

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

2 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

Attending: Cllr John Kane, Cllr Ricky Bell, Councillor Stephen Dornan

Apologies: Flora Pagan, Jean Melvin, Chris Stephens MP, Cllr Allan Young, Humza Yousaf MSP

Minute Taker: John Foster

1. MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING

These were moved as a correct record by Esme Clark and Robert Preston

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM JUNE MEETING

a) Water Row development

There was no further information regarding any SEPA report on environmental issues, on funding or therefore the finalisation of plans. It was agreed to come back to the question of the proportion of housing for social rent when there was further information.

b) BAE orders

There was still no decision on the three naval supply ships currently out to tender or on further orders for Type 26 or Type 31 Frigates for the Clyde.

c) Refugees and asylum seekers: right to work and evictions

The housing contract was in the process of being handed over from SERCO to Mears Ltd. There was no further information on attempted evictions. It was agreed to seek translation assistance for a family of Iraqi asylum seekers.

d) Presence of police at Council meetings

There was again no attendance. It was agreed to submit a Freedom of Information request to secure the number of our meetings attended over the past four years: Danny O'Neill to draft.

There was, in the absence of the police, a discussion of the disturbances which took place on Friday evening along Govan Road from the Cross to the shipyard. Councillors described the process by which the Parades Committee set conditions for any public march in light of potential threats to public safety and the circumstances whereby the route for Friday's march was agreed. There was some concern that more was not done to strengthen the police response earlier in the week when it had become clear that significant organisation was being undertaken to disrupt the march. It was also apparent that mobilisation outwith Govan, and outwith Scotland, had taken place and most of those present, probably the great majority, were not locally resident.

It was AGREED to thank the police who were present on Friday night for their actions in preventing much more serious disorder and safeguarding our local community. There was no support for any change in the statutory rights to organise marches within existing legal

provisions – although it was hoped that greater foresight might be exercised in negotiating routes and times of marches.

e) Govan Fair Association

It was agreed to return to the issue of strengthening the Committee when our Vice Chair was in attendance.

f) Blocked gullies and road flooding

The gullies at 233 to 235 Langlands Road continued blocked and the road flooded.

g) Rangers Community Forum

There had been no meeting over the past month.

h) Petition on legal position of pre-1989 Housing Association tenants

The petition would close on 16 September and members were asked to sign and ask friends to sign. There was a direct link on the Community Council website. The Petition number was PE01743 at <http://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/scottishsecuretenants>. The Evening Times had published a small article the preceding Monday.

i) Consultation on the Transport (Scotland) Bill

There had still been no response from our MSP Humza Yousaf to the letter on the Transport Bill and urging support for full municipal control of bus transport with the requisite government funding. Daniel O'Neill reported that amendments had been passed at the committee stage of the bill in favour of both direct Council ownership of services and arms-length operation. The Scottish government had, however, opposed direct municipal ownership and the Bill still had to return to Parliament. He also noted that the First Group had decided to shed their bus services in Scotland and that two local authorities were already examining the possibility of taking them over.

j) Paving of Govan Road and Burleigh Street area: issues about access on Pearce Lane, Central Govan

Councillor Kane reported that as a result of his intervention on the issue of access for Cleansing lorries to Beild Housing LES had lodged a TRO for double yellow lines along the south side of the lane.

k) Elder Park

While action had been taken to clear and improve the Lady Elder garden, there appeared to have been only one cutting of the grass in the park this year – causing youth football teams to relocate their training sessions elsewhere.

l) Cleaning of closes in Elderpark HA areas

Wilma reported that the cleaning service still left much to be desired.

m) Paul Macalinden: concerts

There would be a further Concert in Govan St Mary's on 12 September.

n) Unclaimed pension credit meeting 16 August

Over 50 had attended a very worthwhile briefing meeting.

m) Quad bikes

Our Chair reported a very dangerous incident on the Cycle Path the previous week caused by an illegally ridden quad bike.

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Strategy meeting

Arrangements were in place for the meeting on Friday 6 September starting at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of Elderpark Workspace. The focus would be on two issues: Cleansing Services in Govan and the feasibility of the running of bus services by the City Council. Chris Stephens MP had confirmed attendance. All elected members were asked to attend. Our MSP had given his apologies.

For Cleansing services David Russell and Douglas Gellen would attend. A briefing was promised by the GMB but had not yet been received. For Bus Transport Bruce Kiloh was attending for the SPTE. Allan Bell would chair and Danny O'Neill act as facilitator for the discussions. It was agreed to extend an invitation to the Housing Associations.

b) Govan Letter

A draft list of topics was circulated and, in general, agreed. It was hoped to have a full draft available for the October meeting.

The Minute Secretary had not yet had time to recover the full run of issues back to the 1980s as requested by Ian McCracken.

c) Computing equipment

Our Secretary had the form for the application for funding from the City Council to cover the £500 cost of a laptop plus printer/scanner to Democratic Services.

d) Preparation for the October AGM

Our Treasurer and our Chair were taking responsibility to ensure that audited accounts were laid before the AGM. We would be electing officers for the forthcoming year.

5. PLANNING

There were two renewal applications: one for the all-night opening of McDonalds and the other for a Traders licence – both on Helen Street. There was no objection.

Carwash on the former site of the Tall Cranes pub on Craigton Road: questions were asked whether planning permission was required. Councillors took note.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our Secretary reported that £500,000 had been allocated by the Scottish government for the refurbishment of the Elder Park Library and specifically for the creation of a community facility in the basement. There had also been an allocation of £1.5m from the City Council for remedial work for a site that would allow relocation from Water Row.

Civic reception for community councillors on Tuesday 17 September. This was being organised by Democratic Services and the City Council to mark the contribution of Community Councils. Four places had been allocated.

7. REPORTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

Most issues were covered in the course of the meeting

COUNCILLOR KANE noted discussions were continuing with regard to the development of the Graving Dock site but with no immediate sign of progress

COUNCILLOR BELL reported that the Water Row bridge remained more or less on target – though legal problems of architectural copyright had caused some minor modifications to the plan.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2019 at 7pm in the Workspace Board Room. This would be the 2019 AGM.