

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Title: Houston Community Council Ordinary Meeting

Ref: HCC/21/02/2024

Location: Carrick Centre, Houston

Date: 21st February 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Sheet: 1 of 11

Present

Ian Andrew (IA)

Janet Mason (JM)

William Haddow (WH)

June McCrae (JMcC)

Gillian White (GW)

Barry Walker (BW)

David O'Neill (DO)

Graham Donald (GD)

May Patrick (MP)

Mary O'Brien (MO)

Cllr David McGonigle (DM)

Cllr Audrey Doig (AD)

Jake Fulton (JF)

Karen McShane (KM)

Alan Thomson (AT)

Bob Jardine (BJ)

Fiona Calvert (FC)

Neil Flintoff (NF)

Apologies

Richard McKay (RM)

Trevor Hillman (TH)

Duncan Greenhorn (DG)

David Dunlop (DD)

Alison Calderwood (AC)

Marie White (MW)

Kevin Christie (KC)

Chaired By

Ian Andrew (IA)

Minutes taken by

Ramsay McLeod (RM)

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

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Houston Community Council (HCC)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

Renfrewshire Council (RC)

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)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Gryffe High School (GHS)

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Representing

Houston Community Council (HCC)

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
1.0	Welcome IA welcomed all attendees, apologies noted.	Note	
2.0	Approval of Minutes of Meeting from Jan 2024 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and were approved remotely on 21st January. Approved: Alison Calderwood, Seconded: Barry Walker.	Note	
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	Local community police officers have still to be replaced following retirements.	Note	
5.0	Gryffe High School Report		
5.1	Kevin Christie unable to attend due to commitments, written report provided and reviewed by IA (Appendix B)	Note	
6.0	Councillor's Reports <u>Cllr David McGonigle</u>		
6.1	I chaired a meeting within the council offices with IA, the Police, Renfrewshire Road Safety and residents regarding speeding, parking, and other traffic issues in Houston. It was a very successful meeting, and several actions were taken from it:	Note	
6.2	Local schools will be engaged regarding road safety education and the subject of providing suitable parking at schools in Houston.	Note	
6.3	Police Scotland will increase visible patrols, particularly at peak times, to influence driver behaviour.	Note	
6.4	I will raise several "traffic calming" proposals with council officers and report back on progress.	Note	
6.5	I will talk to council officers regarding the condition of the car park at the shops in Houston, the proposed site for		

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	the new Sainsburys. HCC have already identified improvements to the planning dept and recommended they be included in any approval.	Note	
6.6	Renfrewshire Council will implement further traffic surveys in problem areas.	Note	
6.7	Residents should continue to highlight any areas of particular concern which will be taken forward with a view to them being added to the list for traffic surveys.	Note	
6.8	A further meeting to be held within two months.	Note	
6.9	Complaints also received regarding litter and potholes. Renfrewshire Roads advised that there had been work on potholes before Christmas, but I advised them that my correspondence and social media did not reflect this. <u>Cllr Audrey Doig</u>	Note	
6.10	Several issues reported with damaged trees in different areas and ash dieback is becoming a serious problem. With different landowners there are difficulties in identifying who owns the trees/land which means it takes longer to remove damaged trees.	Note	
6.11	Renfrewshire Council have contacted Taylor Woodrow regarding the bridge repairs at Ardgyffe, the repairs are likely to begin about April/May.	Note	
6.12	There was a complaint regarding removal of “no horses” signs on Ardgyffe park. The complainant is a horse rider herself but was concerned how some riders gallop in the presence of other park users. Renfrewshire officers have checked the park and there is no damage of concern. It is the council policy that riders will be allowed on any of their land they can access.	Note	
6.13	GW asked for clarification on who to inform if there is a tree causing an immediate danger or likely to fall. RC/AD replied that it is the landowner in the first instance. If that is not possible or unknown the council will inspect and notify the landowner to act. There is a process for enforcing that action.	Note	
7.0	Treasurer’s report		
7.1	IA provided overview of accounts in the absence of the treasurer (Appendix C)	Note	
7.2	IA - Names will be replaced by an appropriate descriptive term in the published treasurer’s report to ensure compliance with GDPR. No questions	Note	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
8.0	Residents Issues		
8.1	R/BJ – Issue with flooding on Old Bridge of Weir Road – residents witnessed school pupils encouraging each other to stand where they would be splashed by vehicles passing through the flood. One pupil lay down on the road in the water. A resident was hit with water from the flood by a passing car while standing in their own driveway. The head teacher at Gryffe High has been contacted by residents regarding the pupils and is taking action but the flooding is a problem, exacerbated by the speed of passing cars. Renfrewshire Council have been contacted and accept that this puddle is an issue and needs to be fixed, however money is an issue.	RC/AD	
8.2	R/JF – Raising Multiple issues identified by Bee Happy and Litter Crew volunteers. The kerb outside the Fox and Hounds has eroded creating a gap which could cause injury. Damaged lamp posts and signs at the Co-op roundabout have been taped but not repaired or removed, they are unsightly and there is a wire coming out of one of the poles which may be a danger. At Ardgyffe Crescent a drain has collapsed on the grass causing a hole that is about four feet deep and could cause serious injury. RC/JF has placed cones to identify the danger meantime, but it requires urgent repair.	RC/AD	
8.3	In discussion, it was identified that lamp posts have been removed in the oilfields area and not properly filled in creating trip hazards, one which is a particular hazard is at the top of Piper Avenue. Serious flooding issues were also identified in Kirk Road. It was noted that the newly painted markings entering the village from the Georgetown Road are already rubbed away.	RC/AD	
8.4	RC/AD will take these matters to the Renfrewshire officers concerned and asked the residents involved to provide her the most detail they can on locations.		
9.0	Action Log IA provided an overview of the updated Action Log on matters not covered elsewhere in the agenda. <u>Service Buses</u>		
9.1	IA commented that the SPT report is due in March and will be sent to the HCC. <u>Website and Social Media</u>	Note	
9.2	IA reported that S4 students from Gryffe High have created options to improve our internet presence. They had intended to attend this meeting to present but the venue does not have suitable IT infrastructure to achieve		

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	<p>what they wish. IA asked for people to form a small subgroup who could visit the school to see the developments and make recommendations to HCC. IA, KM and GW will attend from HCC, RC/DM expressed an interest to also attend.</p> <p><u>Barochan Road Development</u></p>	IA KM GW	
9.2	<p>The site has been put up for sale by Houston Farms with a closing date of 6th March. HCC will await developments and proposals before any decision can be taken.</p> <p><u>Houston Solar Farm</u></p>	Note	
9.3	<p>Elgin Energy had intended attending this meeting, but Renfrewshire Council have requested an extension until 29th March for their submissions. It is pointless for them to attend without all the information so a future presentation will be scheduled.</p> <p><u>Litter by Gryffe High Pupils.</u></p>	IA	
9.4	<p>Following actions from the last meeting, IA contacted Renfrewshire Wardens and the Police, both will provide a visible presence to address the issue.</p>	IA	
9.5	<p>Following a suggestion from the last meeting, IA contacted Reverse Vending Machines to assess the feasibility of installing one in Gryffe High. Costs are high but the company are willing to provide a trial machine at minimal cost. IA also contacted ENVA regarding purchase of the waste produced, they advised any approach should be through Renfrewshire Council, their biggest client. It is a matter for further consideration in consultation with Gryffe High.</p>	Note	
9.6	<p>GW commented that Glasgow have introduced a litter lottery where people are encouraged to submit pictures of themselves putting litter in bins. R/JF added that Renfrewshire Council are introducing a similar scheme for schools across their area called Cash for Trash. Agreed that this type of project is positive and should be further discussed with Gryffe High.</p>	Note	
10.0	<p>Connecting Houston</p>		
10.1	<p>IA reported that DD is setting up a meeting with Peter Leslie to take forward the proposed cycle path between Houston and Bridge of Weir. Now at the stage of fully involving Renfrewshire Council and seeking funding.</p>	DD	
11.0	<p>Local Place Plan</p>		
11.1	<p>IA reported that Renfrewshire Council have been formally informed that HCC will be creating a Local Place Plan</p>		

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
	with a view to having it in place before the next Renfrewshire Local Development Plan is created.	DD	
12.0	Renfrewshire Community Council Forum Local Partnership Meeting – The Villages		
	12.1 There have been no meetings since the last HCC meeting. The next meeting of the Community Council Forum will be held on 11th March and WH will represent HCC in the absence of IA.	Note	
13.0	Future Projects <u>Dementia Friendly Community – GD</u> 13.1 GD has spoken to Frankie Greenwood but has not been able to meet as she has been away. He has carried out research on other areas progressing similar projects and will assess what is required from HCC. MP offered to assist as did R/KM, who has experience in driving dementia projects. It is likely funding will be required moving ahead. <u>Senior Citizen Film Events – RM/TH</u> 13.2 RM and TH have both submitted apologies for this evening but have provided information on progress. 13.3 The proposal is to show a classic film on a Saturday afternoon in March/April to assess interest. 13.4 The Carrick Centre is still to provide available dates at a cost of £33 per hour from 12 to 5pm with a £165 max. 13.5 The film can be purchased in DVD form or download via Amazon or HMV. We require a Film Bank single title screening licence which will require setting up an account with Film Bank. There is a £150 deposit to set up an account with Film Bank, refundable on closure of the account, and £137 + VAT for the actual licence to screen films for up to 50 people. 31.6 RM will provide the equipment at no cost and will engage with Gryffe High to involve students interested in audio/visual. 13.7 Aiming to work with Café in the Carrick to provide refreshments. They have confirmed they will work with us but are unable to confirm the cost until they get further details. We need to consider the provision of popcorn, etc. 13.8 The target audience will be older residents in the HCC catchment area, anticipating up to 50 attending. The event will be publicised via Church, Men’s Shed, Facebook and Posters in local shops/Carrick		

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
<p data-bbox="212 286 272 315">13.9</p> <p data-bbox="212 389 284 418">13.10</p> <p data-bbox="212 591 284 620">13.11</p> <p data-bbox="212 927 284 956">13.12</p>	<p data-bbox="308 188 1048 253">Centre/Pubs, etc. Entry will be free, and we need to develop a way for people to register their interest.</p> <p data-bbox="308 286 1048 351">As entry is to be free, Renfrewshire Council have confirmed we do not require any additional licence.</p> <p data-bbox="308 389 1048 488">JM commented that similar events have been successfully run in other areas and members agreed we should fund a trial run to assess interest.</p> <p data-bbox="308 521 588 551"><u>Summer Event – GW</u></p> <p data-bbox="308 591 1048 891">GW has carried out work to look at options for an additional event during the summer. One potential idea is a Scarecrow trail with prizes for participants in different categories which has worked very well in other areas. Other potential ideas include a swap shop/upcycle day. There is potential to tie into the Houston show, but GW commented that all events in the summer seem to take place at about the same time and recommended August or the start of September for a new event.</p> <p data-bbox="308 927 1048 1126">Members agreed with the suggestion that another date should be identified away from other events and that GW continue to work on it. The Scarecrow trail could be a fun event engaging people of all ages in various ways and there is scope to progress the swap shop/upcycle day. JMcc will assist GW moving ahead with this project.</p>	<p data-bbox="1098 456 1193 486">RM TH</p> <p data-bbox="1078 1093 1212 1122">GW JMcc</p>	
<p data-bbox="212 1202 272 1232">14.0</p> <p data-bbox="212 1265 272 1294">14.1</p> <p data-bbox="212 1503 272 1532">14.2</p> <p data-bbox="212 1671 272 1700">14.3</p> <p data-bbox="212 1839 272 1868">14.4</p>	<p data-bbox="308 1202 695 1232">Emails and Communication</p> <p data-bbox="308 1265 1048 1464">A resident requested an update on previously raised issue of smart meters failing to connect. IA had contacted Gavin Newlands MP who was progressing this and had been informed that EDF have said they are continuing to monitor connectivity issues in the area. Mr Newlands will press for a further update and inform HCC.</p> <p data-bbox="308 1503 1048 1635">A resident has contacted HCC regarding allotments asking if there is any available land locally. This is an area that could be worthwhile project to take forward. IA will progress with MO.</p> <p data-bbox="308 1671 1048 1803">Contact received regarding the Kirk Carnival and asking if HCC wished an advert in the programme this year. As the election is past, members agreed to take out a smaller advert and IA will ask KM to progress as before.</p> <p data-bbox="308 1839 1048 1937">The licence application for the Beer and Music Festival on 26th May has been received. This is an established event with no need for comment from HCC.</p>	<p data-bbox="1114 1435 1177 1464">Note</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1603 1189 1632">IA MO</p> <p data-bbox="1102 1771 1189 1800">IA KM</p> <p data-bbox="1114 1906 1177 1935">Note</p>	

Item	Description	Action By	Due Date
15.0	Any Other Business		
15.1	MO provided an update on Sustainable Gryffe. – Charitable status was achieved in December, and they are now beginning to progress projects.		
15.2	Share and Repair Cafe - this will be an opportunity for people to come together to share skills, resources and refreshments whilst repairing small household goods and clothing, minimising waste, and saving money. This idea is proving very popular, and they hope it will be their first project.		
15.3	Community Renewable Energy - Over the long term they aim to develop a community renewable energy hub. This project could be very impactful, both in terms of reducing carbon emissions, but also in bringing wealth back to our communities		
15.4	Food Security / Local and Community Food Growing - Both the climate crisis and recent world events have impacted food security and cost of living. Growing food locally in a regenerative way can increase the availability of nutritious fresh produce, reduce carbon emissions associated with our food system and improve biodiversity.		
15.5	More Nature Everywhere - To create a sustainable Gryffe we need to bring back nature and increase biodiversity. Local groups, such as Bee Happy Houston are already doing their bit and they wish to support them.		
15.6	Supporting and Promoting Active and Sustainable Travel - Very aware that in the Gryffe Valley many people commute for work, public transport is unreliable and infrequent and active travel routes are disconnected and structural changes are needed. Aiming to work with Community Councils and other organisations to promote active travel networks.	Note	
15.7	WH raised the issue that comments from a previous meeting had been misquoted in the community. He reminded members that discussions must be worded in a manner that avoided ambiguity.	Note	
16.0	Date and Time of next meeting. Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm within the Carrick Centre.	Note	
17.0	Remote Approval		

Appendix A



HOUSTON & CROSSLEE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING FEB2024

Update from Previous Meeting

Crime Summary

Between 1st January and 31st January 2024 there have been a total of seven recorded crimes, one has so far been detected.

CRIME/OFFENCES OF NOTE	NUMBER	DETECTED	CONTEXT
Theft by Housebreaking/Attempt	0	0	
Theft	1	0	1 x bin
Robbery	0	0	
Serious Assault	0	0	
Common Assault	2	0	2 at houses
Drug Offences	0	0	
Anti-Social (breach of the peace/vandalism/street drinking)	1	0	2 x threats/abusive behaviour
Road Traffic Offences	2	1	2 x drink driving
Other	1	0	1 x dog bite, 1 x worrying live-stock offence

Crime Trends and Policing Priorities

Community Police Report

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

Appendix B

Gryffe High School

Houston Community Council Update 21/02/2024

- Additional parental engagement evenings have been added to the school calendar this session and have been well supported by parents. The final one last week was for S4 parents/carers and was focused on study skills for young people.
- Careers Fair at Gryffe High on Wednesday 24 January had 60 stall holders and over 300 pupils attended along with parents/carers. The event was exceptionally well organised and was supported by Houston Community Council – thank you. There are new connections and links made with employers that we are planning to build on for work experience and developing employability skills in young people.
- 45 young people from Gryffe High will receive Duke of Edinburgh Awards tonight at Paisley Town Hall. This is the largest group of any school or organisation in Renfrewshire.
- Team Up to Clean Up – I have contacted Renfrewshire Council to request support for this event and have allocated the first week in March for our deep Spring Clean of the school grounds and surrounding community by groups of pupils.
- We are looking into recycling opportunities – highlighted by HCC members last month – and will report back on the possibilities for us as a school to incentivise recycling and litter reduction amongst young people.
- Our Gryffe High Young Musician competition was won by violinist Beth in S5, who will go forward to the Renfrewshire Young Musician competition in April. The overall standard was excellent.
- Please follow Gryffe High on X (Twitter), Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with current achievements which include success at national competitions for young people in showjumping and computer coding.

K Christie

Head Teacher

Appendix C

Houston Community Council

Treasurer's Report

1st to 31st January 2024

Opening Balance	£11,774.95
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Income

Total

£0.00

Expenditure

Christmas Light 376.00

Christmas Lights 200.00

HMRC VAT owed 151.44

VAT return fee 4.20

HOST (Jan rent) 27.00

Christmas Lights 96.00

Insurance (Keegan & Pennykid) 34.70

Christmas Lights 480.00

Padlock etc 15.99

HMRC VAT owed 151.44

Minute Secretary 50.00

HOST (Feb rent) 27.00

Stationery 24.15

Total

£1637.92

Closing Balance

£10,137.03

As per electronic statement to 31/01/2024