

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 121st meeting, held on 29th August 1994 in Portobello Library.

PRESENT:

Len Young (Chair), Tom Smith (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Harold Alexander-Bowen, Sandy Begg, Sgt Lesley Boal, Celia Butterworth, Linda Cormack,
Shand Hutchison, Lorna McLeod, Yvonne Motion, Nick Stroud.

Elsie Thom and Chris Cowie (Joppa Tennis Courts).

APOLOGIES:

Niall Alexander, Norman Hughes, Ray Lang, George Murray, Margaret Smith, Sandy Smith,
Drew Strachan, Gavin Strang.

121.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present, and especially the two representatives of the Joppa Tennis Courts.

121.2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes were accepted as correct (proposed by Harold Alexander-Bowen, seconded by Kathleen Hart).

121.3 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

The Chairman apologised for the delay in having this matter discussed. It was on the Agenda because a letter of complaint had been received saying that the writer felt there was a lack of professionalism and there seemed to be a bias on the part of the Chairman when it came to allowing time to speakers to make a point. The Chairman didn't feel that rigid procedure was appropriate at our meetings, and that any discrimination was not intentional.

One opinion was that meetings should be better controlled and new members should be given some kind of induction so that they knew what the objectives of the Community council were. It was pointed out that the agenda set out the business to be discussed and a request to the Secretary would have any subject put on the agenda for the next meeting: Council members and group representatives do not have to rely on AOCB to raise an important matter, though we do tend to work through 'Matters Arising' until each item is disposed of.

ss121.4 MATTERS ARISING

121.4a Funding of Youth Groups: a letter has been received from David Sinclair, Education Officer, saying that the Community Education Service is well aware of the need to keep funding of Youth Groups as a clear priority, and seeing no reason why this should change in the run up to 1996.

121.4b Trophy case: a letter has been sent to Museums of Scotland offering a nominal sum of £25 to defray administration costs, and a formal request has been sent to Margaret Sharp, Assistant Director of Recreation, for permission to install the case in Portobello Library. Removal from Newbattle to Portobello will cost about £50.

121.4c Rosefield traffic: a letter has been received from Mr Sandiland of the Transportation Department, saying that our ideas will be of help when deciding what measures to take. These

will not be implemented soon as a fairly lengthy legal procedure must be followed before a street closure can be carried out.

- 121.4d Christian Path: a letter has been received from the Transportation Department saying that the embankment along the Path is programmed for cleaning at the end of August. Christian Path is still owned by British Rail, but Lothian Regional Council is investigating its acquisition. The Lighting Section has also been involved.
- 121.4e Sea water cleanliness: the Secretary now receives weekly figures from the Forth River Purification Board and a graph has been produced for the Community Council notice boards showing that on only two occasions have the figures been outwith the recommended EC limits, despite all the bad publicity which chose to use the mandatory limits. We would like to see these measurements carried on into September so that we can gauge the impact of the new pumping station. The Secretary will write to the Purification Board to request this.
- 121.4f Joppa Tennis Courts: a meeting took place between JTC and our Committee, and agreement was reached on having receipts for monies paid out etc. The District Council has promised to provide one or two replacement bench seats, but these have not yet materialised.
- 121.4g Hanging Baskets: these are now mounted outside the Town Hall and are making a good show.
- 121.4h Tourist Board Map: a reply has been received from the Scottish Borders Tourist Board saying that this map was funded by various bodies who wished to have their attraction or location highlighted. The Tourist Board will try to have Portobello included in future issues, and will seek funding support from City sources.
- 121.4i Christmas lights and decorations: a letter was sent to Mr Dollen of the District Council's department of Administration asking for:
- new decorations
 - checking the old decorations if we have to use them
 - resiting the Christmas tree, or using low-voltage bulbs
 - refurbishment or removal of the Prom lights

Note: apropos of this last item, a letter has been received from a Prom resident asking that the lights be removed.

We have also received a letter from the Portobello Town Development Association, saying that they have organised sponsorship to refurbish the lights, and that work should start in August.

121.5 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

- 121.5a Joppa Tennis Club: JTC have £10 in hand which is needed for engraving. Elsie Thom is £40 out of pocket. It was agreed that she would be reimbursed from the JTC account.

It was also reported that the rent is being increased to £200 from April 1994 (it has been £50 since 1983). It was felt that we should appeal against this increase on the grounds that the courts are only kept open because the Community Council agreed to be responsible for running them, not to pay an economic rent. The Secretary will write to the Recreation Department with the JTC accounts to support the argument.

It was suggested that notices showing the location and charges of the Courts should be displayed on School notice boards.

- 121.5b Signposting and Town Map: the Scottish Wildlife Trust is keen to cooperate with the provision of plaques at Joppa Pans and the Kilns.

121.6 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Community Council accounts at 29th August 1994 are:

Current Account:	£ 242.95
Premier Investment Account:	£1982.11
Illuminations Account:	£ 126.88
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 204.39

Final Income and Expenditure Accounts for the period 11th September 1993 to 31st March 1994 have been submitted to Edinburgh District Council.

121.7 PROJECTS

- 121.7a Air Pollution: this project has been held over for further discussion on security of premises where equipment will be installed.

121.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 121.9a Promfest: a letter has been received from Anne King pointing out the failures and successes of Promfest, which was run by I.M.F., a Government-sponsored training scheme for the unemployed. On the whole the day was very successful, and could be even better next year if it is repeated.

- 121.9b Edinburgh: year of Architecture: several members volunteered to attend the meeting on 6th September to promote Edinburgh's bid to become the City of Architecture and Design.

- 121.9c Crime and Accident report: Sgt Boal gave the report for July, saying that there were no fatal road traffic accidents, although there had been several accidents involving minor injury, one of which required hospital attention. There were more bicycle thefts than usual. There was a 43% record of solved crime.

Lesley also pointed out that the Crime Prevention Panel needs new members. Anyone interested should contact Chief Inspector Dougan at Portobello Police Station.

- 121.9d Facilities for children: Nick Stroud pointed out that Portobello seems to have become very "children unfriendly", quoting the facts that we have been given a Bowling complex but no multi-use unit which children could make use of; "No ball games, No dogs" signs have been replaced with "No ball games" signs in some local parks, making it look as though dogs are more welcome there than children; and the paddling pool at John Street was being redecorated over the holidays – at the one time of the year when it is really popular, especially in the good summer we have had – and that in spite of the problems with pollution in the sea there was no water in the paddling pool all summer.

Nick asked that the Community Council mark 1994, the Year of the Family, by initiating some project to restore Portobello's child-friendliness.

It was felt that we should invite someone from the Recreation Department to one of our meetings to explain the District Council's policy on recreational facilities for children in our area. The Secretary will write.

121.9 FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Monday 26th September: this will be the AGM. Nominations for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer will be accepted up to the night of the meeting. The person being proposed must have agreed to accept nomination and must be proposed and seconded. Nominations can be left with Julia Cormack, the Librarian of Portobello Library.

Monday 31st October

Monday 28th November

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be the 12th Annual General Meeting,
which will be held
on Monday 26th September 1994 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Library.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies.**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Chairman's Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report**
- 6. Election of Officer Bearers**
- 7. AOCB**
- 8. Date of future meetings**