

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

3 JUNE 2019

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

Attending: Chris Stephens MP, Cllr John Kane, David Jones, Paul MacAlindin

Apologies: Cllr Allan Young, Humza Yousaf MSP

Minute Taker: John Foster

I. MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

These were moved as a correct record by Esme Clark and Wilma Bruce

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MAY MEETING

a) BAE orders

Chris Stephens MP reported on the All-Party Parliamentary Report on Shipbuilding published in May which put the economic and social case for all Navy ships to be built in Britain. The three supply ships remained out to tender – S Korea and Italy had withdrawn but Spain and France were still considering bids. If the contracts could be retrieved, then it would enable all Type 26 and potentially Type 31 Frigates to be built on the Clyde.

b) Refugees and asylum seekers: right to work

Chris Stephens was convening a meeting of Churches and Community Councils from SW Glasgow later in the month organise a parliamentary petition and campaign for the right to work.

c) Presence of police at Council meetings

Our Secretary had written again requesting the presence of police. We have no response so far.

d) Govan Fair Association

The procession would take place as normal on 7 June and would leave Fairlie Street at 7 p.m. and proceed to Langlands Road. The Queen would be crowned in the Pearce Institute at 6 p.m. There would, however, be no shows in the Park this year. Cllr Kane suggested that the best way to overcome the problem of a timeous application for the permit to use the Park would be for that to handled directly by the Show people who would then make a donation to the Fair.

e) Blocked gullies and road flooding

The gullies at 233 to 235 Langlands Road continued blocked. Other blocked gullies were reported in Helen Street and on Govan Road at the Cross. Cllr Kane was raising with LES.

f) Rangers Community Forum

Cllr Kane reported that the next meeting will be held on 4 June

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

The petition to the Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee for a Hearing at the Petitions Committee had been officially lodged. The minute secretary and Councillor Kane had been in touch with the Chair of the Petitions Committee to expedite progress. Once the petition was live, it was hoped that Evening Times would give publicity to an issue that was Scotland-wide.

i) Area Partnership: Cleansing procedures

It was AGREED to invite Laura Moran, Grade A Officer responsible to the Communities and Sustainability Committee, to a future meeting. Key issues to discuss would be the replacement of metal bins, the regularity of collections and problem of contaminated bins and refuse overflow resulting from missed collections. The scale of the problem appeared to be worsening and was leading to a heightened rat infestation.

j) Consultation on the Transport (Scotland) Bill

Our Secretary read the letter to our MSP Humza Yousaf, drafted by Daniel O'Neill asking that he support the call for full municipal control of bus transport with the requisite government funding in line the agreement reached at the Community Council's Strategy meeting three years ago and support the amendments to the current Transport Bill proposed by the Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs and Connectivity Committee that would make this possible.

k) Café 13

Funding had been agreed by the CGAP for enhanced security and a meeting to finalise arrangements would take place this month.

l) Paving of Govan Road and Burleigh Street area: issues about continuation across Central Govan

Cllr Kane agreed to make enquiries as to what steps CGAP/the City Council intended to take to improve the quality of pavements beyond the area currently being repaved around the Pearce Institute.

3. PAUL MACALINDIN: CONSULTATION ON ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

On behalf of Glasgow Life Paul was conducting a survey of what people in Govan would want and outline a range of events to publicise options and to gather opinions. He had so far interviewed 200 people from a wide range of organisations involved in various musical activities and of all ages. A report would be made to Glasgow Life at the end of June as part of an exercise involving all 23 wards within the City.

The following events had been organised as part of the consultation

Saturday 15 June Govan Ceilidh Charlie Kirkpatrick Ceilidh Band Govan and Linthouse Parish Church, 796 Govan Rd, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 20 June The Govan Stones concert Govan Old Parish Church at 7,30 p.m. including the premiere of Alasdair Nicholson's Concerto The Govan Stones

Saturday 30 June Musicians in Exile Refugee Festival Scotland 6.30 pm The Grand Ole Opry, 2 Govan Road

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Change of signature for the bank account

This had now been completed and our Treasurer would pay outstanding monies.

b) Strategy meeting

It was AGREED that this would be held in first two weeks of September. Chris Stephens was available for Friday 6 September. Topics identified were the Transport Bill and municipally owned transport, NHS funding and delivery (covering the QEUH and cuts in health-related social care arising from the Integrated Budget) and the problems arising from the City cleansing services. Fuller preparations would be made at our August meeting. We should seek the attendance of the Scottish Health minister Jeane Freeman.

c) Govan Letter

We should aim at late September/October for the next issue to cover issues discussed at the Strategy meeting.

d) Computing equipment

It was agreed to submit an application for funding to the City Council to cover the £500 cost of a laptop plus printer/scanner to Democratic Services.

e) Signed copy of the amended constitution

The replacement copy would be signed and returned this week.

4. PLANNING

No new planning issues had been communicated.

5. CORRESPONDENCE AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

Glasgow City Heritage Trust Tenement Walk 8 June from Elder Park Library at 12 noon – an investigative walk for all interested in improving our tenements

Community Council discussion document 'Strengthening our Communities':
Secretary and Chair to read and consider

Govan and Linthouse Parish Church: planning issues

Our Secretary reported that a meeting had taken place with CGAP and Govan HA earlier that day to try to resolve outstanding access issues for the Church

6. REPORTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

COUNCILLOR JOHN KANE

Cllr Kane's report covered the following issues

a) Mary Barbour Law

John had moved the motion in full council the previous week. It had been defeated by one vote. The proposal, currently also being taken forward in the Scottish Parliament, would give Councils far greater powers to combat exploitative rents in the private sector and also to prosecute and strike off landlords in significant breach of health and safety legislation.

b) Universal Credit and Housing Associations

John noted that the deficits arising from the introduction of Universal Credit and consequent arrears in payment of housing benefit were becoming general across the HA sector – with particular problems reported in accessing the DWP Landlord Portal.

c) Water Row development

John reported on the latest stage of consultations at a meeting convened by CGAP on 31 May and visits to a range of new developments across the city. He noted that some delay was likely to arise if SEPA raised issues of potential flooding – partly arising from the failure of Clyde Port Authority (now controlled by Peel Ports in Liverpool) to dredge the river.

CHRIS STEPHENS MP

a) Issue of Jo Swinton's comments on educational achievement in Govan

Comments made on BBC last week by Jo Swinton MP had detrimentally contrasted Govan with Bearsden in terms of the educational achievements of school children. Chris invited the opinions of the Community Council and noted that he had already challenged Jo Swinton's figures of 4 per cent university entrance for Govan with 80 per cent for Bearsden pupils. Currently 17 per cent of Govan High pupils secured university entrance qualifications and 90 per cent secured a positive destination. Opinions in general supported Chris's assessment that Jo Swinton's comments were unhelpful and devalued the work of educational staff. At the same time there was recognition that in Govan we had to work against a background of serious child poverty (Paul MacAlindin had noted the rate was 37 per cent), long-term unemployment and inadequate resourcing of all publicly-provided services – as well as the Universal Credit scheme originating with the Coalition government Jo Swinton had supported.

b) Urban Roots

Chris commended the publication listing all food banks and community meals provided across SW Glasgow

c) SERCO

Evictions had been stayed an appeal to the Supreme Court till the expiry of the SERCO contract

d) Universal Credit

Chris had raised questions in parliament about the sanctioning of those 'abandoning' a zero hours contract under the new regulations and problems associated with the assessment of visual impairment.

7. OTHER ISSUES

a) Elder Park

Danny O'Neill raised the delapidated state of the gardens around the Lady Elder statue. The roses were dead and the grass had not been cut this year. Cllr Kane to question.

b) Cleaning of closes in Elderpark HA areas

Our chair encouraged those finding problems with the stair cleaning to raise them with the Maintenance Manager Jim Fraser. Members agreed that the new contractor appeared to be seriously deficient. Our Treasurer agreed to take photographs.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 5 AUGUST 2019 at 7pm in the Workspace Board Room. There will be no meeting in July.