

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

6 JULY 2015

Present: Dick Carabine, Flora Pagan, Esme Clark, Gina Preston, Robert Preston, Wilma Bruce, Jean Melvin, Helen McNeil, John Foster

Attending: Bailie Fariha Thomas, Gordon MacKay, Helen Duffy, Kristina Crowe and Chris (BAE Govan), Pat Cassidy (Workspace)

Apologies: Cllr James Adams, Cllr John Kane

Minute taker: John Foster

1. MINUTES OF JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Moved as correct by Esme Clark and Robert Preston.

2. POLICE ISSUES

Police representatives were not present. Issues raised were:

- **1006 Govan Road:** problems continued with youngsters loitering in the close
- **Anti-social behaviour:** incidents were reported in Langlands Road: all those aware of ASB were encouraged to phone 0141 276 7708.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JUNE MINUTES

a) Asda shopping trolleys

The Secretary had attended a meeting of the Area Partnership which will be raising the issue directly with Asda. It was also an issue of very considerable concern to the Tenants Association in Drumoyne.

b) Govan Fair

It was felt that overall the Govan Fair had been reasonably successful though there were lessons to be learned. A review meeting will be held. Special thanks were noted to Councillor Kane who resolved a number of last minute problems.

c) Race Hate Working Party

This had met on Thursday 4 June. Some members would be meeting over the summer to plan local events during the October week. Issues of concern had been raised with our MP about local housing provision for asylum seekers by the Home Office subcontractors Orchard and Shipman. This had resulted in Orchard and Shipman now responding to requests for meetings.

f) Alcohol Awareness

Esme Clark and Robert Preston had attended the session on licensing procedures. It was AGREED to invite representatives to attend the November meeting of the Community Council.

g) The summer ferry across the river

The summer service had begun.

h) Royal Mail post boxes: ending of evening collections for boxes in the Elderpark area.

The Secretary read letters from Royal Mail in response to correspondence from Gordon MacKay about the ending of evening collections in the Elderpark area. Gordon MacKay pointed out, however, that the claim that other evening collections were always available within half a mile was not correct, and that the nearest evening collection at the Asda store in Helen Street was close to a mile away and a good 40 minutes walk there and back. It was AGREED to raise this with our MP

given the Universal Service Obligation under the 2011 Postal Services Act by which Royal Mail were obliged to provide adequate collections of mail.

i) Provision of bus timetables

Again in response to correspondence by Gordon Mackay it was AGREED to write to SPT requesting that timetables be supplied to all Libraries in Glasgow, including Elderpark and Ibrox Libraries. We should also write to the manager of Govan Shopping Centre asking whether provision could be made for a notice board on which such information could be displayed.

i) Bus stop in Golspie Street

A meeting had been held between Jim Fleming for DRS and Planning Committee and Govan HA. There appeared to be some basis for a resolution.

j) South Street Waste Processing

The proposal had yet to be considered by Planning. Our objection would be heard among others.

k) Red Skirts on Clydeside

The Secretary had attended a pack-out showing of the film in the Pearce Institute.

l) STUC and People's Assembly Rally against Austerity: George Square 20 June

The minute secretary had attended with the Community Council banner. Around 3,000 people, including representatives of many trade unions, had been present to protest against the continuing scale of cuts in public provision. It was noted that the proposed cuts will fall particularly heavily on Glasgow.

m) Graving Dock: talk by Ian McGilvary

The Secretary had attended a small meeting which considered options for preserving the dock. It was felt that the project was of a scale and significance for the redevelopment of the east-west corridor, and its heritage potential, that the City Council should take the lead. It was AGREED that a letter be sent to the director of the DRS making this point and the role of the graving dock site to complement the Govan town centre conservation area and the redevelopment proposals considered as part of the City Deal at the recent charrette.

n) Southern Hospital

Our Secretary had attended the formal opening. There was some scepticism at the meeting about the appropriateness of the title adopted on 2 July. It was agreed to take up the issue of signage if there was no improvement over the next month.

4. PRESENTATION ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GOVAN SHIPYARD BY BAE

Kristina Crowe reported on the decision, announced on 21 May, to redevelop both the Govan and Scotstoun yards as a base for building the Type 26 frigates and to invest over £100 million. The redevelopment of the Govan yard would include a major extension of the outfit hall and a modification of the dock to permit frigates to be constructed in two blocks (rather than five). Other buildings. Including the fabrication and paint shops, would be reconstructed to enable the bulk of the work to be done under cover – both improving working conditions and reducing noise. The waterfront area would also be tidied up.

Tenders for the work were being developed and it was hoped to confirm the contractor this autumn and then proceed for full planning permission.

In answer to questions on timing it was reported that work on the remaining blocks for the aircraft carrier would be completed by December 2015, that initial work on the three Offshore Patrol Vessels had commenced and would continue for three years and that work for the first three Type

26 frigates would begin in 2016. A total of 13 frigates would be built in batches up to 2030. It was hoped that there would also be international orders for smaller vessels such as the Offshore Patrol Vessels.

On employment, and in an answer to a question from Pat Cassidy, it was noted that there would be no immediate increase in jobs – although workers currently redeployed to Rosyth would return. However, it was stressed that was the intention to rejuvenate the workforce – currently with an aging profile – and that there were ambitious plans to increase the intake from local schools and universities and to encourage entry to relevant areas of the engineering and IT. 65 per cent of the combined workforce would work in the Govan yard. Pat also stressed the hope that local small businesses could be more effectively linked into the supply chain.

On the character of future orders and the possibility of the diversifying into the civilian market Kristina Crowe said that this was an option under active consideration for the longer term future but that commercial factors posed some obstacles – particularly as a result of the heavy security costs imposed on a military supplier which reduced international competitiveness in the commercial market.

Dick Carabine, our chairperson, expressed the Community Council's appreciation of the presentation and particularly the importance for Govan as a shipbuilding community and the younger generation – jobs were vital for maintaining the vigour of the community.

It was AGREED that the Community Council, jointly with Govan Workspace and BAE, would hold an public event in Fairfields this autumn to mark the redevelopment of the yard.

5. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Bank Account

The Treasurer would ensure that our books were available for audit by the beginning of September so that an audited report could go to the AGM in October. Our Secretary would assist with the completion of forms from the Bank to enable the change of signature from Helen McNeill to Gina Preston. Payments were made for the banner and for postage.

b) Membership of the Community Council

Membership forms had been supplied to the two applicants for the two places advertised in November.

Ahead of the AGM for the re-election of members in October it was noted that there were others who had expressed interest in membership beyond the current quota and it was AGREED to approach Steven Dowling and the CCRC to increase the allotted membership by two to reflect the increase in local population, through new housing construction over the past six years, and the need to reduce the age profile of the council.

c) Banner

The new banner had cost £51 and was on display at the meeting.

d) Govan Letter

1,000 copies had been produced for the Friday of the Govan Fair and fully distributed. The cost had been £205.

e) Community Council AGM

This would take place at the October meeting and the September meeting would need to make arrangements for the elections.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Johann Lamont MSP: surgery dates for the summer.

7. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Baillie Thomas reported that the City Council was currently in recess but that discussions were continuing on the implementation of cuts resulting from the reduction in grant income. The Council was intending to maintain its policy of no compulsory redundancy but to reduce the total workforce by 3,000 through a freeze on recruitment and voluntary redundancy. The strategy was to focus the remaining workforce on the key areas of statutory provision and then allocating the rest to areas relevant to combating poverty and enhancing employment and employability. This would involve some direction of resources to areas of need.

Baillie Thomas recognised that the results would involve some distressing reductions in provision but that the reduced income received from the Scottish government left no alternative.

There was some discussion of the freeze in Council Tax cutting off the democratic option of raising more money locally and also the injustice of Glasgow as a metropolitan authority paying for the upkeep of roads and other infrastructure used by those travelling from far wealthier areas outside the city.

Baillie Thomas noted that the new scheme for the recycling of food waste would be introduced from January 2016.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7PM IN THE ELDERPARK WORKSPACE BOARDROOM.