

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 8 JANUARY 2018

Present: Allan Bell (chair), Esme Clark, Flora Pagan, Robert Preston, Georgina Preston, Jean Melvin, Wilma Bruce, Reinhild Gorniak, Daniel O'Neill, John Foster

Attending: Cllr Allan Young, Margaret McGuire and Jonathan Best (GG Health Board)

Apologies: Cllr John Kane, Cllr Stephen Dornan, Chris Stephens MP, Humza Yousaf MSP

Minute Taker: John Foster

1. Minutes of 4 December meeting

These were moved as correct by Wilma Bruce and Robert Preston.

2. Presentation by Margaret McGuire and Jonathan Best of the Greater Glasgow Health Board

The team from the Health Board spoke to the two issues on which the Community Council had asked for clarification: the steps being taken to address the shortage of nurses completing qualification and the lifting of the pay cap on hospital staff.

Margaret McGuire confirmed that for the period 2008 to 2012 there had been a significant reduction in training places and an underestimate of the need for new entrants in face of early retirement and an ageing general population. Since 2013 the Scottish government had agreed a programme of annual increments that would produce an extra 2,500 training places being offered by 2018.

There remained particular specialisms where shortages existed: midwifery, children's nursing, learning disabilities, health visitors (GGHB needed an additional 240) and theatre nurses.

GGHB currently employed 12,000 registered nurses and another 4,000 support workers who were found to be particularly valuable. It was policy to recruit as many locally qualified nurses as were available – noting that a significant number of those entering nurse training did not, for a variety of reasons, qualify. It was also policy to reduce and if possible eliminate the employment of agency nurses who cost three times as much to hire (there had been an 85 per cent reduction through the autumn although shortages of cover over Christmas caused a slight increase). Another problem was that locally qualified nurses were being recruited by hospitals from England and Wales. It remained a battle to ensure adequate numbers, particularly in the specialisms mentioned. The Board was seeking to ensure the upskilling and potential qualification of support workers.

In answer to questions it was confirmed that:

- The cap on pay had been removed by the Scottish government just before Christmas and increases of up to 3 per cent would be negotiated for the new financial year for those earning below £30,000 and 2 per cent for those earning £30-£80 thousand.
- Housing provision remained a concern. Its cost was a severe problem in places like Aberdeen but conveniently positioned and cheap housing was needed elsewhere. It was suggested that the Scottish Housing Regulator be approached to lay a duty on local housing associations.
- GGC was also taking steps to lobby for better public transport for staff and making some staff transport of its own available for routes between hospitals. It had been disappointed by the

cuts in bus provision along Fastrack, and, in light of points raised, Jonathan Best agreed to raise the reduction in night services – particularly of the X19.

- In terms of Accident and Emergency waiting times (where there was a 95 per cent target for less than four hours waiting time) there had been some improvement in the summer on the 70-75 per cent level but a decline in the December period as a result of the scale of flu, chest infections and lately trauma from falls and broken bones. On one day a record 1350 people had presented at the QEUH needing treatment. However, at the end of the previous week the hospital had seen 92 per cent of people within four hours. Over the winter particularly they were encouraging the use of the Victoria for minor ailments and injuries.
- There was no strategy to recruit overseas currently – unlike England.
- In response to a question from Danny O'Neill it was conceded that, as things stand at present, the number of student nurses still had not recovered to the 2008 level.

It was suggested that Nial McGrogan might be invited to a future meeting to discuss transport issues and community involvement

The speakers were thanked for their contribution.

3. Matters arising minutes of 4 December

a) Membership of the Community Council

The Secretary has written formally to the City Council requesting that our membership be increased to 14. There has been no response so far.

b) Proposals resulting from the 29 September annual strategy meeting with elected representatives – actions to be taken

i) QEUH

Taken as above.

ii) BAE Clyde yards

Chris Stephens MP will arrange for attendance by shop stewards for our February meeting. The key issue that would determine continuing employment post-2030 remained that of securing the Type 31 Frigates as originally promised. It was noted that the Financial Times on 6 January reported that the Defence Minister was seeking to break the BA monopoly by supporting a consortium of Babcock, Thales, Harland and Wolf and Appledore to bid for a Type 31e contract.

iii) Rights of asylum seekers

Chris Stephens was arranging for attendance by an asylum seeker at our February meeting to discuss the right of asylum seekers to secure paid employment, currently barred.

iv) Housing provision for older people

A letter had gone to the Scottish Housing Regulator as previously agreed and an enquiry lodged with Stephen Lamb (AndersonBellChristie.com) as to the status of provision of housing for older people in the Transformational Regeneration Area plan covering Govan.

v) City Bus Transport

A letter had gone to Humza Yousaf as Minister for Transport asking that the scope for any local authority based regulation should be enabled at *regional* (combined LA) level in the Bill currently before the Scottish Parliament. The SPT-run electronic signage was reported to have virtually

collapsed over Christmas. Cllr Young reported that he was continuing to raise this with SPT but that part of the problem arose from the character of information provided by the bus companies, some tracking, some not, and the confusion that arose from this. He and Cllr Kane were continuing raise.

vi) New joint initiative against dog fouling

Cllr Young reported that there was some prospect of resources from LES at the end of this year's budget that could be used for signs and other publicity. Fines imposed were minimal and did not cover the costs of the safety wardens. Because of the difficulty of proof, some consideration might be given to fining those walking dogs who were found not to be carrying bags.

c) Proposed overnight accommodation for refugee/asylum seekers in Fairlie Street

There was no further report – although Cllr Young indicated that a planning application was imminent.

d) East Govan CC

There was no further information – although it was stressed that representation was required given current planning developments.

e) Police Issues

Our Secretary reported that she had received apologies ahead of the December meeting – a major incident required attention. She would write to the Police indicating that in cases where attendance was not possible a report on crime statistics would be welcome. Chair would continue liaison.

f) Shopping trolleys

The situation had manifestly worsened over Christmas. Cllr Kane was continuing liaison with Asda. It was hoped that the February meeting would get a report on how far City Council Chief Executive considered that a by-law could be created to fine offending stores.

g) Mary Barbour statue

On course for unveiling on International Women's Day 8 March 2018.

h) Graving dock site: planning permission process commencing

Cllr Young noted that the New City Vision plans gave priority to the construction of high cost flats and that any heritage centre would only follow later. Danny O'Neill indicated that he had lodged a personal objection on that basis and the lack of provision of affordable housing for rent.

There was no further information on the Ferguson Marine proposal for a working dock and a heritage centre – although some support was indicated at the meeting.

i) Lyceum building

There was no further development. The issue had been discussed at the Central Govan Action Plan.

j) Shaw Street-Langlands Road circuit: traffic hazard

There was still no response from James Rodden of LES about an assessment – covering traffic flow between 8.30 and 11 am – of traffic hazards arising from the current two-way traffic system.

k) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

There was no further information on the local consequences of the Local Service Delivery Review Report. Opposition should be voiced at any reduction in fire tenders locally.

4. POLICE REPORT

No police representative was present.

5. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Accounts

The accounts had now been lodged with the City Council and the annual grant received.

b) Changing signatures on the bank account with the Royal Bank of Scotland

The forms were now awaiting signature. An account book had been purchased

c) Community Council responsibilities

Danny O'Neill offered to set up members' smart phones to speak to the new twitter account which so far had fifty followers.

6. PLANNING

There was none.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

8. NEW ISSUES

a) Food banks

It was noted that Asda did not provide a food bank trolley but that the Preshal Trust operated collections at its base in 6 Aboukir Street, Linthouse.

b) Coming Home Team

This charity to support returning services personnel valued donations of any kind – food but also household items. It was based in the Pearce Institute.

c) Road conditions

The deterioration of road surfaces during the winter was noted with dangerous potholes reappearing: Elder Street and Harmony Row were mentioned – as was the roundabout in Ibrox. The islands in Golspie Street at Harmony Row were flooded and posed problems for those with prams.

d) Housing development at Water Row

Our Secretary reported on discussions with developers and architects involved in the initial planning of the housing development just north of the Cross. It was hoped that this would be fully integrated into the Govan townscape and planning ensure a mixture of tenure so that local people shared in the new housing. It was hoped CC members would fully involve themselves in the planning process.

e) Relocation of food bins: Langlands Road tenements

Cllr Young indicated he would investigate why food bins have been removed from the backs at 233 Langlands Road and new food bins placed at the park railings on the other side of the road.

f) Govan Loves Christmas

The meeting indicated its appreciation of the event and the provision of free rides and treats for children. It was hoped that in future better press coverage could be secured for what was a major local success.

9. COUNCILLORS' AND ELECTED MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Young reported

a) Council Budget

The Scottish Government had announced its budget in draft in December indicating a cut for Glasgow City of £15m. In addition the removal of the pay cap would result in a shortfall of approx. £33m. Further discussions were likely at the level of the Scottish Parliament.

b) Court of Session decision on Equal Pay

This had created a liability for Glasgow City of up to £500m to rectify historic mispayment. Approaches could be made to the Scottish and UK governments.

c) Boxing Club

Those involved were not able to attend the CC but he asked for assistance in identifying permanent premises enabling the storing of equipment. A large number of local people were now involved.

d) G51 Parking

The TRO regulation had now been cancelled and a new process of consultation been launched. This was likely to continue for another year.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2018 at 7pm in the Workspace Board Room.