

Hutchesontown Community Council Meeting Minutes

**St Francis Centre
Tuesday 18 February 2025**

HUTCHESONTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

J. Thomason; T. Porter (Treasurer); D. Green (Secretary); S. Hay (Correspondence Secretary); I. Devlin; V. McHugh, S. Chase.

Associate Members

J. Sechaud.

VISITORS

E. Catterall; L. Vrooman

APOLOGIES

W. Gormley.

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The chair suggested moving item ten on the agenda up to number three.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS MINUTES

The minutes of 21 January 2025 were proposed by S. Chase and seconded by I. Devlin.

3. TREASURER'S REROPT

The current bank balance stands at £3281.50.

J. Thomason proposed that the Council move its bank account given the charges now being applied by Bank of Scotland to charity accounts. She suggested possibly moving the account

to Virgin Money, as it still does free accounts for small charitable and community accounts. There was unanimity with this proposal. J. Thomason added that the Community Council account would remain up and running while the new account is being set up.

Action points:

J. Thomason will explore setting up a new bank account with Virgin Money.

4. ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Starbucks Planning Application

J. Thomason noted that the Starbucks proposal and planning application has been rejected. The second application related to this has also been withdrawn.

Defibrillator

J. Thomason will put in an application to the British Heart Foundation to get consent for a defibrillator to be put in. She is still going through the Gorbals Library to get permission to locate it on the side of their building on Crown Street. The Church have also agreed to have it put outside its building, as an alternative option.

Action Point: J. Thomason will have submitted the defibrillator application to the British Heart Foundation by the end of month.

Citizens Theatre

J. Thomason attended a civic reception to preview the work done on the Citizens' Theatre. The project is still £10 million short of its target for renovations. The Citizens' Theatre might be open to organise a visit for the Community Council to have a look round before it reopens.

Action Point: J. Thomason will look into the possibility of a visit to the Citizens' Theatre for the Community Council.

Freedom of Information Request

D. Green explained that an FoI request had been submitted concerning Glasgow Life's plans for the St Francis Centre. The deadline for filing a response to the FoI should have expired by the next Council meeting and he promised to feed back the response as soon as he gets it.

Action Point: D. Green will feed back the FoI request from Glasgow Life when it is received.

5. POLICE REPORT

There were no police present to report on local incidents over the past month.

T. Porter provided the Community Council with a summary of the police report received at the recent Area Partnership meeting.

The police have been dealing with parking, speeding and cycling issues. There was a significant run on thefts and break-ins from cars over Christmas.

Around Calton Place, the police are continuing a crackdown on anti-social behaviour and drug taking in the area. There is an exclusion zone around Bridge Street and the 'Four Corners' to tackle drug-dealing and consumption. Part of this strategy also involves cutting down shrubs, installing brighter lights to encourage greater pedestrian footfall and discourage anti-social behaviour and drug dealing.

The police are also continuing to crack down on e-bikes. They have been confiscating bikes from people caught breaking traffic rules.

6. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

John Grady MP

E. Catterall offered a verbal report from John Grady MP. On e-bikes, Mr Grady has been liaising with local police to see if there are legislative gaps which can be filled to tackle the issue.

On subsidence around Adelphi Street / Waterside Street, Mr Grady is consulting with the Glasgow City Council to find out more information about funding to deal with this.

On litter and fly-tipping there is a deep clean around Florence Street / Ballater Street / Commercial street being organised to tackle some of the fly-tipping and rubbish that is around the area.

Concerning lighting, pavement and parking issues, the caravan parked on Cumberland Street has been reported to Glasgow City Council and will be chased up. The broken paving slabs at Necropolis have also been reported, and Mr Grady is asking for more information concerning the toucan crossing on Laurieston Road.

Mr Grady is also has a survey on his website concerning use and satisfaction with train services, and he would encourage people to respond to this.

Mr Grady holds weekly surgeries around the constituency. The next surgery in the Gorbals is 14 March at the Gorbals Library. There are also two constituencies in Govanhill before then (20 February, and 21 March).

7. MATTERS ARISING

Council By-Election: Glasgow Southside Central Ward

The election for a councillor for Southside Central Ward takes place on Thursday 20 March. J. Thomason proposed that the Council invite all the candidates to the Community Council meeting on 18 March to answer any questions we might have. The Council can also

advertise this meeting and encourage the public to attend. S. Hay asked about what the list of candidates is, though there was no clear information on this.

Action Point: S. Hay to contact all candidates to invite them to the next Community Council meeting (once a list of candidates has been confirmed).

Waste management

None.

Lighting

None.

Roads

S. Chase asked about the traffic signals set for the advantage of traffic, as he is finding it difficult to cross at the intersection of Cumberland Street and Laurieston Road. The Council suggested he raise with one of the elected councillors via email.

8. GLASGOW 850 CELEBRATION

J. Thomason notified the Council that this year is both fifty years of community councils and 850 years of Glasgow City. Glasgow City Council want to celebrate the work that community councils play in the city. A decision has been made that photos will be taken of what community councils do or have done over that fifty years that they want to celebrate.

Council members had a short discussion about this and the items that it has done. Suggestions need to be lodged by 12 March. There also should be a short statement explaining why the Council is proud of their achievement. The photos will be taken between March and June, which means we may want the Council to have their photo taken at the Gorbals Fair.

Action Point: Council members to contact J. Thomason by 12 March for ideas about what the Council is most proud of, and a few sentences about this achievement.

9. COMMUNITY LAND BUYOUT

J. Thomason was invited to a talk about community land buyouts from Community Land Scotland. In relation to this, there was discussion about the carpark at the Co-Op, the recent planning applications lodged by Starbucks, and consideration about whether the community could lodge a bid to buy the land for itself. She added that if the community do not act on this, another private company might do so. While the Community Council could not buy the land, the Council could push forward an initiative within the community to do so. There was broad agreement to J. Thomason's suggestion that this was something the Community Council should act on, and consult more widely on developing a bid.

Action Point: J. Thomason and D. Green will explore the issue more, including speaking to F. Frankgate who has experience on this issue to discuss the way forward on this.

10. COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPENDING PLANS

D. Green reminded members about the amount of money in the Community Council account and that we should really be looking for ways to spend this. I. Devlin mentioned having benches in the piazza. S. Chase also said that there is money available from the Spirit of the Gorbals legacy fund from Commonwealth Games (now the Gorbals Ideas Fund) for such projects. According to S. Chase, M. Fullerton (from NGHHA) is looking into putting a bench in there alongside the 'Gorbals Boys' statue. J. Sechaud mentioned the possibility of having a noticeboard around by the Necropolis, or developing the area around the Caledonia Road flats. J. Thomason mentioned that if the flats there are due for demolition, then having anything located in that area could be problematic for the moment, especially if the area will later be redeveloped.

Action Points: S. Hay will write to Fraser Stewart and Michael Fullerton concerning the Spirit of the Gorbals fund and what proposals they have for using the remaining funds.

D. Green will set up a working group with I. Devlin to put together a range of proposals for how the money could be spent.

11. EMAILS AND WEBSITE

J. Thomason suggested that the Community Council should really have its own office bearers' email accounts to help with administration and continuity when there are changes in office bearers. The website also should have agendas and minutes uploaded to it.

ACTION POINT: S. Hay will look into the possibility of creating emails with a handle for Community Council office bearers.

12. PLANNING AND LICENCING

Licensing

None.

S. Chase reported back from his investigation into planning applications concerning short-term lets. There have been four applications for short-term lets in the Gorbals, although all four were rejected. Reasons for rejection seemed to focus on a 'material change of use'. He cautioned, however, that if short-term lets have been running for over ten years they might then be allowed.

Action Points: S Chase will find the names of the planning officers to pass on to the Community Council office bearers.

S. Hay will also invite planning officers to come to the Council and speak on the issue.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

S. Hay highlighted areas of correspondence received by the Community Council over the past month:

(a) STV News

STV News want to be kept up to date with activities in the community. They want to be added to future mailing lists and be kept in touch with anything that the Council think might be of interest to STV.

(b) Community councillor training

Community councillors are invited to join 'Place at the Table' and 'Imagine If...' for a series of free training events on Local Place Plans.

(c) Community Council Annual Self-Assessment (Red, Amber, Green (RAG) Analysis)

Community councils are reminded by GCC to undertake an Annual Self-Assessment (Red, Amber, Green (RAG) Analysis). This Self-Assessment provides the Community Council with an opportunity to identify areas of development for the Community Council to operate efficiently and in accordance with the Scheme. The Self-Assessment should be completed and submitted to communitycouncils@glasgow.gov.uk by the last day of February to meet the standards of good practice for Community Councils.

(d) Burst water main

Updates about pipe burst and water outage on 2 February.

(e) Community Councils/ NHS 24

Free printed resources to help people navigate services.

(f) Consultation on SFRS Strategy 2025-28

Invitation to participate in the consultation on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service draft SFRS Strategy 2025-28. The consultation closes on 2 April 2025.

(g) National Speed Management Review: Online Engagement

Two online engagement events have been scheduled to provide information about the National Speed Management Review and proposed changes to speed limits in Scotland.

(h) Fiftieth Anniversary of Community Councils

In 2025, it is 50 years since Community Councils were established all over Glasgow and it is proposed that this opportunity is taken to recognise, celebrate and raise awareness of Community Councils and Community Councillors' role and contribution to the city, over the last 50 years.

(i) Nominations for the Royal Garden Party, Tuesday 1 July 2025

Nominations to be submitted by 21 March 2025.

14. GORBALS FAIR

J. Thomason has no date yet, but hopefully the Community Council will still have a stall. Council members will need to have a think about what we can do to bring people into the stall, particularly something that might get adults involved.

Action Point: Members encouraged to bring ideas about what we can do to the next meeting.

15. AOCB

I. Devlin mentioned that a few people in the area have approached her about there being nothing here for older people with dementia. She suggested something like a Choir could help.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at St Francis Community Centre on **Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 19.00.**