

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 9 APRIL 2018

Present: Esme Clark, Flora Pagan, Robert Preston, Georgina Preston, Jean Melvin, Wilma Bruce, Daniel O'Neill, John Foster

Attending: Cllr Richard Bell, Jude Barber (Collective Architects), Teresa Johnstone, Alex Colquhoun (Showman's Guild), Tara Beall, Stephanie McCulloch, Angela Fulton (Macmillan@Glasgow Libraries)

Apologies: Reinhild Gorniak, Allan Bell, Cllr John Kane, Cllr Stephen Dornan, Cllr Allan Young, Humza Yousaf MSP, Chris Stephens MP
Minute Taker: John Foster

The meeting began with the welcome to those attending the meeting for the first time – specifically Stephanie McCulloch who was seeking to form a Community Council in East Govan.

1. Minutes of 5 February (the March meeting was cancelled because of extreme weather)
These were moved as correct by Danny O'Neill and Esme Clark

2. Presentation from Angela Fulton of Macmillan@GlasgowLibraries

Angela briefed the Council on the project which linked Macmillan Cancer Support in a partnership with Glasgow Life to provide counselling and support in local libraries. Starting in Easterhouse five years ago there were now 16 drop-in points including the Elderpark Library (on Friday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) Support was available for any concerns or worries regarding cancer (or other illnesses) both to individuals and relatives. Angela was thanked for her contribution and materials distributed.

3. Presentation from Tara Beall on behalf of the Johnstone families and other show people on the Johnstone site at Water Row

Tara raised the position of the two sites leased by the Show People, at Govan Cross, facing eviction as a result of plans for the redevelopment of the Govan Cross area, and specifically the Johnstone site with eleven families which had been let to the Johnstones for the past 29 years at Water Row.

Tara asked whether the Community Council had been made aware of the proposal for forced removal, how much notice had been given, whether the Community Council objected to this removal and what action the Community Council might take.

Tara further noted the detrimental impact on the health of those living on the sites. She argued that the action was unintentionally discriminatory, would represent a loss to Govan, that the Show people should have the same rights as others (such as residents subject to compulsory purchase), that the actions of the Council were effectively discriminatory, that it was contrary to Scottish government policy recognising Show People as a distinct community with its own rights and the City Council's commitment to work all travelling people in processes of urban development.

Mrs Johnstone stressed that they had been on the present site for 29 years, had previously been on the site at Wanlock Street and previous to that at Helen Street. All her family had been born and lived in Govan going back well over 80 years. So far they had received no formal notification in writing that they would be moved or consulted as to their wishes – which were that they remain in Govan.

It was noted in discussion that the City Council was aware of the issues and would seek to uphold its agreed policy of working supportively and constructively with all travelling people. It was also noted that one option for re-development was in fact to retain these sites.

It was proposed and AGREED that an officer from the Council's legal department attend the May meeting to clarify issues.

It was also AGREED that the Community Council come back to the issue at its May meeting and that it do so in the spirit of support for the Show People and their presence in Govan.

4. Presentation from Jude Barber of Collective Architecture

Jude Barber presented scoping plans for the redevelopment of the area from the Old Govan Parish Church through to St Mary's. She left physical copies with the Community Council so that it could further assess at a future meeting and stressed that the process of community consultation was continuing and that planning was so far at a preliminary stage. Their concern as architects was to retain and enhance the historic centre – in terms of the visibility of the landmark buildings, access to the waterfront and views across the Clyde – as well as providing, as required by the funding, 100 affordable houses on the site.

Cllr Bell stressed the importance of full participation in the process to ensure that the development matched the needs of the community and its historic setting. Concern had previously been expressed at the height of some of the proposed buildings and at whether the current open view across the Clyde could be retained.

Jude was thanked for the presentation and it was AGREED to return to the issue at the next meeting.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of 5 February

a) MoD orders for the Clyde yards

A response had been received from DE&S Policy Secretariat (Ships) at the MoD dated 22 March to our letter of 18 February questioning the decision to put the contract for Type 31e frigates out to tender to yards in Britain and that for the MARS naval supply ships to international tender. The letter claimed that there had never been any assurances from the MoD when the Type 26 order was cut from 13 to 8 ships that work in the yards would be maintained by an order for Type 31 frigates. The MoD justified its decision in terms of competition increasing efficiency and thereby enhancing ability to secure export orders for the industry as a whole – and the claim that the Type 26 order would maintain work in the yards to 2035.

It was AGREED to send copies of the letter for comment to Chris Stephens and to the yard Conveners and to proceed on the basis of their responses.

b) Rights of Asylum Seekers

Chris Stephens had been spoken to earlier in the day and his staff were currently working on the wording of the petition calling for the right to work. The case for this right would be carried in the April Govan Letter. Liaison was continuing on individual cases.

It was reported that planning permission had been granted for the night shelter for homeless refugees in Fairlie Street. It was AGREED that the Community Council commit itself to ensuring local support for the initiative and give whatever additional support it could.

c) Queen Elizabeth Hospital

It was noted that recently released statistics revealed that the number of A&E presentations being seen within four hours had dropped in the first week of January to 63 per cent – the worst figure ever – and that planned operations had been cancelled.

d) City Bus Transport

In light of the hikes in bus fares over the new year it was AGREED to write to our MSP Humza Yousaf reminding him of the urgency of proceeding with legislation that would permit local authorities to secure regional bus transport franchises on the Lothian model.

e) Initiative on dog fouling

We should return to this issue at the next meeting

f) East Govan CC

It was noted that the initiative so far had failed to gain more than 10 signatures but that Stephanie McCulloch's intervention might enable a full 20 signatures to be gathered.

g) Shopping trolleys

No further information

h) Mary Barbour statue

All those involved were congratulated on the completion of the initiative and the success of the unveiling. It would be featured in the April Govan Letter.

i) Graving Dock proposals

It was noted that the SEPA objection, on the grounds of flooding, to the New City Vision proposal was likely to prevent any redevelopment for housing. The proposal from Ferguson Marine was proceeding.

j) Lyceum Building

Glasgow City Council was now supporting a purchase by Govan HA.

k) Shaw Street-Langlands Road circuit: traffic hazard

A response had been received and would be read at the next meeting. It was reported that speeding and two way traffic was continuing to create potential for serious accidents.

l) Coming Home Team

Representatives would now attend our **May** meeting. Members were asked to bring items of food with them.

6. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

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

Work was continuing.

b) Community Council By-elections: nominations to close on 4 May

Notices for public posting were distributed as were nomination papers. The Secretary would write to Democratic Services asking that the unsuccessful previous candidates be sent nomination forms in the post. The election should also be featured in the Govan Letter.

c) April Govan Letter

It was agreed to proceed with publication as soon as possible in April. A preliminary draft was tabled.

7. PLANNING

There was none.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Govan Fair

A letter from the Chair, Dot Courtney, read. It would take place on Friday 1 June and proceed from Pirrie Park school to a crowning of the Queen at the Victory Centre. There would be a fairground in the Park for three days. It was AGREED to feature in the Govan Letter.

9. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor Bell reported

a) City Council budget

It was reported that as a result of additional funding from the Scottish government most of the proposed cuts had been rescinded and additional funds had been directed to Cleansing to radically improve the quality of the service, to Roads to permit a comprehensive and lasting upgrading, to an extension of free school meals provision to primary 4 (with additional funding for holiday periods) and to meeting the requirements for equal pay. Additionally, Area Grants would now include an indexing on the basis of poverty and that for Govan had been thereby increased by £18,000.

b) Gaelic School provision

Councillor Bell reported that the parents involved with the new Gaelic school that would, at least temporarily, be based in the Cartvale school, wished to be able to liaise with local community councils. It was AGREED to invite to our June meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 14 MAY 2018 at 7pm in the Workspace Board Room.