



# Dennistoun Community Council

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## Dennistoun Community Council

### Special Meeting

#### MINUTES

7-9pm, Tuesday 17 January 2019

Whitehill Secondary School Auditorium, 280 Onslow Drive, G31 2QF

**CCLrs Present** Lauren Bennie (LB) [*Chairperson*]; Angela Bretherton (AB); Elaine Docherty (ED); Ted Howie (TH); Brian Johnston (BJ); Ruth Johnston (RJ); Sean Kelly (SK); Wesley Wright (WW) [*Minute taker*]

**Others present:** Cllr Allan Casey; Cllr Elaine McDougall; Cllr Connelly; Ivan McKee MSP; Patrick Harvie MSP; Paul Sweeney MP  
200+ members of public

**Apologies:** Stephen Birrell (SB); David Williams (DW)  
Cllr Kim Long; Johann Lamont MSP

	ITEM	ACTION
<b>1</b>	<b>Recording of membership present and apologies received</b>	
	LB introduced the meeting, giving reasons for it being held, the format of meeting, and order of business, noted availability of microphones, requested no filming other than the official recording being made, noted housekeeping/safety issues, noted availability of a quiet room, acknowledged journalists present, circulated a sign-in sheet (with clarification of purpose).	
<b>2</b>	<b>Nature of calling notice for the Special Meeting</b>	
	As above.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Business for debate</b>	
	<b>a. Opening statement</b>	
	<p>Increase in reach of social media accounts approaching 10x. 31K views on Twitter. 1k+ interactions. Personal commitments noted. Respect from all participants expected.</p> <p><u>Elected member verbal reports:</u>  <b>Ivan McKee MSP:</b> Has written to Glasgow Life. Meeting on following Tuesday. Economic case for closure not acknowledged. Has written to Scot Gov health minister. Has spoken to GCC City Treasurer. Invited input from those present. Referenced success of Lightburn Hospital.</p> <p><b>Cllr Casey:</b> Has spoken with Glasgow Life. Met with Whitehill and Temple swimming clubs. Has met with City Treasurer also. £5m quoted in paper is indicative based on desktop study of outstanding work. 130,000 visits to the facility are noted.</p> <p><b>Cllr McDougall:</b> Spoke to Labour group leader. Has user numbers that can be made available. Suggested David McDonald (Chair, Glasgow Life) should be in attendance.</p> <p><b>Paul Sweeney MP:</b> Raised issue in House of Commons as an example of austerity measures. Root causes cited as being Westminster Gov 0.4% average cuts to Scottish Gov, and disproportionate cuts to the GCC budget. Problems with local government budgets, i.e. &lt;10% of budget raised locally. £0.5bn cut equates to 12.8% cut in recent years with a further further 3.8% planned. Will be writing to the Finance Minister.</p>	

**Cllr Connelly:** Has spoken with Conservative group. Whitehill Pool and Haghill Glasgow Club will not be included as a cut in the Conservative budget. Invited feedback.

**Patrick Harvie MSP:** Acknowledged the efforts made by those organising meetings and the response received. Two weeks today, Scot Gov votes on their budget. As proposed, big cuts are expected. Has met with Finance minister to discuss this issue, with a proposal for avoidance presented. Stressed importance of not losing any other similar facilities across Glasgow and Scotland.

Public attendees were invited to follow these comments, noted as follows...

**Deborah,** local resident, mother and user, speaking on behalf of Save Whitehill campaign group. Noted efforts of the campaign group so far. 17K followers on Facebook. Sense of community noted. Local services as a key part of local health and wellbeing.

**Peter,** chair of Temple Swimming Club. United efforts required to save the pool.

**Christina,** Save Whitehill. Pool and gym are both important facilities. Things to do: become a rep for family swim; talk about inequalities in Dennistoun, 40% of children in Dennistoun are in poverty, higher than Glasgow, people in Dennistoun are dying earlier than the average in Scotland; noted inequalities that could be affected by closure; contacted all local elected reps, all Commonwealth Games swimmers; contacted Glasgow Life, asking for the impact assessment; meets at St Andrews East Parish Church on Alexandra Parade, every Wednesdays from 6:30pm;

**Irene,** Temple Swimming Club. People come from all over the city to use the facility; in 2004 Temple pool was shut; only two pools with disability facilities in Glasgow; used by blocks of 500 Glasgow children from across Glasgow each term; BAME children can have private, single-gender swimming sessions.

**Child swimming campaigner.** Does not want Whitehill Swimming to close! :-)

**Allan,** Chair of Milnbank HA. Huge levels of contact from the public; committee meeting on Tuesday, 100% support for keeping the pool open, offered various types of practical help to campaigners.

**Dr Phil Mason,** Urban Big Data Centre. A large body of research shows that people who do physical forms of activity have better physical and mental health. Heavily used, well-supported facility. Can't just expect Dennistoun users to transfer to another facility such as Tollcross. Hopes to be able to offer evidence-based input, as required.

**Jarden,** local resident and regular user of pool and gym. Acknowledged efforts of DCC and campaigners so far. Comments/questions to elected representatives – is there a person with responsibility for the direction of Glasgow Life – will they be along at a future meeting? Emphasised importance of saving Whitehill Pool in face of austerity and that it's not right to put *people against people*. People in recovery from drug and alcohol problems are a group of users whose health and wellbeing should not be forgotten in the context of leisure facilities. *[LB noted that each political party has a representative responsible for issues related to Glasgow Life.]* Unacceptability of 'local' alternatives (too far away/too difficult to access) should be noted in an impact assessment.

**'The Silver Swimmer'**, pool user and local artist. Abolition of free swimming for the over-65s.

**David,** PCS Union rep. Called for inclusion of trade unions, and for a 'no cuts budget'. Disputed the claim of the lack of power that GCC councillors have. Demo on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan noted.

**Derek,** Local resident. Not satisfied with councillor attendance, or structure. Dissatisfaction with

<p>money spent on Tollcross.</p> <p><b>Fatima</b>, Govanhill Baths Community Trust. 17 years of campaigning at that pool. Health and leisure facilities are not a cost, they are an investment. Smaller local pools like Whitehill and Govanhill serve sections of the public that are not served by other pools. Local users will not migrate to other facilities due to inaccessibility. Acknowledged work done so far by Save Whitehill Pool campaign.</p> <p><b>Angela</b>, DCC. Requested that Haghill Glasgow Club is not forgotten by the Save Whitehill Pool campaign. Expressed an interest in being involved with the campaign.</p> <p><b>Geraldine</b>, local resident and pool user. Undergoing radiotherapy, for which swimming is a great help. Wouldn't be able to travel to an alternative facility. Physical and mental health would suffer severely as a result.</p> <p>Self-identified 'disabled gentleman'. Stressed the importance of the facility to the local community and an integral part of the school campus. Also noted a desire for local government reform.</p> <p>An itemised billing of quoted figures is required. <i>[LB noted a DCC FoI request for figures about the three facilities.]</i></p> <p><b>David Green</b>, Whitehill Swimming Club. Against setting up a committee. As it would over-formalise the efforts in place so far.</p> <p><b>Jim</b>, Govanhill Baths Community Trust. Noted the efforts in place to date. Sun 27<sup>th</sup> January event planned. Recognised the efforts of <i>all</i> elected representatives. (Declaration of interest: Labour party employee).</p> <p><b>Claire</b>, local resident and user. Questioned the structure of the campaign group and noted that it should not be overly political so as not to lose focus. Important to not just be online.</p> <p><b>Susan</b>, resident. Wanted to highlight the golf course, bowling green, tennis, and Alexandra Bike Hub facilities as also being important.</p> <p><b>Alan, Save Whitehill Pool</b> - response to multi-facility issue: noted that the campaign is for saving all the facilities, with Whitehill Pool as a point to rally around. <i>[LB asked the Q: What if 'Save the pool but close the others' became a formal suggestion or proposal?]</i> Response was that the elected representatives should answer the question, but Save Whitehill Pool invites all campaigners to get involved to save all the leisure facilities.</p>	
<p><b>b. Formation of Campaign Steering Committee</b></p>	
<p>LB asked those present:</p> <p><i>Are you happy for Save Whitehill Pool to continue to be the lead campaign for saving all the local leisure facilities?</i></p> <p>By a show of hands, the motion was passed by acclaim.</p> <p>Closing comments:</p> <p><b>Freya</b>, local pool user. Requested clarification on communications. LB clarified DCC involvement.</p> <p><b>Alan, Save Whitehill Pool</b>. Will Councillors request permission for posting of Save Whitehill Pool campaign posters etc from Glasgow Life and the School? Ivan/Alan/Elaine will enquire and feed back to the campaign team.</p>	

	<b>c. Facilitation of Campaign Steering Committee elections</b>	
	i. Chairperson (or other appropriate title as decided by community)	
	Not required. See above.	
	ii. Vice Chairperson (or other appropriate title as decided by community)	
	Not required. See above.	
	iii. Secretary (or other appropriate title as decided by community)	
	Not required. See above.	
	iv. Treasurer and Fundraiser	
	Not required. See above.	
	v. Committee Members (approx. 12-15 members of the community)	
	Not required. See above.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Close of DCC Special Meeting meeting</b>	
	Meeting closed, with the room handed over to the Save Whitehill Pool Campaign, available online via <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SaveWhitehillPool/">https://www.facebook.com/SaveWhitehillPool/</a> with meetings to be held on Wednesdays, from 6:30pm, at St Andrew's East Church Hall, 681 Alexandra Parade.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Next DCC Meeting</b>	
	Ordinary Meeting, from 7pm, on 12 February 2019, at Bluevale Community Centre, 30 Abernethy Street, G31 3SX. Apologies to be submitted to secretary via <a href="mailto:hello@dennistouncc.org.uk">hello@dennistouncc.org.uk</a> .	