

# GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

**7 OCTOBER 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: Cllr John Kane, Cllr Ricky Bell, Councillor Stephen Dornan, David Patterson (Tall Ship), Geraldine Trotter (Money Matters)

Apologies: Brian McQuade, Chris Stephens MP, Cllr Allan Young, Humza Yousaf MSP  
Minute Taker: John Foster

### **1. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING**

These were moved as a correct record by Esme Clark and Robert Preston with the amendment of item 1d (Our new Vice Chair was to draft a freedom of information request in order to secure figures on crime levels for the community council area)

### **2. DAVID PATTERSON OF THE TALL SHIPS TRUST**

David, a trustee of the Tall Ship Trust, invited the officers of the Community Council to a reception, date yet to be confirmed, with the objective of strengthening relations between the Trust and community councils on both sides of the Clyde ahead of the opening of the new bridge. The Trust wished in particular to involve more volunteers in the work on the Glenlee. The invitation was welcomed by the Community Council and, on volunteers, David was advised to be in touch with the recently launched Govan Volunteer Bank.

### **3. GERALDINE TROTTER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GOVAN MONEY MATTERS**

Geraldine attended to ask for the support of the Community Council in its bid to retain its existing level of core funding when the City Council's Integrated Grant Fund came to an end on 31 March and was replaced by the Glasgow Community Fund.

Geraldine reported on the success of Money Matters over the past thirty years in providing support for an ever increasing number of people needing advice and assistance in face of debt and extreme poverty. Last year Money Matters assisted 5,500 new clients. It secured £11m of additional benefit income and renegotiated £5.1m of debt. A Fraser of Allander study on Financial Inclusion had shown that of every £1 in grant income £17 had been generated – with the additional income secured by Money Matters sufficient to sustain 280 jobs in the local economy. Money Matters now provided a service much more widely across Glasgow and, Councillor Kane noted, was particularly important within BAME communities.

Unfortunately the new funding regime gave no priority to debt counselling and there was a significant danger that, if Money Matters lost all or part of its core funding, its ability to attract grant income from elsewhere, currently significant, would also be impaired. It could lose up to six members of current staff and would be therefore unable to provide anything like the existing level of service at a time when it was needed more than ever.

Geraldine asked that the Community Council send a letter of support ahead of the deadline of 20 October. This was AGREED.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**a) Water Row development**

There was no further major development. CGAP had, however, been re-examining the costings.

**b) BAE orders**

It was agreed to clarify the impact locally of the award of some Type 31 frigates to Babcocks.

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

The contract had now been handed over from SERCO to Mears Ltd. Mears Ltd had made a commitment not to evict by changing locks.

**d) Presence of police at Council meetings**

There was again no attendance. Our Vice Chair reported that he still had to draft the Freedom of Information request for crime statistics at Community Council level.

**e) Govan Fair Association**

Flora Pagan reported from the meeting of the Committee the previous Tuesday at which the Secretary had resigned. Flora was taking over fund raising but was concerned that too much of work still rested on the shoulders of Dorothy Courtney. New committee members and officers were urgently needed. It was AGREED to invite Dorothy Courtney to the next meeting of the Community Council if she was available.

**f) Blocked gullies, road flooding and dog fouling**

The gullies at 233 to 235 Langlands Road continued blocked and the road flooded. Additionally dog fouling was again becoming a serious problem in and around the Elder Park – arising from dog walkers driving into the area from elsewhere. Residents were advised to take note of times and car numbers and report to the City Council safety wardens.

**g) Rangers Community Forum**

The meeting was due to take place the following day.

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

The petition would be considered in the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 10 October and depending on the assessment there would be a hearing. The Minute Secretary had been in touch with relevant MSPs.

**i) Consultation on the Transport (Scotland) Bill**

This item was dealt with under item 5a)

**i) Paving of Govan Road and Burleigh Street area – access by emergency vehicles and enforcement of parking restrictions**

It was noted that the reconfiguration of Burleigh Street and the creation of a cycle lane had resulted in a narrowing of the road which, if a car was parked on the double yellow line, would prevent access by emergency vehicles. It was also noted that enforcement in the Govan area was now minimal, the £30 fine no deterrent and that parking on double yellow lines was constant. It was AGREED to raise with the Leader of the Council the need to redevelop the parking warden service which was once more directly under council control.

**j) Elder Park**

The grass appeared to have only been cut once in the past year and the cuttings had been left. Those booking the park for events had been seriously hampered and the use of the park by football clubs and others had also been impeded. Staff appeared to have been diverted to cleansing operations on a systematic basis.

**l) Cleaning of closes in Elderpark HA area**

Wilma and Flora reported no improvement. Our Chair suggested reporting systematically to the Chief Executive.

**m) Paul Macalinden: concerts**

Our Secretary provided details of new concerts being held in the Elder Park Library on Thursdays between 1 p.m. and 2.30 on 24 October, 21 November and 12 December. These would include traditional drumming and dance from Ghana, a folk Ceilidh and violin and flute recitals.

**5. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION**

**a) Strategy meeting**

This was felt to have been very worthwhile and a detailed report had been compiled by our Vice Chair which was tabled. Arising from the report a number of decisions were taken on the two agenda items.

*i) Bus Transport*

Bruce Kiloh from the SPTE was commended on his thorough briefing on the options now available to the City Council as a result of the decision of First Bus to withdraw from its Scottish bus operations and to dispose of its local assets and to do so in the wider context of legal changes being currently debated in the Scottish Parliament.

It was AGREED to write to our MSP and also to the Scottish Government (First Minister) urging them to support the current amendment to the Transport Bill that would allow the direct and comprehensive municipal ownership of bus operations. In doing so we should stress that Govan had one of the lowest levels of car ownership in Scotland and was particularly dependent on bus transport. It was further AGREED to write to the Leader of the City Council requesting that the City Council also ask the Scottish Government to support this position and, meantime, in order to acquire the undertakings of First Bus, set up an arms length company as currently existing in the Lothians.

*ii) Cleansing*

David Russell and Douglas Gellan had provided details of the current problems facing Cleansing services in the City and an outline of plans to overcome these difficulties including the replacement of all steel backcourt refuse bins and the introduction of bigger street bins and new street sweeping machines.

It was AGREED to thank the two representatives from Cleansing but to note that the wider problems associated with City cleansing services were deepening rather than getting better and that the basic cause appeared to be the steady erosion of funding – which was likely to worsen further in 2020. In circumstances of declining real revenue and increasing demands it was the priority services, with statutory requirements, that had been protected at the expense of other services. Hence, it was AGREED to write to the Scottish Government Finance Secretary pointing out the crisis circumstances now existing in the City's poorer areas and the need for cuts in grant income from the Scottish government to be reversed.

**b) Govan Letter**

A draft was circulated and some further items agreed – including coverage of the new university science campus. It was intended to have it printed before the end of the month.

**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.

**5. PLANNING**

There were no new items.

**Carwash on the former site of the Tall Cranes pub on Craigton Road**

It appeared that this was an informal activity without planning permission. It was agreed to refer to the deputy Chief Executive of Elderpark HA, Shirley McKnight.

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

**Befriending Service**

Our secretary read the details of this new service by which a morning call was offered to all those who wished it.

**7. REPORTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS**

Most issues were covered in the course of the meeting

**COUNCILLOR KANE**

Councillor Kane reported on the following issues

*Rangers Charity Foundation:* the charity is been awarded the international CSR award for acting as a role model for work in the community. The charity was currently negotiating a lease on the Ibrox stadium which would further expand the scope of its charitable work.

*Clyde Community Hall* The end of the Integrated Grant Fund and transfer to the new Community Grant would be enforcing cuts at the rate of 5 per cent a year. This was a matter of concern.

*Drumoyne Primary School:* planning was now in an advanced stage for a housing development by Linthouse Housing Association

*Old Hills Trust Building:* it was planned to open the new Elderpark HA office in the fully refurbished building in January 2020: housing on the adjacent site should be ready for letting a little later in 2020.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Minute Secretary tabled a report on a discussion with Mr Chaudry, arranged at his request, to discuss the future of the Lyceum. It was attended by himself and our Secretary. The report detailed past plans to redevelop the building and the current proposal to develop a 450 seat cinema primarily for local community use. It was AGREED to invite Mr Chaudry to either the November or December meeting depending on the attendance of Mrs Courtney in November.

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

