

**GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 3 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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

Attending: Chris Stephens MP, Cllr Richard Bell, Cllr Allan Young, Cllr Stephen Dornan, Cllr John Kane, David Jones

Apologies: Humza Yousaf MSP, Gina Preston

Minute Taker: John Foster

1. MINUTES 2 JULY

These moved as correct by Flora Pagan and Robert Preston.

2. MATTERS ARISING

a) Show People at Water Row

It was noted that further offers of accommodation had now been made. The length of the process of relocation may mean that the phasing of the Govan Cross redevelopment will be changed.

b) Health Provision and the QEUH

Our Secretary had been in touch with the office of the new health minister Jeanne Freeman MSP who had agreed in principle to meet the Community Council. It was DECIDED to make this part of a Strategy meeting and to hold it during the parliamentary recess 9-17 February.

c) Traffic hazard in Shaw Street/Harmony Row

No progress on this.

d) Presence of police

Our Secretary reported that Sgt James Jamieson had now replaced Sgt Inglis. She had been in contact to secure attendance by the police at future meetings.

e) Govan Fair Association

A number of members had attended the consultation meeting about future funding. There was discussion of the depth of financial support secured by the West End Festival and the lack of parallel business and public support in Govan. A number of those present felt that a major stumbling block remained the issue of governance. The Community Council reaffirmed its support for the Fair but also its conviction that issues of governance would have to be addressed.

3. REPORT FROM SECRETARY AND PLANNING ISSUES

a) East Govan Community Council

Steven Dowling had written to indicate that sufficient signatures had been received to permit the creation of a new Community Council. This was welcomed – particularly as major planning issues were pending for the area.

b) Proposals for the Graving Dock

It was reported that the proposal from New City Vision for housing development appeared to have been abandoned. The CEPA report on potential flooding had influenced the City Council to oppose and it did not appear that New City Vision would contest. The other potential proposal for a working ship repair yard still depended on agreement from the owners of the land (NCV) and on Peel Ports/Clyde Port Authority who controlled dredging and river access. Concern was expressed that the historic structures and fabric of the dock were deteriorating fast.

c) Paul McAlinden and promotion of musical involvement in Govan

Our Secretary reported discussions with Paul regarding funding for the development of orchestral work among local young people including the families of refugees. This would build upon existing initiatives which had proved very successful. It was AGREED that the Community Council would provide a letter of support for financial bids.

d) Govan Community Boxing Club

The Club had approached the Community Council for assistance in finding the permanent premises required for its effective operation. The Club was currently registering with Boxing Scotland for the coming season and although principally a boxing club, for girls and boys, its club mission is to promote health and wellbeing in the community. It is currently running evening sessions for children and adults in Govan High School on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is also keen to offer fitness classes for over 40s and 50s and teenage girls classes during the day and particularly start-up introductory classes for many in the community who have experienced physical and/or mental illness.

Approaches had already been made to the Housing Associations. A number of additional suggestions were made including the old army premises in Whitefield Road and the Africa Centre and also to Pat Cassidy of Govan Workspace (Greenfield School premises had a large and relatively modern gym). Cllr Bell agreed to approach City Properties. As all of these proposals would potentially involve rent, it was also agreed that the Community Council provide a letter of support and endorsement.

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

ASDA Planning Permission: 2-3 a.m. deliveries to Craigton Road goods entrance daily
Alan reported on discussions with representatives of Asda in light of the planning permission document dated 16 August received from the City Council.

Elected representatives expressed some concern that Craigton Road was a residential area and that there were already complaints about the noise from early morning deliveries as a result of waiting lorries. This proposal would compound the difficulty. Although ASDA might have a legitimate trading request to provide fresh produce, existing and potential future environmental difficulties might be better addressed by delivering through the Helen Street entrance.

Alan had raised with the ASDA representatives the very considerable nuisance presented by ADSA trolleys. There had been little positive response.

It was agreed to return to the issue.

5. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Bank account

Our Chair was asked to take charge of the papers required for a change of account and signatures, to carry forward this work with the Treasurer and to come back to the October meeting.

b) Strategy meeting

The Secretary was asked to identify a date in February for our annual strategy meeting. As well as issues of health provision and the QEUH, it was agreed cover two other issues: Bus Transport (and powers for Councils to establish Lothian style operations) and Rents in the private and HA pre-1989 tenant sectors.

c) Annual General Meeting

We were due to hold our AGM in October, hear a report of work from officers and elect officers for the coming year. Full elections for members were not required. A Treasurer's report for the year was needed but in the circumstances, given the need to change the bank account, might need to be postponed to November.

6. REPORTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

Councillor DORNAN

a) Fastlink

Cllr Dornan urged the Council to ensure that the rectification of Fastlink includes as a priority that four areas of dangerous road alignments in the G51 – currently precedent was being given to Broomilaw and the city centre.

b) Universal Credit and support for those dependent on benefits

Money Matters was hiring a HGV to be stationed at the Cross to assist those in danger of losing out on benefits as a result of the rolling of UC locally on 1 October.

Councillor KANE

Harmony Row scheme: youth disorder and vandalism

Councillor Kane reported on interventions made over the summer in face of considerable youth disorder. Two meetings of residents had been organised and a joint working party created involving GHA, Police, Social Work and Housing Associations. A clean-up had taken place and commitments received from police to give heightened attention. He hoped the Community Council would also involve itself. Currently it appeared that police resources were very considerably overstretched.

Councillor BELL

Opening of The Men's Shed, Arngask Road

This previously derelict building had been opened the previous month and provided an excellent social base for both men and women to gather.

Councillor YOUNG

Pearce Institute Board

He had joined the Board at a time when the Pearce Institute was facing a number of challenges organisationally and financially. Concern was expressed at the closure of the Macmillan café.

Bus transport

He expressed concern at the new Scottish government legislation, now at consultation stage, for bus transport. It effectively restricted any Council intervention to loss-making subsidised routes and precluded Lothian style comprehensive regional provision through the public sector. It was AGREED that the Community Council make representation before the consultation period expired on 28 September.

It was also noted that the issue of zone card restrictions (in terms of an additional £8 a week payment for a Zone 3 entitlement to reach the QUH) was not within the legal powers of the PTE. This was also an issue that needed to be addressed and on which representations should be made.

Chris Stephens MP

SERCO evictions of asylum seekers

He reported on the attempted eviction of 350 asylum seekers – the great bulk of whom had legal rights to stay in accommodation. As landlords, Housing Associations had challenged the legal right of SERCO to change locks and a test case was currently being taken forward by GLC. He hoped members of the Community Council would back him in any required action to stop evictions.

Petition for Asylum seekers right to work

This was on-going and he hoped the Community Council would renew it work on this

Shipyard orders

Work had started on the Type 26. However, the government had announced the suspension of bids for the Type 31 just before the parliamentary recess and this could indicate problems for the future.

Early Day Motion celebrating local organisations

This would be tabled this month

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2018 at 7pm in the
Workspace Board Room.**