

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 111th meeting, held on 29th September 1993 in Portobello Town Hall.

PRESENT:

Len Young (Chair), Susan Westwood (Treasurer)
Harold Alexander-Bowen, Sandy Begg, Celia Butterworth, Kathleen Hart, Norman Hughes,
Shaun Hutchison, Keith Jeffrey, Ray Lang, Sgt Arthur Mackey, Lawrence Marshall,
George Murray, Gordon Stirling, Andrew L. Strachan, Nick Stroud.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr David Begg, Cllr George Kerevan, Yvonne Motion, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith,
Tom Smith, Dr Gavin Strang, Bill Westwood.

111.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Len Young welcomed everyone to the meeting, and pointed out that this was Portobello Community Council's AGM for 1993.

111.2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Accepted.

111.3 MATTERS ARISING

111.3a New Sports Centre: the planning application for this is still with the Scottish Office (as of today, 29th September). The Local Forum has agreed to retain its Sport Centre sub-committee, to allow local people to help with its management.

111.3b Portobello Reporter: there was general disappointment that the *Reporter* hadn't corrected its earlier article about the demise of the Community Council. Len Young will ask them to do so in the next issue.

111.3c Auditors: Dennis Hosie has agreed to continue as the Community Council's Auditor, and has audited the accounts submitted to this meeting.

111.3d Scottish Conservation Trust: we should keep them in mind for next year; Celia Butterworth has all the paperwork.

111.3e Environmental Action Forum: we should keep them in mind for the future.

111.3f Capital Rail Action Group: further information awaited from Lawrence Marshall.

111.3g Illuminations: the £126 voted by a recent meeting of the Community Council is nothing like enough to repair the lights on the Promenade. We will try to form an enthusiastic sub-committee next Spring to consider how best to proceed.

111.3h Straiton Place Play Area: no further information. Dog-fouling to be on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting.

111.3i Relationship between Community Council and Portobello Centre: Tom Smith is having difficulty identifying office-bearers of Portobello's societies and associations (the

Library's records are very out of date). It is therefore not possible to organise a general meeting in October. We will try again later.

111.3j Area Review Boards: many objections have been raised about their structure but it remains to be seen if these will have any effect.

111.3k Portobello Initiative: Norman Hughes is meeting with Iain Abbot and Cllr George Kerevan to explore the possibility of setting up a sub-committee of the Local Forum to develop tourist-funding opportunities – for example to get LEEL's Promenade developments moving. Norman expressed regret that the Community Council is not at the hub of life in Portobello.

111.4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Len Young pointed out that he has only held the Chair for two meetings; he picked out the main items of interest which he has noticed in that time.

We are now affiliated to the Scottish Association of Community Councils, and looking forward to finding out more about how other Councils operate.

The Chairman has attended several meetings of the Local Forum's sub-committee dealing with the Sports Centre, in which connection he mentioned a recent planning application from Lothian Regional Council to extend the sports facilities at the High School, and to make them available for community use.

A cycle path has been established along the Promenade from the foot of Westbank Street westwards to Seafield (near the sewage works), and to Leith Docks: this should be a great asset to those who cycle in this direction.

Recycling facilities are to be resited at Fishwives' Causeway. It was generally agreed that this was not ideal, but better than nothing.

The Brunstane Burn path has been decently surfaced from Brunstane Road South to the railway bridge. There is continuing anxiety about the Eastfield end of this Public Right Of Way, and its occasional obstruction by a local landowner. The meeting requested that the Community Council write to the Highways department asking for a signpost to be erected at the Eastfield end.

The Chairman has attended several meetings on behalf of the Community Council: a Lothian Regional Council exhibition at Meadowbank on its Clean Sea Project; Amenity Society and Festival Association AGMs; all Local Forums and their agenda meetings (which are useful for liaising with the Community Council); and the campaign to have Edinburgh declared the 'City of Architecture' for the year 2000.

111.5 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer distributed copies of two accounts: one up to the end of our financial year on 31st March 1993; and one from 1st April to 10th September 1993 so that the books could be audited and seen to be in order at her resignation. We have still to pay £37.80 for hire of the Town Hall and £6 for photocopying, while on the other hand £246.76 had just arrived as our grant from the District Council, which will bring our current account up to £336.44.

The Joppa Tennis Courts remain a problem in that we have still not received accounts from them. The full Community Council accounts cannot be in order without them, and we must put this right before presenting our accounts to the District Council in November or we may not get our grant. Drew Strachan will try and get the Tennis accounts and pass them to Len Young. The meeting expressed its appreciation of Drew's effort in maintaining communications between the Council and the Tennis Courts committee.

The Treasurer announced that she was resigning with immediate effect. The meeting expressed its unanimous and considerable appreciation of Susan's work as Treasurer and in seeing the Council through a difficult time.

111.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 111.6a Water Sports Club site: an article in the Portobello Reporter criticises the low standard of development planned for this. Portobello Amenity Society has objected about the misalignment of the development on the Prom side though is satisfied with the alignment in Pittville Street. Unfortunately the Planning Committee of the District Council has very little power to modify proposed developments. It was agreed that we might consider inviting planning officials to a future Council meeting.
- 111.6b We need more people in the Community Council to share the workload. The Chairman asked all Councillors to invite people to meetings.
- 111.6c The Treasurer requested that we show our appreciation to our Auditor with a £25 token: this was agreed.
- 111.6d Sandy Smith conveyed his anxiety concerning rubbish in the streets. It was agreed that we should write to the Cleansing Department asking them: to remind all households of the rules concerning the disposal of rubbish; to provide three collections for trade rubbish per week instead of two as at present; to provide more litter bins, especially around schools; and to come to a meeting of the Community Council, if possible in November.
- 111.6e Portobello Museum: the Portobello Museum Trust which the Community Council helped to establish some four years ago is now meeting again after a hiatus, as there is some hope of getting suitable accommodation. Nick Stroud is the Community Council's representative on the Trust.

111.7 FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday 26th October in Portobello Library.

Tuesday 23rd November (invite Director of Cleansing).

Tuesday 14th December.

All meetings at 7:30pm.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 112th Ordinary Meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held on Tuesday 26th October 1993 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Library, Rosefield Avenue.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Sub-Committee Reports**
- 5. Election of new Treasurer**
- 6. Treasurer's Report**
- 7. Dog-fouling**
- 8. AOCB**
- 9. Date of next meeting**