

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

4 NOVEMBER 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 Allan Young, Cllr Ricky Bell, Councillor Stephen Dornan, Dorothy Courtney, Yvonne Reilly

Apologies: Brian McQuade, Chris Stephens MP, Baillie John Kane, Humza Yousaf MSP
Minute Taker: John Foster

1. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING

These were moved as a correct record by Esme Clark and Robert Preston with the amendment of item 5 Carwash: the carwash being established, currently without planning permission, was on Crossloan Road at the corner with Arklet Road.

2. PRESENTATION FROM YVONNE REILLY OF GOVAN THRIVING PLACES

Yvonne, previously with the Area Partnership, was now taking forward the role of Community Connector for Govan Thriving Places, the initiative that was seeking to develop a closer co-partnership between our local community and statutory bodies such as the NHS, the Police and the City Council and its agencies.

So far there had been a door to door survey and a community conference to identify local concerns and issues. Seven priorities had been identified including the environment and the need for cleanliness, employment and training, the life chances of young people and the availability of healthy food. Some initial achievements had been a job match scheme that had secure employment for around 70 local people and the redevelopment of street-based youth work involving the collaboration of local youth-service providers. Events include T in the Park and the Fun Runs for youngsters in the Park. Yvonne can be found upstairs in the Fairfield Heritage Centre and wants to be kept in touch with all developments.

3. DOROTHY COURTNEY AND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GOVAN FAIR

Dorothy outlined the plans of the Old Govan Fair Association to build on the success of the procession last June, to develop the committee, to change from a limited company to a simple charity and to try to involve a much greater range of local community groups. It is likely that the route will be the same as last year and licences were being sought early for the use of the Park for shows.

Our Chair offered to help visit local businesses and shops to secure funding. Members were asked to liaise with Flora, who continues as a member of the committee, about other assistance.

4.. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING

a) Tall Ship Presentation

Our Chair had received an invitation to a Reception.

b) Govan Money Matters

Our Secretary had written a very strong letter of support stressing the importance of Money Matters for the regeneration of the area and the fight against poverty.

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

There was no further news on this front. Agreed to come back to the issue of continuing the campaign for the right to work for asylum seekers.

d) Presence of police at Council meetings

There was again no attendance. It was hoped that the new superintendent would be attending the next Area Committee the following week. Our Vice Chair was in the process of drafting a Freedom of Information request for local crime trends.

e) Blocked gullies, road flooding and dog fouling

The gullies at 233 to 235 Langlands Road continued blocked and the road was still flooded. This also was the case around the bus stop at the north-east end of Craigton Road with both the road and the pavement flooded. Yvonne Reilly noted the problem of dog fouling in Elder Park and suggested a citizen-led initiative to shame those allowing their dogs to foul.

f) Rangers Community Forum

Our Chair was attending this month's meeting which would consider parking issues. Councillor Dornan expressed concern that RFC was proposing to sell off half its existing carpark and this could only worsen parking. .

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

The petition had been considered on 10 October and the Petitions Committee had agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the First Tier Tribunal and COSLA requesting their comments. Their responses were due in four weeks of this date. The Petitioners, Central Govan Tenants with the support of the Community Council, would then have four weeks in which to respond.

i) Consultation on the Transport (Scotland) Bill

Our Vice Chair reported that the Bill had now passed through all stages in Parliament and would shortly receive formal Assent. It was now amended to permit local authorities to formally own services as well as providing them arm-length as in Lothians. It was AGREED to write to the City Council asking about the outcome of its feasibility study and requesting that it now proceed to take up the options of City ownership and expedite discussions to take over the undertakings of First Bus. Copies of the letter should go to our Councillors.

h) Cleansing Services: following through decisions of the Strategy meeting

A letter had been written to the Scottish Government Finance Secretary stressing the serious consequences for health and well-being of the cuts imposed on City Council services, particularly Cleansing. As yet there had been no response.

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

A letter had been sent to the Leader of the Council stressing the need to redevelop the parking warden service, now directly under council control. As a result of the reconfiguration of roads in Central Govan, particularly Pearce Lane and Burleigh Street, there were areas where it was impossible for emergency vehicles to gain access if there was parking on the double yellow lines. Currently there was little or no enforcement.

j) Elder Park

Grass cutting, and particularly the removal of the cut grass, remained inadequate and was problematic for Park users.

l) Cleaning of closes in Elderpark HA area

Our Chair had spoken to officers of the Housing Association and their had been a great improvement.

k) Paul Macalinden: concerts

Our Secretary praised the Concert at the Elder Park Library on 24 October and urged attendance at the remaining events on Thursdays between 1 p.m. and 2.30 on 21 November and 12 December.

l) Mr Chaudhry: Proposals for the redevelopment of the Lyceum

Agreed that we consider an invitation for January.

5. COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Audited Accounts

These would be available for submission on 6 November.

b) Govan Letter

1,000 copies of the October edition had been distributed. It was also available on the Community Council website.

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 and would resubmit now that the Constitution had been signed and the audited accounts were available.

5. PLANNING

There was one application: Govan Cross for 4 December between 3 and 6 p.m.

This was for Govan Loves Christmas from Govan HA and included a Christmas tree, stage, Rides and a market with 40 stalls. AGREED

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our Secretary read one item of correspondence from our outgoing MP Chris Stephens who detailed arrangements for the handling of continuing cases and pledged to ensure that all continuing business would be maintained subsequent to the election on 12 December.

7. REPORTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

Most issues were covered in the course of the meeting

COUNCILLOR DORNAN

Ibrox Community Trust Cllr Dornan reported on the establishment of a Community Trust to administer – with representatives of all local Community Councils. It was AGREED that our Chair be nominated on behalf of Govan Community Council.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Our Secretary raised the very unhygienic and dirty state of Asda when visited the previous weekend. Cllr Dornan commented that it was probably the result of Asda's current dispute with staff and the attempt to enforce new contracts that would end paid holidays and also current flexible working arrangements. Those refusing to sign were being dismissed. It was AGREED to write a letter to the local manager and also the head office (copied to the GMB union) expressing our grave concern at these demands and the impact on local people working in ASDA many of whom will have family and child commitments

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2019 at 7 pm in the Workspace Board Room.

A communication arrived subsequently from Unite the Union about a meeting on Tuesday, 12 November at the Glasgow Unison office 83 Bell Street to discuss the issue of the Council ownership of bus services.