be a gathering of students on the Saturday night following the incident and they would be carrying knives. Due to the concern raised, she contacted KC/GHS to investigate the matter and was advised that this was addressed in school. She also raised this with the Police, and it was confirmed that extra patrols took place on the evening referred to with no incident detected.	Note	
6.3	AD/RC has observed a trend forming with a possible drug problem reported at Gryffe High School last year and now a knife detected in school. She has discussed this with Heads of Education and, while a concern, this activity is not uncommon in the schools estate and would continue to be monitored	Note	
6.4	She advised that parents of any teenager at Gryffe High School should know where they are at night. The concern raised was actioned immediately, and it is the hope this is a one off. She felt it was her duty to make Renfrewshire Council and the community aware that the concern was acted on, to reassure that nothing further happened and to remind parents they have the responsibility to know where their children are.	Note	
6.5	<p>Renfrewshire Council budget report:</p> <p>More than the standard budget is being targeted at road and pavement repairs.</p> <p>Council tax has been frozen, but water rates have increased.</p> <p>Budget has been allocated again for play parks although no finance allocated to Houston due to upgrades in recent years. This will be allocated to other areas in Renfrewshire.</p> <p>Budget allocation to Paisley First - organisation for new parents needing support.</p> <p>There is ongoing pay action being taken by trade unions for Home Care workers where 6 years back pay is requested to address job grading issues. Renfrewshire Council does not have the budget to</p>		

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
6.6	<p>address this scale of action and is therefore continuing with negotiation.</p> <p>A member sought clarification on whether home carer refers to people employed by Renfrewshire Council, and she confirmed they are. They go into homes but set duties have changed to include medication and meals which has led to a grading review.</p>	Note	
6.7	<p>The best way to contact Cllr Doig for raising any concerns is via email, and she will approach the relevant officials.</p>	Note	
6.8	<p>IA thanked AD/RC for resolving so many issues raised at the last meeting. He commented that there are four councillors covering the area but, in recent months, only AD/RC and DM/RC have been attending, asking if she was aware of any issues or concerns that prevented them attending. AD/RC commented that she was unaware of any.</p>	Note	
6.9	<p>IA commented that it is crucial to the running of community council that there is access to the local councillors. AD/RC agreed and commented that she is fully committed to doing so.</p>	Note	
7.0	<p>Treasurer's report</p>		
7.1	<p>KM provided an overview of accounts (Appendix B) and the closing balance as of 19 March 2024. She commented that an overpayment in relation to VAT will be rectified in the next return. Donations received for Bee Happy have been passed on to them.</p>	Note	
7.2	<p>No questions.</p>	Note	
8.0	<p>Residents Issues</p>		
8.1	<p>A resident raised the ongoing issue of car parking at Gryffe High School. IA responded that a record is being kept of complaints to enable discussion with Police and Renfrewshire Council.</p>	Note	
8.2	<p>Confrontation was described regarding a parent of child and a dog owner with dog off lead at the helicopter park, South Street in the vicinity of St Fillans Drive near the unfenced children's play park. AD/RC commented that it is not council policy to fence play parks. A child under primary school age should be</p>		

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
8.3	<p>always supervised by an adult and no dogs should be off the lead in a public park.</p> <p>Her position on dogs was disputed, and discussion followed regarding public park facilities and responsibilities in public parks. All agreed that all park users, have equal responsibility to ensure they are safe for everyone.</p>	Note	
8.4	<p>It was noted that the play park area is fenced at Ardgyffe Park so why not at South Street? KM suggested the Houston Play Park Improvement Group be contacted to discuss availability of funds to provide fencing for the children's play area at South Street. IA will make contact.</p>	IA	
	<p><u>Houston and Crosslee History Society</u></p>		
8.5	<p>In attendance at the meeting were Historical Society representatives, IJ/R, MM/R and FC/R with a proposal to seek HCC support for a village history route taking in Houston, Crosslee and Craigends. IA invited them to address the meeting.</p>		
8.6	<p>IJ/R outlined the long history of Houston going back many centuries. The Historical Society has traced a route around the village of approximately 2 miles with various points of interest. To direct tourists and visitors around the village a leaflet is proposed with costs estimated about £1000 for 1000 copies (at 100 words per topic for 32 points round village). Consideration has also been given to incorporate QR codes as a way of minimising costs. IJ asked the HCC for guidance on attracting funds to develop the walking route.</p>		
8.7	<p>IJ/R confirmed that the Historical Society is not a constituted body. IA and AD/RC commented that this can be a bar to accessing many funding options. IA will support Houston and Crosslee History Society in producing and adopting a constitution which will overcome some of those hurdles.</p>	IA	
8.8	<p>AD/RC gave guidance on grant access and partners such as West College Scotland, Local Area Partnership, Renfrewshire Council Tourism Department, Engage Renfrewshire, and Lottery Fund. IJ/R to email AD/RC for follow up on funding options described.</p>	AD/RC	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
8.9	AD/RC advised that QR codes round the village may need planning permission and advice should be sought from Renfrewshire Council Planning Department. Creating an entry for the walking route in Google maps was a further suggestion.	Note	
8.10	KM reflected that £1000 for printing seemed excessive and there are ways that the HCC can support. IJ/R to share content so this can be added to the history page on village web page and KM could advise on best value print options.	KM	
8.11	All present agreed that the walking route would be worthwhile for the village and local area and HCC members would provide support.	Note	
9.0	<p>Action Log</p> <p>IA provided an overview of the updated Action Log</p> <p><u>Service Buses</u></p> <p>9.1 JM no report to add, new timetable due 1st April 2024. SPT have voted to take control of bus services in the long term, HCC will be included in the consultation process.</p> <p>9.2 IA has joined the Better Buses for Strathclyde Campaign on behalf of HCC to ensure representation.</p> <p>9.3 AD/RC reported that Kilbarchan are making progress on addressing similar travel issues.</p> <p><u>Website and Social Media</u></p> <p>9.4 IA reported that a meeting is to be arranged at Gryffe High School for the subgroup to see the completed work.</p> <p><u>Barochan Road Development</u></p> <p>9.5 IA reported that Houston Farms have secured a preferred bidder for the land, no further information available for share at this time.</p> <p><u>Solar Farm</u></p> <p>9.6 No further update available but it is hoped Renfrewshire Council will have completed their input</p>	<p>IA JM</p> <p>Note</p> <p>IA</p> <p>Note</p>	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
	and representatives from the company will attend the next meeting.	Note	
	<u>Speeding Issues</u>		
9.7	A recent car accident at Bridge of Weir Road again raised the issues associated with this stretch of road. The area is not included in traffic calming as it is considered a bypass and no traffic calming or pavements are permitted.	Note	
9.8	AD/RC will contact the officers concerned regarding the traffic calming markings on Georgetown Road already rubbing off.	AD/RC	
	<u>Defibrillator Box, Crosslee</u>		
9.9	IA will speak with DG regarding maintenance of the defibrillator and the box.	IA DG	
	<u>Bridge at Ardgryfe Crescent</u>		
9.10	A Site meeting between Renfrewshire Council and Taylor Wimpey has been set for 24 th April.	Note	
	<u>Dementia Friendly Community</u>		
9.11	GD confirmed a meeting of interested parties is to take place in April with a report to follow.	GD	
	<u>Film Event</u>		
9.12	TH reported. The event is aimed at Houston and Crosslee residents over 65 years. The Carrick Centre is booked for 27 th April, and the film selected is South Pacific. Link made with Café at the Carrick on option to provide teas, coffees, and ice cream.	TH RM	
9.13	Renfrewshire Council has confirmed no licence required as no charge being made for entry, donations will be requested.	TH RM	
9.14	The event will be promoted using Facebook and posters.	TH RM	
9.15	This is a trial to assess the viability of regular events.	TH RM	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
9.16	<u>Summer Event</u> GW not available for update. IA will follow up for next meeting.	GW IA	
10.0	Connecting Houston		
10.1	IA reported on behalf of DD. DD has had a meeting with Peter Leslie, Transport Consultant, regarding how to move forward with the cycle route between Houston and Bridge of Weir.		
10.2	Changes to funding means that HCC can no longer apply direct to Sustrans for the next round of funding, application will need to be made by Renfrewshire Council. If HCC agree, DD and PL will prepare the groundwork and work with Renfrewshire Council for the next funding opportunity on 23 April 2024. Agreed this should be moved ahead.	DD	
11.0	Local Place Plan		
11.1	IA reported on behalf of DD. DD has spoken to members of the Renfrewshire Council Economic Regeneration Team who are very supportive. DD and IA will be attending a meeting on 26 th March for further information.	DD IA	
11.2	A Subgroup of HCC has been formed to take forward the development of the Local Place Plan and DD will chair.	DD	
12.0	Renfrewshire Community Council Forum		
12.1	WH reported on attendance at the recent Community Councils Forum AGM where new office bearers were appointed and methods for conduct of business discussed.	Note	
12.2	Issues were raised relating to the flood risk from climate change and speakers will be arranged on roads issues and community asset transfers.	Note	
14.0	Emails and Communication		
14.1	A resident expressed appreciation for the benches made at Houston Men's Shed and asked if one could be located at the path near Manse Crescent and Quarry Brae. IA explained this is a Bee Happy project. Residents still connect HCC to Bee Happy		

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
	which was originally a highly successful project within HCC but now stands alone. IA will share the email with Bee Happy for action.	IA	
15.0	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Traffic on Georgetown Road</u></p> <p>15.1 Cala Development have completed their build of new pavement and cycle lane which are confusing for users. Concern was raised about the speed of traffic despite an island being created and that there is no natural crossing point. IA will contact Renfrewshire Council to seek a more structured crossing.</p> <p><u>Gryffe High School.</u></p> <p>15.2 A resident raised the view that there is a need to have a new high school following a recent visit and observation of the level of maintenance required and asking if this has been discussed at HCC. It has not previously but it will be raised as a separate agenda item at the next meeting to see what further HCC can do to support the school.</p>	IA	
16.0	Date and Time of next meeting.		
16.1	Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm within the Carrick Centre.	Note	
16.2	Meeting closed at 8.50pm		
17.0	<p>Remote Approval</p> <p>01/04/2024 Approved: MO Seconded: KM</p>		

Appendix A



HOUSTON & CROSSLEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH2024

Update from Previous Meeting

Crime Summary

Between 1st February and 29th February there have been a total of four recorded crimes, one has so far been detected.

CRIME/OFFENCES OF NOTE	NUMBER	DETECTED	CONTEXT
Theft by Housebreaking/Attempt	0	0	
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)	2	1	1 x threatening/abusive behaviour, 1 x vandalise car
Road Traffic Offences	0	0	
Other	2	0	1 x worry livestock[dogs] offence, 1 x attempted fraud

Crime Trends and Policing Priorities

Community Police Report

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

Appendix B

Houston Community Council

Treasurer's Report

1st to 29th February 2024

Opening Balance	£10,137.03
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Income

Total

£0.00

Expenditure

Insurance (Keegan & Pennykid)

34.70

Minute Secretary

50.00

HOST (March rent)

27.00

Total

£111.70

Closing Balance

£10,025.33

As per electronic statement to 29/02/2024

Houston Community Council
Treasurer's Report
1st to 19th March 2024

Opening Balance	£10,025.33
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Income

Donation (Bee Happy)	10.00
Donation (Bee Happy)	10.00

Total	£20.00
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Expenditure

HOST (Cinema rental)	82.50
Filmbank Distribution	150.00
Insurance (Keegan & Pennykid)	34.70
Film Event (DVDs)	30.49
Bee Happy	20.00

Total	£317.69
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Closing Balance	£9,727.64
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As per electronic statement to 19/03/2024