

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 116th meeting, held on 28th February 1994 in Portobello Library

PRESENT:

Len Young (Chair), Tom Smith (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Sandy Begg, David Begg, Norman Hughes, Shand Hutchison, Ray Lang, Iain McDiarmid,
Yvonne Motion, George Murray, Margaret Smith, Gordon Stirling, Andrew Strachan, Nick Stroud.

APOLOGIES:

Sgt Lesley Boal (Portobello Police), Celia Butterworth, Lawrence Marshall, Dr Gavin Strang.

116.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed those present, and introduced Iain McDiarmid of the Cockburn Association.

116.2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Acceptance proposed by Drew Strachan and seconded by Sandy Begg.

116.3 WATERFRONT PROJECT

Iain McDiarmid was invited to address the meeting, and started by stating the aims and policies of the Cockburn Association – namely, to protect open spaces and the Green Belt, to encourage good use of derelict land, to try to form a Blue Belt along the coastline, and to encourage more public interest and involvement in planning, particularly through groups like Community Councils.

The Waterfront Project is an attempt to have a continuous footpath/cyclepath from Cramond to Musselburgh as a first step to having a Blue Belt which will not be defined rigidly in miles but will be an area where unsightly commercial building is controlled and more leisure use made of what nearly always ends up looking like derelict land and seems to attract only the most 'unfriendly' enterprise.

A lively discussion with questions and answers followed the presentation, and with the reminder that we should all contact the Cockburn Association when we see things in our area that please us as well as distress us, the speaker was given a vote of thanks.

It is hoped to produce a booklet and mount an exhibition about the Waterfront Project

116.4 MATTERS ARISING

- 116.4a Hanging baskets: waiting for more information about costs, or another supplier.
Celia Butterworth to follow up.
- 116.4b Air pollution from by-pass: Shand Hutchison has contacted the Environmental Health Department and has arranged for the installation of monitoring equipment in his house. However, since the measurements require windows to be left open all the time, it was decided to postpone tests until the weather is warmer.
- 116.4c Portobello Festival Association trophies: some of the cups were displayed at the meeting, and it was decided to have cost of repairs and perhaps a valuation before carrying on with providing a display case. It was suggested that Kenna Crawford might help us with this.
The Secretary will contact her.
- 116.4d Amendment of Constitution: Neta Sinclair has been advised and has agreed to expedite the matter. Until such time as we hear to the contrary, our new Quorum is as described in the minutes of 26th January 1994.

- 116.4e Windsor Place Church: a letter was received from the Planning Department saying that so far no change of use application has been received by them, but if one is lodged then of course local objections will be considered.
- 116.f Notice Board at Town Hall: permission has been granted to move the board as long as we make good the old site. The Chairman and Secretary will deal with this.
- 116.4g East Edinburgh Plan: the Kilns have been designated ancient monuments, so are now protected.

116.5 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

116.6 TREASURER'S REPORT

As at 28th February 1994 the Council accounts are as follows:

General Account:	£ 109.10
Illuminations Account:	£ 126.88
Premier Account:	£1457.00
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 506.79

116.7 PROJECTS

The hanging baskets, display case and Heritage Trail leaflets are in hand.

A map of Portobello and tourist signposting will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Norman Hughes intimated that he has raised the matter of signposts at all entrances to the town with various officials.

Nick Stroud suggested that we should consider sponsoring art, photography and writing competitions every year. It was pointed out that we would need a lot of bodies and hours to organise and run them. The suggestions are still on the table.

116.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 116.8a Straiton Place development: plans are afoot to build on the grass area behind the tenements in Straiton Place. Local people are objecting and want our support on the grounds that this area has been for leisure/recreation for over 20 years. Some discussion took place and David Begg made the point that residential accommodation is needed in Portobello. This development was to have wheelchair access on the ground floor. It was also possible that the money derived from the land sale would enable the Council to buy the land in front of Bath Street Lane which has been an eyesore for years.

A vote of 6-3 decided that the Secretary would write to the planners, giving support to the objectors.

- 116.8b The Stevenson Symposium: a number of lectures as part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival will be held in the Royal Museum of Scotland on Saturday 16th April. Information from the Department of Public Affairs (225 7534 ext 219).
- 116.8c Portobello High School: a proposal for a new building, in front of the swimming pool, has been submitted.
- 116.8d Edinburgh District Community Councils Joint Forum: we have received an invitation to send up to five delegates to this meeting, at a cost of £15. It was agreed that the Chairman and George Murray would represent us.

116.9 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meetings of the Community Council will be held on the following dates, at 7:30pm in Portobello Library:

Monday 28th March

Monday 25th April

Monday 30th May

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 117th Ordinary Meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held on Monday 28th March 1994 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Library.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Sub-Committee Reports:**
Norman Hughes on the Portobello Initiative;
Town Map;
tourist signposting
- 5. Treasurer's Report**
- 6. Projects: progress report**
- 7. AOCB**
- 8. Dates of future meetings**