**GOVAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 4 MARCH 2O24**

Held in the Board Room, Elderpark Workspace at 7 p.m.

Present: Esme Clark, Daniel O’Neill, Hannah Salome, John Foster, Annie Morgan, Robert Preston, Gina Preston Cllrs Alam, Dornan and Hutchison, Alistair Shaw (representing Chris Stephens MP), Gordon MacKay, Hannah Michie, Ruby Kelly, Katherine McNab,

Apologies: Reinhild Gorniack, Betty Ross, Humza Yusaf MSP (27th apology), Jaime Fitzpatrick, Alan Bell, Teresa Johnstone

Minute taker: John Foster

1. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING  
   These were moved as correct by Hannah Salome and Esme Clark

2 SPECIAL ISSUES

1. **As raised by Annie Morgan: Cleansing, environment, litter crisis and drains crisis**

Annie was accompanied by Katherine McNab, tenant of Elderpark HA and Treasurer of Elderpark pensioners. The following points were made.

**The problem**

Cleansing pick-up, fly tipping, dog fouling, flooding and street debris were particularly bad in Crossloan Road, Elderpark Street, Luath Street (where dumped timber had caught fire: fire brigade had to stop spread to tenements), Shaw Street with new street bins not reducing dumping. Elderpark HA informed but not responding. Annie and Gina noted that situation in Renfrew much better: more regular collections, days of collection continually updated on web and on leaflets, instruction on what litter to put where. Issues of flytipping, dog mess and unsafe parking had been raised with police and council for prosecution but not seen to warrant action. Gordon MacKay asked if the new bin project in Pollokshields was a pilot for the City: Cllr Alam confirmed it was.

Proposals

* It **was agreed** that the problem did not lie with cleansing staff who were seriously depleted compared with ten years ago – probably by over ten percent – and with age profile (and health and injury vulnerability) correspondingly higher. Urgent steps were needed to create a bigger younger workforce (Ruth suggested that this might be a good option for refugees now looking for work). There was some scepticism about moving bins into the street and about bigger street bins
* Bin hubs, as piloted in Pollokshields, were suggested by Cllr Alam (if properly managed). It was noted that Linthouse HA operated a weekly clean-up and close liaison with both cleansing and tenants.) Gordon MacKay asked if this pilot was to be extended to the whole city and expressed some scepticism.
* Annie Morgan suggested, **and it was agreed**, that we actively learn from Renfrew’s tenant, union, council, participation scheme and a conference involving all parties in Govan to discuss. However, the statutory authorities could not shift responsibilities to local residents – the key issue for residents was better information (in multiple languages) and education.
* Comments by Councillors: agreement that a conference would be useful; Cllr Hutchison would make enquiries with Cleansing and also seek employment data since 2004: Jim Shaw, representing Chris Stephens MP, noted the collapse of the service over Christmas across the constituency.

1. **Dig-it conference and sponsorship by Barclays Bank**: Annie raised the issue of the bank’s involvement in the financing of armaments and mineral extraction damaging the environment: agreed to return to this next meeting.
2. **Closure of Bank of Scotland**

Alastair Shaw reported that our MP was pressing for the BoS building to be made over as a bank hub with a cash machine. He was considering a public meeting over the Easter break.

Gordon MacKay reported that the BoS had come back with nothing positive apart from saying that the post office in Craigton Rd had a cash machine (although only available during opening hours).

The previous meeting had agreed to securing a cash machine in the bus/subway station. **Cllr Dornan committed himself** to make the request to the meeting of the SPT Executive on Wed 6 March.

1. **Bus Transport and petition:** agreed to return to at the next meeting
2. **Living Rents and Tenants issues**: rents and repairs The Living Rent speaker gave apologies (ill health)
3. **Govan Music Festival:** members were encouraged to participate: Our Secretary would attend and review (for Govan Letter).

3.MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Issues not covered so far:

1. **Show People’s access to their site at Water Row:**

A letter had been sent by our Secretary to the City Council. No response had been received so far (although cc. to Councillors). Cllr Hutchison asked that any reply be sent to all Councillors. The issue remained urgent. Theresa was pushing for a meeting with the Council

1. **Maslow’s use as community surgery for CC**

Ruby confirmed that the premises could be made available

1. **City Council Budget**

Cuts were reported by Councillors as teaching staff, Glasgow Life, transport (complete loss of capital budget), housing (but in Glasgow via Has) and posts ion adult community education training. Other cuts were passed through the joint Council-Heath/Social budget. Funding raising initiatives were being investigated in terms of visitor parking (to go mainly to Glasgow Life), extension of parking charges (GCC needed to get legal cover: a year’s delay) and, at Scottish government level, more progressive council tax banding (it was noted that freezing existing bands proportionately assisted the better off). There was concern about the Westminster budget later in the week and likely further cuts in budgets affecting public services.

1. **Govan Notice Board in Shopping Centre**

Rob Preston will make enquiries and report. A letter will then be written offering to pay.

1. **Reopening of Elder Library**

Now scheduled for beginning of June. It would contain toilets; no information so on a café (Councillors to investigate)

1. **Community space**

Hannah Salome will come back with ideas at the next meeting

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

It was agreed to go for Thursday 25 April if venue (Parish Church ?) available. Need to move quickly: Danny to make booking. The focus will be on the housing crisis.

Speakers will be Karin Goodwin (Investigative Journalist at the Ferret) and our Vice Chair Hannah Salome together with two people selected by Hannah who will speak on their experiences of housing provision and housing search.

Finalised copy needed by 17 March; draft copy for email distribution and agreement **Mon 25 March.** Final copy to printer **1 April**. RM distribution first and second weeks of April.

We would also distribute over the week before the meeting a **welcome letter** to new residents in the ‘Govan Square’ building and that in old Coop carpark. Our Secretary to draft wording. We should contact landlords about access. It was AGREED to allocate up to £100 for delivery if necessary.

5. GOVAN LETTER: CONTENT AND WORD LIMITS

Page 1 Lead 1 Council cuts (400 words) Housing for Asylum speakers (Hannah) (400 words)

Picture Bank of Scotland plus 200 words on campaign

Page 2 Fire station cuts: Russ Pollock (via Dan Hutchison) 500 words (PIC)

Bus franchising Danny Pic 400

Page 3 Asylum seeker housing (Ruby Hannah) 400

Review of Govan Music Festival (Our Secretary) 400 PIC

Page 4 Advert for Public meeting quarter page

Interviews with Govan Helps and Govan Community Project (500 together) JF

Call for new members 300

6. CHAIR’S PREPORT All issues previously covered.

7, SECRETARY’S REPORT

Our Secretary reported her concern at the patronising and uninformed content of a new and lavishly produced leaflet on road safety for pedestrians (produced by the City Council and Police Scotland). Most of the advice assumed utopian style roads and pavements – not flooded roads, mass pavement parking, potholes in roads and pavements, debris on both roads pavements and lack of active prosecution of one of the biggest hazards: high speed bikes and electric scooters on pavements. Cllr Hutchison would investigate.

8. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

**Councillors Alam and Dornan** said they had already given the main issues they wished to raise

**Councillor Hutchison** reported on the Library completion (end May), on the new MAFALDA database on the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Fund, and the Cycle Path consultation.

**Alistair Shaw for Chris Stephens:** Chris wished to draw our attention to the House of Commons Library report, dated 1 March, on asylum seekers in transfer to Refugee status which indicates virtually no progress despite earlier pledges. [Asylum statistics - House of Commons Library (parliament.uk)](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01403/)

**9. NEXT MEETING MONDAY 8 APRIL (back a week because of Easter holiday) at 7 p.m. |Elderpark Workspace) 7 p.m. Minute to be taken by Gordon MacKay (apologies from Minute Secretary).**