

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 7 MARCH 2016

Present: Dick Carabine, Flora Pagan, Esme Clark, Robert Preston, Gina Preston, Wilma Bruce, Jean Melvin, Kevin Magee, Jessie Sinclair, John Foster

Attending: Councillor Stephen Dornan, Councillor John Kane, Allan Bell, John Flanagan, Ian McGillivray, David Jones, Jimmy Stringfellow

Apologies: Bailie Thomas, Cllr James Adams, Sandy Black, Reinhild Gorniak, Helen McNeill, Humza Yousaf MSP

Minute taker: John Foster

It was noted that the 1 February meeting had been cancelled as a result of the extreme weather conditions that evening.

1. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Moved as correct by Jessie Sinclair and Esme Clark and agreed.

2. POLICE ISSUES

Police representatives were unable to be attend.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY MINUTES

a) Asda shopping trolleys

There had still been no response to our letter and the problems posed by stray trolleys had worsened – with young children pushing them into roads, Shieldhall Road particularly, endangering themselves and traffic. Cllr Dornan reported that Environmental Protection had visited the store. It was proposed that trolleys on road represented a traffic hazard and was now a police matter.

b) Hate Crime Awareness Week

The meeting on Tuesday 19 January had heard reports of a particularly unfortunate race hate issue relating to an asylum seeker before Christmas. This had now been further aggravated by a further and separate verbal attack on the same family [after a long campaign, Orchard and Shipman had been compelled to re-house the family in a less vulnerable location]. The next meeting of the Working Party was on 21 March – which would be discussing a week of activity, including schools, later in the year.

There was a more general discussion of the treatment of asylum seekers at the hands of the Serco contractor Orchard and Shipman. It was agreed that a letter be written from the Community Council to the Home Secretary, Theresa May, expressing our concern at the failure of the Serco subcontractor Orchard and Shipman to make adequate provision for asylum seekers in their care, many of whom were housed in the Govan area. A particular issue of concern had been the failure to rehouse an asylum seeker with young children who had been the victim of a race hate attack from a neighbouring property before Christmas. Orchard and Shipman failed to respond despite representation from elected representatives – and only reversed their position after a further race hate attack three months later. However, the same disregard has also been evidenced to the Community Council in terms of the lack of security for the houses provided to asylum seekers and reception arrangements that involved asylum seekers, many with children, having to queue for hours in the street in winter conditions.

c) Alcohol Awareness

It had not proved possible to contact Andrew Brown.

d) Bus services and Fastlink

Councillors Kane and Dornan reported on their discussions with the Fastlink team and noted that buses were now stopping at all stops – including the stop on Govan Road at Elder Park pond. It was noted from correspondence forwarded by Gordon Mackay that the bus company was aware that some of the information provided to passengers was not fully up to date. It was also suggested that the bus stop formerly across the road from the Govan yard gate should be re-instated.

Work was being undertaken to overcome some of the problems at the Drive Road/Govan Road corner, to reinstate the pedestrian crossing and remove the traffic lights. Attention would also be given to reconfiguring the bus and road markings at the bus stop on Golspie Street immediately south of the Underground.

On road safety more generally serious concern was expressed about the pedestrian crossing on Langlands Road immediately to the east of Drive Road – for which there was no line of sight for drivers turning left from Drive Road.

e) Cuts and People's Assembly against Austerity

Councillor John Kane noted that the Council would set its budget for the coming year on Thursday 10 March. Three consultation meetings had been held by the Council in order to identify key areas of provision which should be protected. Some protection would be afforded by liaison with voluntary sector organisations and the provision of support from the Integrated Grant Fund being matched by monies from the Scottish government.

The Minute Secretary had attended the meeting organised by Glasgow Trades Union Council on 10 February with Council leaders, community representatives and trade unions representing the council workforce. This heard of the serious consequences for all non-statutory services.

f) Graving Dock

There was no further report at this stage.

g) Southern Hospital

Our Secretary had written to Johann Lamont regarding a) failure to answer phones b) the discharge of patients without adequate care (missing essential medicines) and c) the lack of beds, on occasion, for those admitted through A&E. Johann had responded acknowledging our concerns. It was agreed to invite the newly elected MSP for SW Glasgow to our June meeting to further discuss these issues.

h) Future of Govan Shipyard

There was no further report.

i) Govan Fair

Jimmy Stringfellow reported that plans were in hand for the 2016 Fair.

j) 31 Burleigh Street: application for a bookmakers

Our MSP Johann Lamont had responded to our letter and forwarded an answer from Alex Neil as Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Community Affairs. Mr Neil acknowledged that the Scottish government shared our concerns about the undue proliferation of gambling establishments and was considering changes to legislation to give greater leverage to communities raising the negative consequences of changes of use – but also claimed that the Scottish government's ability to act was restricted by non-devolved powers. The meeting remained of the opinion that the key issue that needed to be addressed was that betting offices be re-categorised as *sui generis* and not simply as Class 2 offices. This would enable communities to have greater leverage in ensuring that existing offices could not directly be converted into betting shops and social factors such as proximity to

other betting offices and public houses and the residential character of the street be taken into account. This should be conveyed to our newly elected MSP and to Mr Neil.

k) Potholes: Crossloan/Craigton Road

Correspondence from Bailie Thomas indicated that temporary patching would take place immediately and be followed before the end of the financial year by permanent patching. It was reported that the temporary patching had now been completed – though very limited in character.

l) Blocking of access in Rathlin Street and Wardrop Streets

The Secretary had visited. It appeared that any blockage had only been very temporary and that GHA vans did not in general block access.

m) Caravan parked near gate of Elderpark Library

This had now been removed.

n) Pallet business at Arthurlie Street and traffic hazards

Bailie Thomas had reported that LES was ordering new signs to go up at Ardlaw Street requiring compliance with regulations for the roundabout and which would enable police to take action over infringements. These had not yet been erected. Jessie Sinclair reported that there had been no improvement in the driving habits of those working in the Social Work department and that the transporters used by the pallet company were regularly blocking access in Ardlaw Street. She and her neighbours planned to take videos to illustrate the dangers – particularly to children. Councillor Dornan indicated that he would investigate whether a traffic management exercise had been conducted.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Membership of the Community Council

The new members were welcomed to the meeting

b) Accounts for the past financial year

Our Secretary was delivering the account books to our Independent Auditor, Christine Murphy, the following morning

c) Computing equipment for the Secretary

The meeting minuted its agreement that the Secretary takes steps to purchase a computer and printer for the Community Council. Our Secretary indicated she would come back to the meeting with quotes.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Elder Park

An outdoor gym would be in operation from 17 March and through April using the outdoor equipment under supervision.

b) Johann Lamont MSP

Details of surgeries through March

c) A Queen Elizabeth Commemoration medal

An exemplar was passed round the meeting

d) Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership: consultative meeting on attitudes to health

This was taking place on the morning of 22 March at Gorbals Parish Church followed by lunch. Jimmy Stringfellow indicated that he would attend.

e) Community Planning Partnership: Thriving Communities scheme

It was agreed to invite Yvonne Reilly to our 4 April meeting to discuss local initiatives for the Thriving Communities programme (funding £5,000 by the Scottish Government and £5,000 by the Area Partnership). The programme would require consultation to be completed by 27 May.

f) G51 Parking Campaign

Correspondence was received from the Secretary Lisa Devlin asking for a letter of support from the Community Council ahead of the Independent Inquiry into due process regarding the City Council's decision. The preliminary hearing of the 3729 objections would be on 28 April and the full hearing on 2 June in the Pearce Institute.

It was agreed that a letter of support be written. It was noted that the Community Council already had a position of support for the campaign and did not believe that the residents of Linthouse and Drumoyne (and potentially Govan as a whole) should have to carry the financial burden of the lack of adequate parking provision for the new hospital. It was also agreed that we should reiterate our previous position that it was ultimately the responsibility of the Scottish government, who initiated plans for the hospital and had responsibility for its planning and construction, to make good the financial shortfall.

g) Linthouse Housing Association Community Plan Survey

A detailed questionnaire had been received to enable the Housing Association to assess community needs. It was agreed to respond indicating that the Community Council had not been in a position to answer all questions but had, in response to a reading of the options under different headings, taken the following positions:

Employment support services The Community Council would prioritise properly funded and supported training and employment initiatives over Modern Apprenticeships which often failed to provide effective training and development

Community Support Services The Community Council would give priority to Welfare Rights services

Community Safety Services The Community Council would give priority to positive alternatives for young people and in particular more detached youth workers

Health and Welfare Services The Community Council would give priority to Addiction services

Transport Services The Community Council would prioritise free parking for residents

6. PLANNING

a) South Street incinerator

This had been thrown out by the Planning Committee

b) Helen Street: all night opening for MacDonalds: no objection

c) Dragon Takeaway on Craigton Road: opening to midnight – no objection.

7. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

COUNCILLOR DORNAN

Cllr Dornan reported that East Govan, previously excluded from the Thriving Communities scheme, had now been included.

Councillor Kane

Cllr Kane reported on

a) Mary Barbour commemoration

The recent Burns Support and Fruit Market Concert had both been highly successful and the sculpture by Andrew Brown had been selected as winner of the competition. Andrew Brown's great grandfather had now been identified as the minister at St Mary's during the period when Mary Barbour was a local councillor.

b) Govan-Partick Charrette

The report was now available in abbreviated form. It was now confirmed that the bridge to Partick would go ahead and be completed by 2019. The report was available here:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQ>

c) A Charrette on the River Clyde

This had now been agreed and would examine the best uses of the river and its banks through Glasgow.

d) LES Cleansing services

He had taken part in discussions regarding the breakdown in services in Linthouse. It became apparent that the major cause was the loss of staff (a policy of non-replacement was being operated) and most shifts were operating without a full quota.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Uncollected couch at 26 Ardlaw Street

This had lain in the front garden awaiting collection by LES since October. LES was now offering June – on the grounds that the couch was now too heavy as a result of rain.

b) Uprooted tree in Elder Park

A large tree opposite 235 Langlands Road had been blown down during the gale on 1 February. Most of it remained and the ground around was now swamped with water.

c) Uncollected items in Water Row

Jimmy Stringfellow reported that there were two beds, three trolleys and a couch awaiting collection in Water Row.

d) Cottages in Craigton Road

Building Control had cordoned off five cottages as a result of subsidence. The structures were now dangerous.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 4 APRIL AT 7PM IN THE ELDERPARK WORKSPACE BOARDROOM.