

GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

13 JANUARY 2020

Present: Allan Bell (chair), Esme Clark, Danny O'Neill, Robert Preston, Georgina Preston, John Foster

Attending: Bailie John Kane, Councillor Stephen Dornan, Sgt Bob Anderson

Apologies: Jean Melvin, Flora Pagan, Wilma Bruce, Reinhild Gorniack, Brian McQuade, Chris Stephens MP, Humza Yousaf MSP

Minute Taker: John Foster

1. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING

These were moved as correct by Esme Clark and Georgina Preston

2. REPORT FROM SERGEANT BOB ANDERSON

Sgt Anderson gave trend figures for crime reports for beats 8 and 9 comparing the past month with the same month last year. These indicated a situation that was generally on a par over the period with a slight decline in thefts and also drug offences (which may be related to reduced stop and search).

Street work in conjunction with GYIP had been maintained over the past couple of months. Inspector Scott Simpson had introduced a new staffing rota that would deliver more community policing resources to beats 9 and 13, the worst in terms of crime reports, and maintain 2 officers each for early and late shifts elsewhere. The new call monitoring system was also working to deflect calls to appropriate social services so the crime calls could be prioritised. It was planned to introduce an appointment system that with firm times for attendance.

In discussion our Secretary raised the increasing anti-social use of fireworks – now apparently available round the year and with a new outburst over the New Year. Sgt Anderson indicated police concern and willingness to intervene. Legislation was needed to restrict sale.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING

a) Car wash at Crossloan Road/Arklet Road corner

Sgt Anderson would ensure the site was visited. Bailie Kane confirmed that there had been no permission granted either from Planning or SEPA.

b) Govan Money Matters

A decision on grant allocation for the coming year had been postponed till February.

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

Our Chair noted couple of very distressing cases in which asylum rights had been refused. It was agreed to come back to the campaign for the right to work for asylum seekers at our next meeting.

d) Freedom of Information request regarding crime statistics

A response had been received from Police Scotland refusing the provision of local crime statistics on the ground that they were publicly available. It was noted that this availability was only for Council Wards, which were very large, and not for community council areas. It was AGREED to write back indicating that we wanted statistics for Beats 8 (Elderpark) and 9 (Central Govan) that covered the Community Council area.

e) Blocked gullies, road flooding

The gullies at 233 to 235 Langlands Road remained blocked and flooded – as was Govan Road, southside, at Govan Cross at the pedestrian crossing.

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

Responses to the petition had been received from the Scottish Government, the First Tier Tribunal and COSLA. A response had been sent from Central Govan Tenants Association before Christmas indicating that the Association at its meeting in December did not find these responses adequate or offering any resolution to the issue of unduly high rent assessments based on legally faulty procedures and the precedents thereby set for subsequent rent setting. It was hoped that there would be a hearing before the Petitions Committee early in 2020.

g) Transport (Scotland) Act: purchase of First Bus fleet

A response had been received to our letter to Council Leader Susan Aitken which confirmed that it was likely that the sale of First Bus stock would be announced this January, that the Council now had legal powers under the Act to bid and that a consultation meeting had been organised with neighbouring local authorities this month to explore a regional approach to service provision. The meeting noted, however, that no feasibility study had yet been undertaken and hence the Council might well find itself unable to make a speedy decision – especially if other buyers were in the market for First Bus stock. It was also noted that this had been a concern of the public meeting organised in December by Keep Glasgow Moving and attended by our Vice Chair.

It was therefore AGREED to write back to the Leader of the Council indicating our concern, the urgency of ensuring that the City Council was in a position to bid and stressing the danger that without such urgent preparatory work there was a significant danger that a bid would be made by another commercial buyer.

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

There had still been no response to our letter 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. This became all the more relevant given the proximity of another round of cuts.

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

Sgt Anderson took note of the potential dangers outlined by our Chair and indicated that he would a) alert officers to the need to act on any vehicle obstructing the highway and b) ask Jim Kane to send parking wardens to patrol the area.

j) Elder Park

Our Secretary expressed concern that, while it was very welcome that a significant area was now being made over for the growing of wild flowers, there would not be an adequate level of

maintenance and professional gardening oversight. Bailie Kane noted that significant areas of land under Council control would also be made over for wild flowers in the interests of carbon reduction and low maintenance.

k) Paul Macalinden: concerts in Elder Park Library

The next would be between 1 p.m. and 2.30 on 23 January. Attendance was important to maintain funding.

l) Proposals for the redevelopment of the Lyceum

Bailie Kane indicated that there might be developments to report at the next meeting.

m) Asda: actions to reduce conditions of work of employees

Conditions had worsened since employees had been required to sign a declaration allowing their hours of work to be changed by the firm at will. We had had no response to our letter.

n) Community Finance

Our Secretary indicated that it was highly likely that the Community Council would receive a grant of £1000 to be used for worthy causes locally. We would return to issues of disbursement at the next meeting

o) Govan Boxing Club

Cllr Dornan indicated that a solution may have been found to the issue of a permanent base.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ORGANISATION

a) Audited Accounts

Audited accounts had now been submitted

b) Computing equipment

Our Secretary would be completing the application for funding from the City Council in the next month to cover the £500 cost of a laptop plus printer/scanner.

5. PLANNING

There were no new applications.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

a) Graving Dock

Our Secretary reported that she had been approached by Tom Laurie, who was working in association with New City Vision, with what appeared to be very useful plans for the restoration of the historic features of the graving dock as part of a phased redevelopment that would include a greater level of community usage.

b) Scottish Civic Trust

An invitation had been received for prize nominations for local community-led projects for the redevelopment of the built environment. It was agreed to come back to this at the next meeting

c) Early Engagement National Planning Framework

Notification of a website hub to enable community participation in national discussion of initiatives for sustainable inclusive growth ahead of the 2050 Scottish Planning Roadshow.

d) Community Council collections for local charities

Our Secretary and Chair reported on the Christmas collections organised by the Community Council for Govan Loves Christmas, Help for Heroes and the Govan Community Project. All required help – but particularly the last which assisted destitute asylum seekers. They were thanked for their hard work and consideration.

7. REPORTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

COUNCILLOR DORNAN

Councillor Dornan reported on the agreement for the creation of the rail-link to Glasgow airport via Partick station that would also link Braehead and Paisley station.

BAILIE KANE

Bailie Kane thanked our Chair for his contribution to the Christmas dinner at the Clyde Community Hall. He reported on the Annual Conference on the State of the Economy which highlighted that growth in business from higher education – with 200,000 students now resident in Glasgow – and also in hospitality with the opening of new hotels and plans for a further hotel next to STV in Kinning Park.

Bailie Kane also noted that the City Council would be setting a budget over the next month and it was likely that cuts of up to £25m would be required – although both the UK and Scottish budgets had yet to be set.

The meeting agreed that we should come back to the issue of cuts at the next meeting and consider representations to both the Scottish and UK governments – particularly in light of the failure of the Scottish government to respond to our earlier letter on grant reductions and the crisis in cleansing.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2020 at 7 pm in the Workspace Board Room.