

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 94th meeting, held on 13th January 1992 in the Portobello Centre.

PRESENT:

Nick Stroud (Vice Chairman), Florence Jones (Treasurer)
Iain Abbot, Marjorie Amos, Gill Anderson (St Philips Church), Rena Begg, Cllr David Begg, Norman Hughes, Cllr George Kerevan, Ray R.Lang, Jack MacDonald, Sheila McIvor (Portobello High School), Jim McMillan, Gordon McRae, Sgt Arthur Mackey (Portobello Police), Lawrence Marshall, John Maule (Brighton Residents), Brenda Molony, George Murray, Frances Wraith, Len Young.

APOLOGIES:

Dennis Hosie (Auditor), Norman Kerr.

94.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

See separate minutes.

94.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 93rd MEETING

2a Norman Hughes expressed his appreciation of Norman Kerr's hospitality following the December meeting, to general approval.

2b Community Council Membership

Iain Abbot pointed out that the December meeting was inquorate, with only 14 elected representatives present, and that with Maggy Jones' retiral there is now an extra vacancy on the Council. It was agreed:

- to draw up a definitive list of Council Members and their correct addresses.
- to collect complete sets of minutes for ourselves and for the Library.
- to publish a quarterly list of Council members and their attendances.
- to use the Community Council Noticeboard at the Police Station.

2c Ethnic contacts

Gordon McRae suggested that Drew Strachan ask Scott Weatherstone (Local Forum worker) for help in establishing contact with local ethnic groups.

2d Secretary

Sandra Blake could be invited to resume the role of Community Council Secretary, and Tom Smith has indicated that he would be prepared to take on the office. Norman Hughes suggested that the Community Council investigate the possibility of collaborating with the Business Group to employ secretarial assistance and he will take that up with them at their forthcoming 'rejuvenation' meeting.

2e Local Forum

The relationship between the Local Forum and the Community Council was queried. The Forum has an Agenda Sub-committee which should include the Chairman and

Secretary of the Community Council, and thereby take account of Community Council minutes and interests: it is our responsibility to ensure that we are represented there. Cllr Kerevan will give Scott Weatherstone a copy of our latest minutes; we must ensure that Scott is on our mailing list.

Gill Anderson and Gordon McRae hope to attend the meeting of the Local Forum on Tuesday 21st January, at Magdalene Community Centre, and will report back on any items which affect Portobello. The agenda for the next Local Forum meeting will be tabled at each Community Council meeting.

2f Pavement obstruction

Legislation concerning shop displays on pavements was implemented differently in different parts of Edinburgh (very strictly in Portobello). The Procurator Fiscal was asked to give precise guidelines and recommended that the police only act in cases of “significant obstruction” or in response to complaints from members of the public. The situation is now felt (and hoped) to be satisfactorily under control.

2g Portobello Working Group

Cllr Kerevan confirmed that this Group does not have any executive powers but is simply a forum in which Council officials from different departments can coordinate their activities in Portobello: they would take no decisions without consulting the people of Portobello (as happened recently in the Town Hall meeting to discuss the Prom proposals). He agreed to make sure that if we invited a Council official to a meeting, one would attend.

It was agreed that we would invite David Leslie of the Planning Department, who is chairman of the Working Group, to address the Community Council as soon as possible, on the nature, role and plans of the Working Group, and also to respond to our specific questions and comments.

2h The New Porty Reporter

Several members did not receive the December issue of the Reporter. Brenda Molony, for the Reporter Group, pointed out that this was the first delivery by new distributors, and that while they generally succeeded very well they had made a few mistakes. The next issue is due in March and people are requested to inform VIP if their copy has not turned up by the end of the month. More copies will be given to the High School, and consideration given to leaving more copies in the Library and perhaps in local shops, maybe even to sell.

2i Signpost for Tennis Courts

Gill Anderson has received a letter from Lothian Regional Council saying that a simple double-sided sign pointing to the tennis courts up Morton Street from Joppa Road would cost some £140 plus full responsibility for subsequent maintenance. In view of the more urgent need to resurface the courts it was agreed to refer this matter to the Tennis Courts Sub-committee, with a request that they report back to the full Council on their organisation, plans and accounts.

94.3 TREASURER'S REPORT

Florence Jones reported that we currently have:

- £1,100 on deposit
- £1,000 in the bank
- £542 in the Tennis Courts account.

94.4 REORGANISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The recent Scottish Office consultation on local government reform is not likely to go any further before the General Election.

The Boundary Commission is currently rearranging ward boundaries in Edinburgh to take account of recent population movements, and this is likely to have an effect on Portobello and Joppa. Their proposals are on display in the George IV Library with comments required by Easter, though the new boundaries will probably not come into effect until 1994.

94.5 PLANNING ISSUES

5a SEWAGE PUMPING STATION

This has received planning permission and is now out to tender: no one is aware of any problems.

5b DRY SPORTS CENTRE

The Scottish Office will settle this planning application from written submissions. The District Council has money available to build the Centre as soon as they receive permission.

5c SCOTTISH POWER OFFICES

This will be the Headquarters for Scottish Power's Lothian operation, and a great coup for Portobello with 500 people working there. Outline planning permission has been requested but since they are anxious to get in quickly we may be able to encourage them to make a positive contribution to this sensitive site. They have declined to commission a significant work of art at this gateway to Portobello.

5d GO-KART TRACK

Work has apparently started on this, with a large area of the Freightliner site now fenced off.

94.6 PORTOBELLO BUSINESSES

Norman Hughes informed the meeting that the Hamilton Lodge Hotel has gone into voluntary liquidation and the Promms wine bar is up for sale, following on last month's closure of La Mer. On the other hand 150 Australian and New Zealand visitors thought highly of Portobello and could be followed by many more. He is holding regular "250th Anniversary" Banquets this year at the Rockville and hopes other local businesses will do things to mark the year. He will ask the Business Group to draw up a list of venues, accommodation and other attractions to try and entice Festival and

Fringe companies to Portobello, and approach Leslie Evans to see if the Town Hall can be included in the package.

94.7 THE BUS GATE AT ASDA

This has never worked, and the Highways department are prevaricating over it.

Lothian Regional Council are currently awaiting Scottish Office permission to experiment with cameras to help calm traffic problems in Edinburgh's accident blackspots.

94.8 NEW BUS SERVICE TO NEWCRAIGHALL

Cllr Begg has persuaded Lothian Regional Council of the need for a new bus service to link Portobello directly to the facilities at Craig Park. There are two or three options for the route, so an official will be invited to our March meeting to discuss them.

94.9 ACCESS TO PORTOBELLO LIBRARY

Jim McMillan has found that a number of people have difficulty with the heavy doors into Portobello Library — particularly the elderly and mothers with prams and young children. Cllr Kerevan will see if anything can be done about this, one possibility being that they are converted to automatic sliding doors.

94.10 NEXT MEETING

It was generally agreed that we should continue to hold our meetings on Monday evenings, even though these are difficult for some members: very early on in the life of this Council we polled members and found that Monday was the best night. Since we only have another seven meetings until the election we will leave further consideration of this matter to the new Council.

The dates for our remaining seven meetings will therefore as usual be on the second Monday of each month, as follows:

10th February

9th March

13th April

11th May

8th June

13th July

10th August

All meetings will be at 7:30pm in the Portobello Centre, Adelphi Grove.