

MAY 1989

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting in St Philip's Church Hall (Session House), Brunstane Road North 7.30pm on Monday 8th May 1989.

Present: Helen Kirsopp, Catherine Kilgour, Cllr. David Begg (for Speaker's presentation), Frances Wraith, C I Andrew Watt (Portobello Police), Harold Alexander-Bowen, Marjorie Amos, Cllr. Ken Ward, Karen Angelosanto, Gordon McRae, Sue Hurford, Ray Lang, Nick Stroud (Local Resident), Drew Strachan (arrived 8.25pm), Andy MacDonald (Acting Chairman), Maureen Child (Acting Secretary). (Representatives present 11-12. Quorum 10); **Elizabeth Brownee**.

- 1. Apologies:** Vivienne Middleton, Angela Murray, Gavin Strang M.P., Margaret Waugh, Florence Jones (Treasurer), Bernadette Heron, Henry Wanless, Gill Anderson, Rena Begg.
- 2. Minutes of the April 8th Meeting.** Approved (Proposed - Harold Alexander-Bowen; Seconded - Sue Hurford).
- 3. Matters Arising.** Wilson's Park Secretary reported she had followed this up. EDC say they aim to start environmental improvement in this bit of land when all the work on the houses is done and completion certificates signed. The housing department is to concentrate first on Bath Street when it starts its urban renewal programme in Portobello the end of this year. Joppa Tennis Courts EDC had repaired the fence ahead of schedule and the Grass Roots tennis coaching scheme was in progress.
- 4. Speaker: Lawrence Marshall from Edinburgh Railway Action Group** made the case for re-opening the suburban railway (sub) system to passenger traffic as a financially viable, off-street option to form part of Lothian Regional Council's plans for the future of transport in the city. Discussed the siting of a Portobello rail halt (Joppa is not on the sub). While the Station Brae (original) site seemed best for pedestrians from central Portobello, it is hemmed in and difficult for vehicle access. The freightliner terminal site would be ideal for park-and-ride facilities. Cllr David Begg said LRC were looking seriously at the sub as a viable option now, because of the success of the campaign in convincing the general public and Councillors of its viability. After discussion, it was decided to draft a letter, supporting the re-opening of the sub with a frequent service and a rail halt for Portobello, on a site to be determined, and send it to LRC transportation committee and Scotrail. (Proposed - Franny Wraith; Seconded - Sue Hurford)
- 5. Community Council Elections** The office bearers suggested a date - Thursday 21st September 1989. Some members said they felt willing to stand again as individuals, or be nominated by the groups they represent. The Acting Secretary suggested we get prepared in advance, and used The Portobello Reporter for publicity about nominations and the work the Community Council could do. Those at the meeting agreed to ask people to stand who (in their judgement) would attend regularly, make a worthwhile contribution. Agreed to report back to the June meeting. The Secretary agreed to serve on a sub-committee to organise the elections and Karen Angelosanto agreed to serve nearer the end of the summer. Two more volunteers needed. Secretary to contact Neta Sinclair again for information.
- 6. Treasurer's Report.** (In absentia) General a/c: £673.61p ; Joppa Tennis Courts a/c: £539.80p; Illuminations a/c: £12.19p. Treasurer had traced the £100 grant from PCC to Joppa Tennis Courts and back again - Drew Strachan had said JTC should have it returned. The Treasurer wanted to resist this. The Treasurer reported she had paid the £50 rent last year from PCC General a/c and wanted to call it quits, since (she argued) JTC a/c was in a healthy state now, and in no need of a grant from the General a/c. Agreed that this should wait till both the Treasurer and Drew Strachan and/or Vivienne Middleton were present, so both sides of the argument could be heard and a decision made. Treasurer had an up-to-date application form from the Sports Council for a grant to renew the courts' surface. A JTC sub-committee meeting needed to sort out the information required.
- 7. Correspondence** Sub-Committee for the Elderly Vivienne Middleton had reported a site meeting was to be arranged at the Baths and Town Hall to look at disabled access. Joppa Allotments No approach by the owner to planning department and no reply to tenants'

A. McPhee

