

MARCH 1989

**PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting in St Philip's Church Hall (Session House), Brunstane Road North, 7.30pm-9pm on Monday March 13, 1989.

**Present:** Elizabeth Brownlee, Marjorie Amos, Ray Lang, Sue Hurford, Gill Anderson, Helen Kirsopp, Vivienne Middleton, Drew Strachan, Harold Alexander-Bowen, Angela Murray, Rena Begg, Insp, Jim Gray (Portobello Police), Henry Wanless, Franny Wraith, Cllr Ken Ward (LRC Mountcastle/Willowbrae), Cllr David Begg (LRC Portobello/Milton), Maureen Child (Acting Secretary), Andy MacDonald (Acting Chairman), Bill Davidson.

1. **Apologies.** Florence Jones (Treasurer), Karen Begg, Gavin Strang MP, Cllr Paul Nolan (LRC Niddrie Craigmillar), Bernadette Heron, Catherine Kilgour, Margaret Waugh, Bill Jameson (Community Education).

2. **Minutes of the February 13th Meeting.** Approved (Proposed - Rena Begg; Seconded - Henry Wanless).

3. **Matters Arising.** (a) Joppa Tennis Courts. Gales had blown in the East fence, and courts were too dangerous for play (Drew Strachan). Secretary to contact the EDC Recreation Department asking for the fence to be re-instated to allow Grassroots tennis coaching scheme to go ahead in the 6 weeks beginning 26th April.

(b) Disabled Access. No correspondence found. Vivienne Middleton going to move matters on.

(c) Joppa Allotments. Tenants given notice to quit by 15th May 1989 but tenancy agreement requires 12 months notice in writing and this still stands. Drew Strachan to take the matter up at the Planning Forum. PCC to give them support, as and when required.

4. **Speaker: Mark Kennedy (Lothian Credit Union Development Agency) on 'Setting up a Community-Based Credit Union'.** Mark described what Credit Unions are, what they can achieve, and what is involved in setting one up. Portobello would be an ideal place; it has a good mixture of people and community spirit. On hearing the case made, the meeting agreed it would be a good idea in principle, and that it would be possible for the PCC to sow the seed to get a Portobello Credit Union off the ground. An article is to be organised for the next Portobello Reporter, and members were asked to think about recruiting members of other organisations. Mark Kennedy was thanked for his contribution.

4. **Proposed Change to the Constitution.** The Portobello Community Council Constitution (Clause 15) says: "No business shall be transacted at a Meeting of the Community Council unless at least 15 of the whole number of representatives of the Community Council, . . . , are present."

It was proposed we change the constitution to read "10" for "15", in line with the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 Article 7, para 4 (1). Proposer - Andy MacDonald; Seconder - Maureen Child. Discussion:- On the one hand, there was some concern this shouldn't mean members become complacent about the need for them to turn up at meetings. On the other hand, it was felt that if 10 enthusiastic people did turn up, they ought to be empowered to conduct the business of the Council. The proposal was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

*A. McDonald*

13/3/89

5. Correspondence Out: (a) Acting Secretary had written to Neta Sinclair re financial support and insurance against loss of funds, with copies to Councillors Begg, Ward, Alexander and Kerevan. No reply yet, (b) Letter sent to Harry Dawson along the lines decided in February meeting.

In: (a) Bill Jameson (Team Leader in Community Education) wants to come along and talk about community facilities in Portobello. Agreed, Secretary to write and invite him to the April meeting. (b) 8th Joint Forum of Community Councils on Saturday 29th April 9.45am-1pm in Broughton McDonald Church Hall, East Broughton Place. Up to 6 representatives required (1 per topic) and £15 to cover costs. No takers at the meeting. (c) Lord Provost's Reception for community groups, Thursday 30th March 6.30pm-7.30pm, City Chambers. After the meeting, Harold Alexander-Bowen volunteered to go. (d) Cockburn Society - Civic Forum. Every 6 months, £15 to join. Decided not to take part but ask Helen Kirsopp of Portobello Amenity Society to keep us informed of anything relevant. (e) Copy of a letter from David Begg to Ian Tait (Butcher) re pedestrian and vehicle access within Portobello. Cllr Begg had taken the matter up with Highways. He reported there was no precedent for providing a shuttle bus, since a bus route had not been cut in closing Brunstane Bridge and the cost of a frequent service would be prohibitive. Engineers will probably finish in May, LRC putting pressure on BR to finish as soon as possible. (f) Licensing Applications. No obvious cause for concern. (g) Noble Amusements (Mark Noble) letter following 'Evening News' article in which Cllr Begg, Mr Jackson (Headteacher at Towerbank Primary) and Acting Secretary all misquoted. Portobello arcades made out to be full of primary school children addicted to playing the machines. The 'Daily Record' article was reported to be even worse. Police Station meeting convened by Cllr Begg, with Helen Kirsopp representing PCC, police and arcade owners. Cllr Begg impressed with responsible attitude and voluntary code of conduct of arcade owners. He was satisfied there was no major problem and regretted not taking the matter up with them in the first place. He thought there were too many arcades already, and would oppose any more opening. (h) Letter from Portobello Community Festival per Brian Cramb, thanking PCC for 'grant' of £196.69p as discussed last meeting. (i) Portobello Local Plan Forum to discuss transport on 16th March. Representatives of local groups needed. Drew Strachan PCC representative. (j) Edinburgh Advertiser keen to publish news about Portobello and to announce forthcoming local events. Contact - Jane Kerr, Edinburgh Advertiser, 30 Gardeners Crescent. (k) Letter to Bernadette Heron, but intended for PCC, from new 'Misty's' owner, Graeme Hepburn. He wants to allay community's fears about a repetition of previous trouble. Decided to ask him to the April meeting to talk about his intentions. (l) Skateboard Park. Follow-up letter to the District Council, reporting on the recent Competition on the Prom, and asking them to look at ways, means and sites for a purpose-built park. Secretary to try and get details about the Livingston Park. Copy of letter to go to Euan Bruce and Chris Cook of the skateboarders' delegation.

6. AOCB None

7. Date and times of future meetings. As agreed, Gill Anderson ~~had~~ arranged the remaining five meetings of this Council. They're on the second Monday in the month, in the St Philip's Session House unless otherwise indicated - i.e. April 10th, May 8th, June 12th (in the Baird Hall), August 14th and September 11th. As in previous years, there's no July meeting.

A. M. D. W.