

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 6 JUNE 2016

Present: Flora Pagan (in the chair), Dick Carabine, Esme Clark, Robert Preston, Gina Preston, Helen McNeill, Wilma Bruce, Jean Melvin, Jessie Sinclair, John Foster

Attending: Bailie Fariha Thomas, Councillors Adams, Dornan and Kane, David Jones, Allan Bell, Reinhild Gorniak, Jimmy Stringfellow, PC Gallacher and PC Agnew

Apologies: Sandy Black, Helen McNeill, Humza Yousaf MSP

Minute taker: John Foster

1. MINUTES OF THE MAY GENERAL MEETING

Moved as correct by Gina Preston and Wilma Bruce subject to the addition of Jessie Sinclair as present.

2. POLICE ISSUES

PC Agnew gave figures for crimes reported for Beats 9 and 13 comparing May 2016 figures with those for May 2015

Type of crime	May 2016	May 2015
Breach of peace	16	15
Drug offences	14	19
Vandalism	14	17
Street drinking	10	11
Theft	23	22
Assault	13	21

Gina Preston raised the continuing problem of youngsters congregating in front of the shops adjacent to 1006 Govan Road. The police had made some interventions but the problem continued – in terms of noise and rubbish. Over the past week some of the youngsters had been throwing water bombs at passing cars.

Cllr Kane raised the wider problem of vandalism across the area – in particular the attacks on bus shelters. This had been recently highlighted by the Director of Workspace Pat Cassidy. Police representatives replied that there had been an initiatives using plain clothes officers a month ago and two arrests had been made but that more work needed to be done.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MAY MINUTES

a) Asda shopping trolleys

Cllr James Adams reported that he had raised the issue at corporate level in Asda and was awaiting a response – and failing that would raise at a higher level within the Council. Our Secretary had raised with Paul McGrath, manager LES Shieldhall (who was currently having to cope with sharply reduced staffing levels). It was noted that the trolleys represented a common problem affecting Craigton and Drumoyne Community Councils as well as ourselves and, failing any solution, there should be a joint campaign.

b) Hate Crime Working Party

It was hoped to arrange a meeting before the end of the month to discuss preparations for Hate Crime Week in October – principally directed at schools.

Our Secretary reported on her intervention with Orchard and Shipman, arising from the Council's letter to the Home Secretary, that would, it was hoped, secure suitable alternative accommodation for an asylum seeker whose family had faced repeated racist abuse in Central Govan.

c) Alcohol Awareness

Andrew Brown had been unavailable for the June meeting. Secretary would invite for the July meeting

d) Bus services and Fastlink

Our Secretary had sent in a letter noting the unsatisfactory character of the 26 April consultation meeting. There had been no response so far. It was proposed and agreed that we should develop policy for the reregulation of bus services and raise the issue with the new SW MSP Humza Yousaf inviting him to a meeting sometime in the early autumn.

It was also noted that the 26 service would continue to stop at the QE Hospital until 20 June.

e) Cuts and People's Assembly against Austerity

Members were asked to report instances of cuts in any public services to future meetings and how they were affecting people locally. It was noted, for instance, that significant cuts had been made in the area of mental health and in community care and advice.

f) Southern Hospital

Councillor Kane reported that he had moved a successful resolution at the 12 May meeting of the City Council acknowledging the commitment and dedication of NHS staff but expressing concern at the lack of resources, and particularly adequate levels of beds and nursing staff, arising from the concentration of the functions of three hospitals in one – with the A&E department being especially pressured. The resolution asked for joint working with MSPs to ensure that the resource issues were addressed. Cllr Kane reported that the figures for A&E had slipped further in May. It was also noted that NHS Managers in Scotland, through their union, Managers in Partnership (MiP) had issued a warning that current funding levels could no longer sustain a top level service.

It was agreed that a meeting be convened in the early Autumn, separately from the regular meeting, to bring together MSPs for Glasgow, our MP, councillors and representatives of relevant unions (Unison and RCN). This would consider how to raise the issues with the Scottish government.

g) Future of Govan Shipyard

No further information was available about the schedule for job cuts. It was agreed to come back to the issue at the July meeting and assess what could be done.

h) Govan Fair

There was an assessment of the Govan Fair, which took place over the previous weekend, with expressions of disappointment at the lower than usual turnout and the shorter than usual procession. Particular concern was expressed at the very high charges asked for rides in the Park (£2.50 per child for five minutes on the bouncy castle) and the claim by those running the shows that these charges were set by the 'Council'. It was, however, noted that the park had been effectively cleaned after the event and that levels of noise had been much less than previously.

Wider issues were raised about the relationship between the limited company now running the Fair and the community, the suspension of the 2015 AGM by the chair and the exclusion of previous contributors from membership. It was agreed that the CC should return to these issues at a future meeting.

i) Planning permission for bookmakers

Our Secretary had written to Johann Lamont MP asking that she continue in the new parliament with her initiative, at our suggestion, to re-categorise planning permission requests for bookmakers premises as *sui generis* and not as Class 2 offices. We should invite our new MSP for SW Glasgow, Humza Yousaf, to our September meeting to discuss support on this issues as well as other areas of intervention.

j) Pallet business at Arthurlie Street and traffic hazards

Jessie Sinclair reported that problems continued and that the sign erected by the Council was the same as that present previously, and in the same place, and served no usual purpose in ensuring the safe use of the roundabout, particularly by social work staff. She was continuing, along with neighbours, in videoing the abuse of the road system by pallet lorries. She would make these available to the City Council in due course

k) Community Planning Partnership

Our Secretary gave a brief report – covering the success of funding bid hustings and arrangements for the closure of the subway through July

l) G51 Parking Campaign

The formal hearings had taken place during the previous week. The Reporter appointed by the Scottish Government would submit his report within 12 weeks to the Executive Committee of the City Council.

m) Cottages in Craigton Road: subsidence

The problem remained. It was explained that the properties were in private ownership and this restricted the options for the City Council. The properties to the rear were currently the subject of discussions about redevelopment between the City Council and GHA but there were no current plans for the privately owned house on Craigton Road. The option of compulsory purchase would need to be assessed at some later stage and Councillor Dornan was continuing discussions with the appropriate departments at the City Council.

n) Shop rubbish at corner of Uist St/Crossloan Road

It was reported that there had been an improvement over the two previous weeks subsequent to the intervention by Councillor Adams and the visit to the newsagents by an enforcement officer. Two CCTV cameras were now also in place.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Accounts for the past financial year

Our Secretary had begun the task to sorting the materials and hoped to have them in order before the next meeting.

b) Computing equipment for the Secretary

It was agreed that our Secretary would get estimates from one of the major retailers and proceed with the purchase of a computer and printer.

c) May issue of the Govan Letter

The meeting approved the payment of £205 for the production of 1,000 copies (the same as previously) and made additional arrangements for distribution. The great majority of the new issue had already been distributed.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Lecture Wednesday 29 June 1.30 p.m.:** Lecture at Govan Stones on Glasgow's role in the American Civil War.
- b) **Resurfacing of Harmony Row:** communication from Bailie Thomas reporting that she had secured inclusion in the current LES programme.
- c) **Chris Crichton of Leave Scotland:** query about the holding of hustings on the EU referendum in Govan. It was agreed that there was too little time to organise before 23 June and that other local debates were taking place.

6. PLANNING

Carpark at 150 Hardgate Road.

A letter had been received from Montagu Evans, chartered surveyors, on behalf of the operators of the car park, catering for overflow parking from the QE Hospital, indicating that a consultation meeting was being held in the Pearce Institute on Thursday 30 June between 16.00 hours and 19.00. The company wished to appeal the refusal by the City Council of permission to continue.

It was reported by City Councillors that this decision had been taken by council officials on the grounds that the number of additional places would exceed agreed number under road capacity calculations for the hospital. It was agreed to come back to the issue after the consultation meeting.

7. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

COUNCILLOR KANE

There would be a talk on 22 June, 7 pm, at the Fairfield Heritage Centre on the 1915 Rent Strike.

BAILIE THOMAS

Environmental Task Force launch

She had attended along with our Secretary. Our Secretary reported some scepticism as to how the new taskforce would be any more effective than Clean Glasgow previously. Bailie Thomas indicated that it was in fact different: an umbrella body that sought to bring together all relevant services to focus on the environmental problems of particular areas with as much community involvement as possible.

COUNCILLOR ADAMS

Proposals for the cooperative management of Elder Park

Our Secretary had attended the meeting held on Thursday 2 June in the Elder Park Library to discuss new options for the community management of the Park under the terms of the Community Empowerment Act. Only a small number of community representatives had been present (Friends of Elder Park and the Garden project) and she expressed some concern about capacity to carry forward any management project. Councillor Adams explained that the objective was to establish a new cooperative body that would continue with existing council funding but have the legal ability to bid for external funds and lever in support from local organisations and businesses.

Some concerns were expressed that the proposal could lead to the privatisation of sections of the park and its facilities and that funding from the council would be reduced. Councillor Adams argued that the objective was to enhance existing provision in liaison with the City Council. It was agreed to come back to the issue at the next meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Street lighting

Flora Pagan raised the issue of street lights remaining on during the day time (Harmony Row and Crossloan Road). Bailie Thomas would investigate

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 4 JULY AT 7PM IN THE ELDERPARK WORKSPACE BOARDROOM. THERE WOULD BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST.