

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 3 APRIL 2017

Present: Flora Pagan, Esme Clark, Robert Preston, Gina Preston, Jean Melvin, Wilma Bruce, Kevin Magee, Allan Bell, John Foster Attending: Cllr Stephen Dornan, Chris Stephens MP, James Holloway, Paul Sweeney, Eddie Danks, Mae Wilson Apologies: Cllr John Kane, Bailie Fariah Thomas, Cllr James Adams, Humza Yusaf MSP, Dick Carabine, Helen McNeill, Reinhild Gorniack

Minute Taker: John Foster

At the beginning of the meeting a report was read from Steven Dowling of the City Council that only one nomination, that of Allan Bell, had been received for the vacant place and that no formal election would be required. The meeting affirmed Allan as a member and welcomed him to the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Moved as a correct minute by Flora Pagan and Jean Melvin subject to the removal of Esme Clark's name from those attending.

2. PRESENTATION BY EDDIE DANKS OF THE GLASGOW COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL

Eddie Danks briefed the Council on a survey undertaken earlier in Govan to identify what people saw as the key adverse consequences of alcohol in the area – of which those seen as the most damaging were youth disorder, violence in the home and anti-social behaviour. Eddie then sought members' assistance in identifying the main resources in the area for diversionary activities for youth and social support organisations more generally. This information would be disseminated through the area. Eddie was thanked for his presentation.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Police Issues

An email had been received from Sergeant Crawford Inglis of the Problem Solving Team asking for details of meetings and expressing the hope that more regular attendance will take place in the future. No apologies had been received for the meeting that evening.

b) Shopping trolleys

There had been little improvement and trolleys were everywhere.

c) Hate Crime

The Thriving Places initiative was in the process of taking responsibility for initiatives in this area. It was agreed that we needed to ensure this was carried forward.

d) Bus services and bus regulation

- i) *Electronic signage*: this was still not working. It was **AGREED** that the Community Council should write to the SPT expressing our disquiet, asking for an explanation and requesting to know what steps were being taken to ensure the system became operative.
- ii) *Tickets with incorrect destinations*: tickets with incorrect destinations were provided by Flora and Wilma (on behalf of Helen). Those present were asked to collect all tickets where incorrect destinations had been printed.
- iii) *Scottish Parliament*: failure to progress bus re-regulation: raise with our MP at the next Strategy meeting in the autumn

e) QE University Hospital

Reports of dirty toilets and overflowing sewage pipes continued – as did reports of stressed staff, high rates of absenteeism and continuing problems of access and parking. Cllr Dornan argued that once the new Council had been convened, there would be a new approach to parking that would resolve many of the outstanding issues in liaison with the local community. It was **AGREED** to leave parking issues for the moment and at some point in September organise another Strategy meeting, inviting elected representatives, that would examine the issues of resourcing, particularly as it effects staffing levels, and draw on the knowledge of BMA, RCN and Unison.

f) Cottages in Craighton Road

Mrs Wilson reported that she was in touch with Environmental Health and was awaiting action to ensure that repairs were carried out to render the building watertight. Cllr Dornan reported that he would keep the situation under observation and ensure that action was taken.

g) Mary Barbour statue

Our Secretary reported on the final stages of the project and discussions over the orientation of the statue. It was hoped that the statue would be unveiled in May. Esme was thanked for her work as Secretary of the Committee.

h) Potholes: the need for full resurfacing

The condition of Harmony Row remained very poor.

i) Development of the graving dock site

Our Secretary had attended the consultation event on 25 March as had a number of other members of the Council. Concerns were expressed at: a) the introduction of a new range of single storey dwellings facing Burndyke Court b) whether retail chain shops would affect the viability of the Govan Shopping Centre c) the lack of affordable social housing for rent. A letter had been sent to New City Vision raising the lack of social housing for rent and asking for an explanation. Chris Stephens MP noted that there was a serious lack of socially rented housing with 3 and 4 bedrooms in the Govan area.

Paul Sweeney raised the need for an independently funded heritage centre to manage the remaining docks and to ensure that their historic significance was used as platform for a wider celebration of the area's maritime heritage. It was suggested that contact be made with the Chief Executive of the Scottish Maritime Museum, David Mann, to explore the possibility of a centre.

The request for an interview from a trainee at Fablevision was referred to Abigail at the Fairfield Heritage Centre,

j) Elder Park railings

The missing railings on the south side had not yet been replaced. The Govan Road gates also still required re-installation.

k) Dog Fouling

Some discussion had taken place with Govan Housing Association. It was **AGREED** to write formally to both Housing Associations and the Glasgow Safety Services asking that a concentrated campaign be organised – involving both publicity and enforcement – similar to that initiated in 2014.

l) Educational project for children and young people: 'The Govanite'

Kevin Magee and James Holloway reported that 600 copies of the first issue for younger children had been printed and that a number of prizes had been awarded. A print was being prepared for the adult edition and a second edition being currently being written for younger children.

Liaison was being developed with the Govan Youth Partnership. It was **AGREED** that the Community Council should contribute £70 towards the cost of two tablets as prizes.

m) Glasgow Trades Union Council: Demonstration against Cuts 11 March, Glasgow Green

The Community Council banner was carried by Kevin Magee and James Holloway on the demonstration which marched to George Square and heard reports from representatives from a number of trade unions currently in struggle against the cuts.

n) Type 26 and 31 Frigates: Question in Parliament on MoD orders

Our MP Chris Stephens reported that he would be tabling Questions in the new Session starting later this month regarding government contracts for both Type 26 and Type 31 Frigates. The delay on the contracts for the Type 31 was particularly concerning in terms of continuity of employment. Of longer-term concern was the decision not to make an investment in the infrastructure for modernising Govan yard – previously estimated at around £100m. This could affect longer term viability. Paul Sweeny agreed to keep the Community Council informed. Chris Stephens would come back on the responses from the government.

o) Lyceum building

No further report

p) Development of Govan Townscape

Our Secretary reported from the 9 March meeting which had focused on the area around the Govan Old Parish Church and the associated paths and pavements. Proposals were made for renewal. There was also a report on the extension of the shop front scheme past Brechins Bar along Govan Road – although on this occasion it was only part funded. Concern was expressed at the removal of existing Victorian frontages without planning permission and the need for landlords to exercise greater control.

q) Youth Disorder

Chris Stephens reported the visit of the Commons All-Party Youth Violence Commission to Scotland this summer and the possibility of a visit to Govan. Allan Bell raised the sale of alcohol to under-age children and the need for new police initiative on this front: it was **AGREED** to raise this with the police.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Membership

The procedures to fill the vacancy had been successfully completed.

b) Accounts

Our audited accounts had been submitted to the City Council and approved: our administration grant had been received. It was **AGREED** to pay outstanding invoices for the last Govan Letter (£205) and for copying and postage. Our Secretary would bring estimates for a new computer to the May meeting.

5. PLANNING

No new applications had been received.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Closure of the Royal Bank branch at Govan Cross

Chris Stephens had sent information on this. It was AGREED to object on the grounds that our area had one of the lowest levels of car ownership in the country and that many families and pensioners would be put to considerable difficulty travelling to branches elsewhere in the City. The closure would also have detrimental consequences for the regeneration of the town centre.

b) Showing of the film I Daniel Blake

Leaflets were distributed for showings in Tea in the Pot (12 April) and the Riverside Hall (21 April)

c) Govan Ferry

This would again be operating this summer.

6. REPORTS

Chris Stephens MP reported

a) Asylum case

In a particular local case Right to Remain had been withdrawn by the Home Office. He had raised numerous errors in the paperwork submitted by the Home Office and removal had been stayed for the moment. The Community Council AGREED to provide whatever assistance was needed.

b) Tea in the Pot

He was investigating additional sources of funds beyond June.

c) Questions in Parliament to celebrate local achievement

He had lodged questions congratulating Galgael on their 20th anniversary as well as the project for Older People's Craft Life

7. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Boxing Club

Kevin Magee reported on plans to re-establish a boxing club for young people. Premises were required.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 8 MAY 2017 at 7pm in the Workspace Board Room.