

FEBRUARY 1989

A. McPaul.

## PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting in St Philip's Church Hall (Session House) at 7.30pm on Monday February 13, 1989.

**Present:** Gordon McRae, C I Andrew Watt (L&B Police), Harold Alexander-Bowen, Drew Strachan, Marjorie Amos, Rena Begg, Vivienne Middleton, Franny Wraith, Cllr, Dickie Alexander (EDC-Milton), Sue Hurford, Hamish Shepherd, Gill Anderson, Helen Kirsopp, Henry Wanless, Maureen Child (Acting Secretary), Andy MacDonald (Acting Chairman), Wilma Henderson, Cllr, David Begg (LRC - Portobello/Milton).

**Apologies:** Florence Jones (Treasurer), Karen Begg, Christine Alexander, Angela Murray, Karen Angelosanto, Margaret Shepherd, Tom Fairlie, Gavin Strang MP, Cllr Ken Ward, Cllr Bill Herald, Cllr Paul Nolan, Bernadette Heron, Bill Davidson, *Margaret Shepherd* *Waugh*.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Jean Scott.

1, **Minutes of the January 9th Meeting**, Approved (Proposed Drew Strachan; seconded Marjorie Amos), Matters Arising - Copies of the constitution were available for members' information.

2, **Financial Statement**, Helen Kirsopp reported on progress, Colin O'Brien not available to help, Investigations into the accounts and items of correspondence by PCC had raised more questions than answers about the PCC finances and things done in PCC'S name from March 1987 to the present day, Helen made a formal proposal that PCC was doing irreparable harm in letting things drag on and the matter should be handed over to the police, Seconded by Marjorie Amos, Discussion followed, General consensus that the decision, though drastic and painful, could not be avoided, The meeting asked CI Andrew Watt's advice about the details of what would be required from PCC members, office-bearers and the auditor and the implications if PCC decided to ask police to investigate, Further discussion, then the proposal put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Action: Maureen to write to Harry Dawson, letting him know of PCC's decision, saying he's still a member while investigations are going on, but he's free to invite someone else from the Portobello Playscheme to take his place in the mean time, Helen to meet with Dennis Hosie who is also meeting EDC's Neta Sinclair, No action yet on EDC bill for light bulbs still outstanding - no receipt found, Florence Jones left a statement of present bank balance (at 30.12.88) General A/c £673.61p (£196.61p cheque in hand from Festival); Portobello Illuminations A/c £12.19p; Joppa Tennis Courts A/c; £569.40p, Maureen to write to Edinburgh District Council re position with this year's grant since accounts still not passed audit, Police investigation will take months.

3, **Plan for Action**, The Chairman said he was doing a holding operation on PCC but gave some indication how he'd like the PCC to function in future, He wanted the public to get involved and the PCC to raise its profile as an umbrella organisation for all the various local interest groups, Would like representatives to go back to their groups and raise their enthusiasm about PCC joint ventures, Problem with casual vacancies, Ref; constitution - elected members replacement required a by-election but representatives of local organisations could be elected at an ordinary meeting, Chairman felt quorum for meetings set too high, specially with depleted numbers, Normally one quarter of membership, not one third, Chairman to prepare a motion in writing for a change in the constitution before next meeting.

4, **AUCE** (a) Access to Portobello North-South discussed, David Begg to take it up with Highways, (b) Shopkeepers restricted from putting merchandise on the pavements, By-law enforced by police in response to local government pressure, Discussed, (c) PCC Noticeboard discussed, Agreed Portobello Amenity Society could use space, if authorised by Secretary, (d) Litter and presentation of rubbish discussed, (e) Hamilton Lodge plans not yet forthcoming, (f) Portobello Local Plan Forum; Drew Strachan to represent PCC, (g) Lothian Region Transport Consultation - presented by David Begg and discussed, What about Portobello? Members agreed to put in questionnaires individually before 20th, if David Begg sent them out, (h) Disabled Access - Vivienne Middleton to write and follow up on 1987 action, (i) Portobello Community Council - Brian Cramb reported deficit of £1500 reduced to a few hundred by fundraising, PCC agreed to write off the £196.69 original stake by tearing up the cheque Treasurer holds (Proposed Sue Hurford, seconded Drew Strachan) Action; Helen Kirsopp, Vote of thanks to Brian Cramb and Festival Committee, without whom the deficit would have been much bigger, Applause unanimous, (j) Correspondence re:- Joppa Tennis Courts - grant application from Scottish Sports Council to await Treasurer's return, EDC Recreation Department letter saying they will do an estimate of work required; Joppa Allotments - letter to Planning Forum written and matter raised there; Licensing applications discussed - no objections raised.