

# GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

4 FEBRUARY 2019

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

Attending: Cllr Stephen Dornam, Cllr Richard Bell, Cllr John Kane, Jimmy Stringfellow

Apologies: Reinhild Gorniack, Chris Stephens MP, Cllr Allan Young, Humza Yousaf MSP

Minute Taker: John Foster

**A minute's silence was held at the beginning of the meeting in memory of our Chair from 2000 to 2017, Dick Carabine, who died on 2 February (service St Anthony's 10 am Saturday 9 February).**

### 1 MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

These were read by Allan Bell and moved as a correct record by Esme Clark and Robert Preston.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM DECEMBER MEETING

#### a) BAE orders

No further news on the Type 31 contracts. The parliamentary Accounts Committee had reported that the Ministry Defence was overspent by £7 billion.

#### b) Refugees and asylum seekers: right to work

It was agreed that it was important to maintain our campaign to secure asylum seekers the right to work.

#### c) Coming Home Team

The gifts had been handed over by our Chair and Secretary. A photograph had been secured.

#### d) Traffic hazard in Shaw Street/Harmony Row

No action had yet been taken. The Chair was of the opinion that current building work had made the situation worse though it was hoped that the £750,000 public realm expenditure on roads and pavements in Central Govan could be used to create a safer traffic system.

#### e) Presence of police at Council meetings

Our Chair had sought to make contact with the responsible officer Sgt Caroline Mulcahy. Cllr Young had raised with Inspector Lammie as had Cllr John Kane.

#### f) Police issues: diversionary activity for young people

Our Chair had hoped to be able to secure a comprehensive register of activities available but so far nothing had materialised.

#### g) Govan Fair Association

Flora and Jean had heard no further about meetings and it was agreed to ensure that Peter McCarthy was informed. A fund-raising dance would take place later in March.

**h) East Govan Community Council**

The Council had met on 15 January. The meeting was well attended.

**i) The Graving Dock**

No further progress.

**j) Govan Community Boxing Club**

No further report on permanent premises

**k) Asda Night-time deliveries**

No representation had yet been made to Planning.

**l) Blocked gullies and road flooding**

Problems remained. Councillor Kane reported that he had travelled the area with a senior officer from LES who remarked that the situation was worse than he thought.

**m) Rangers Community Forum**

Next meeting 12 noon on 20 February in the Blue Room at the Ibrox Stadium

**n) Rents: legal position of pre-1989 Housing Association tenants**

Copies of the Scottish government's response to the Council's DRS department had been forwarded by Councillor Young. This did not, in the opinion of the meeting, deal with the substantive issues raised about the methodology still being used by the Housing and Property Centre, exploiting the lack of clarity within the Rents (Scotland) Act 1984, and despite the contrary ruling by Court of Session in 2016, had resulted in disproportionate rent increases being imposed. It was therefore proposed and AGREED that the Community Council sponsor and support a Petition to the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee. The minute secretary would consult the Govan Law Centre as to the precise wording. It was hoped to have this available for the March meeting and to also secure signatures publicly.

**o) Area Partnership: Cleansing procedures**

No representative of LES had attended. It was hoped that LES would attend the next meeting.

**p) Consultation on the Transport (Scotland) 2017 Bill**

A response to our letter had been received from Councillor Aitken, the Council Leader. This noted that the City Council had previously, in the first round of consultation, called for local authorities to be given the necessary statutory powers to run their own bus services. The letter expressed concern at the sharp fall in the numbers using buses, the contraction of bus routes and the consequences for the City's poorer neighbourhoods. It also noted that the City Council had since established a 'voluntary partnership' with existing providers to rectify some of these problems and to ensure that some of the profits accruing to the companies were put back into improved services.

The Community Council indicated its satisfaction that such action was being taken. However, it was noted that the City Council's call for statutory powers for local authorities to run their own services had **not** been incorporated in the draft bill now recirculated for comment. The request of our Community Council had been that the City Council should raise this omission with the Scottish government and ask that such powers be included. It was AGREED that we respond in these terms – commending the City Council's original response and requesting that it now reiterate it and, to strengthen this position, note that it had already, as Scotland's largest local authority, made this request and that it was disappointed that it had been omitted.

**q) Café 13**

In response to our letter, the Chair of CGAP had responded. The reply confirmed CGAP's intent to provide all necessary assistance to Café 13 to prevent future break-ins and noted that a steering group had been established, chaired by Chris Stephens MP, to consider options. These could include internal shutters, and finance was now available, but agreement would need to be secured among all partners within the committee, including the police, as to security needs, compatibility with the original terms of funding and the wishes of the building's owners. It was hoped to make speedy progress.

**3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION**

**a) Accounts for 2017-2018**

Now submitted.

**b) Change of signature for the bank account**

Our Secretary now had the relevant forms and would seek to secure all necessary signatures with two out of three officers signing.

**c) Strategy meeting**

It was agreed to put back the meeting to the early summer but to fix the date if possible with the Health Minister Jeanne Freeman and our MP over the next couple of months. The issue of the QEUH had clearly assumed even greater urgency. It was hoped to include a representative from either UNISON or RCN. It was also agreed that we should seek a representative from UNITE for the item on bus services and powers for Councils to establish Lothian style operations. Rents in the private and HA pre-1989 tenant sectors should also be on the agenda.

**d) Govan Letter**

A brief summary of content was distributed.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE AND SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Royal Garden Party** No member wished to attend

**Public Processions Review Group** No one was immediately available for this

**Consultation on allotments and sustainable food** Our Secretary would attend

**Community Council Constitutions** Our Chair would read and then sign

**5. REPORTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS**

COUNCILLOR STEPHEN DORNAN

Councillor Dornan raised a strategic issue of community development: the building of too much new housing at the expense of space for shops and particular car parking. He noted the plans to build over part of the old Coop carpark. Combined with the plans for the Hills Trust site and Water Row the centre of Govan would lack public space. He also noted that the Master Plan group was now considering the issue of cafes and restaurants.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD BELL

Councillor Bell warned that the City Council faced a serious financial situation as a result of reduced grant income and its obligation to fund the justified equal pay claim from its women employees. The Council was examining options as to how best to minimise increases in Council Tax and maintain services. Proposals for provision for the coming year would be unlikely to emerge before the end of the month.

#### COUNCILLOR JOHN KANE

Councillor Kane report from the Area Committee and from local visits with council officers on a) Shaw Street and Harmony scheme where significant issues of vandalism continued b) Community Safety Glasgow reports that it was 'on top of' the problem of dog fouling locally. He noted that the general level of HA rent increases for the coming year was 3 per cent – a little less than the inflation plus one per cent recommendation of the Housing Regulator. He also noted that Glasgow HA had spent £8m on health and safety work on high flats and would do so again in the coming year. Rapid progress was being made on facilities to introduce the new rolling stock to the subway system.

Arising from this there was brief discussion on the absence of viable new plans for a train link to the Airport and the consequences for passenger numbers.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair asked if there were other issues which members wished to raise.

### **Letter of Support**

Sukai Secka attended to request a letter of support for her application to the Home Office for leave to stay. She had lived in Britain since 2003, in Govan for six years and worked as a volunteer in the dementia ward in the QEUH, in the Macmillan project, as a host for the Commonwealth Games and had been offered a place at UWS. It was moved and AGREED that a letter of support be written.

### **Rubbish deposited in Elder Street at the Crossloan Road end**

This was becoming a serious hazard

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 4 MARCH 2019 at 7pm in the Workspace Board Room.**