

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 133rd meeting, held on 30th October 1995 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chairman), Tom Smith (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)

Harold Alexander-Bowen, Sandy Begg, Sgt Peter Boni (Portobello Police), Cllr Maureen Child, Shand Hutchison, Emma Laidlaw, Osbert Lancaster, Julie Lodge, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Beryl Neill, Lesley Reid, Bob Robinson, Marjorie Shepherd (JTC), Margaret Smith, Nick Stroud, Keith Veitch, Kathleen Ward.

APOLOGIES:

Isobel Allan, Celia Butterworth, George Murray, Gavin Strang.

Note: people who wish to submit apologies at the last minute should notify Sandy Smith on 669 6534.

133.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present, especially the young people from the High School, and asked that we all introduce ourselves as there were a number of unfamiliar faces.

133.2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

With the correction that the apologies should include the representative from the Conservative Association, Kathleen Ward, who had not been notified of the meeting in time to attend, the minutes were accepted as correct: proposed by Shand Hutchison, seconded by Lesley Reid.

At this point the Chairman handed over the meeting to the Returning Officer, Julia Cormack.

133.3 MATTERS ARISING

133.3a Joppa Tennis Courts: the hut was painted by Edinburgh District Council. Concerning the complaints made to Cllr Child, a meeting had been held with a dozen or so people attending and the point was made that the Joppa Tennis Courts is a sub-committee of the Community Council, so some ground rules should be set – though District Council's Recreation department are quite happy with the way the courts are run. It was agreed that next season a board will be displayed giving:

- 1) Times of opening and duration of the season
- 2) Prices of a game, season ticket, etc
- 3) Contact name for booking or for joining the club
- 4) Instructions about retrieving or not retrieving balls from gardens

The courts are now closed until April 1996, and the nets should have been taken down and stored. The Club Committee will see to that.

It was agreed that Kathleen Hart will serve on the sub-committee. (See also AOCB.)

133.3b Christmas decorations: the Secretary gave a brief description of what is available from Wonderland Illuminations in Glenrothes, and it was agreed that the Chairman should approach Scottish Power with prices for:

- 1) string of 140 white Pealights (£87.90) and transformer (£110.25).

2) Set Piece Feature: a 1.4 metre star or 1.7 metre Christmas tree (£250 each) plus brackets (£50 each).

133.3c Litter around the Town Hall: the High School representatives said they were still being reminded about being tidy by the Headmaster.

133.3d “Towerbank Playground” (on Prom by Toddlers’ Hut): Shand Hutchison reported that work had started on the site but that the shelter was on a different contract. He had been given wrong information, so had cancelled his arrangements and will now have to start again. Item continued.

133.3e Signposting and plaques: a report from Celia was read out. The main points are:

- 1) A noticeboard will be provided free of charge by the Scottish Tourist Board, for a site near the Town Hall.
- 2) Quotes have been obtained for vandal-proof boards for Joppa Pans and the Kilns. Funding has been or will be sought from the Community Council, PAS, Buchan Pottery, Lothian Natural Environment, Post Office Community Care, Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland, Rotary and LEEL.
- 3) Five sites have been chosen for plaques on buildings: the Baptist Church and Police Station (former town halls), the present Town Hall, the site of William Jameson’s house in Rosefield, and the Tower.
- 4) Lothian Regional Council have agreed to roadside signs “Welcome to Portobello” at King’s Road, Eastfield and the Willowbrae/Duddingston crossroads.

133.3f Disturbance at Fun Fair: no further information: item continued.

133.3g Hall letting: letter from Church Treasurer to confirm our use of the Hall. Booked until March 1996 (end of financial year).

133.3h P.C.F.A. Trophies: the trophies have not yet been returned to the Library although the Chairman was advised that they would be. The Chairman will follow this up.

133.4 Universal Markets

Nick Stroud explained that this organisation runs outdoor markets at several sites in the district but none so far in Edinburgh. They propose to run one in Towerbank playground on Saturdays with provision for about 40 stalls and car parking on the ash pitch. The benefit to the School is said to be as much as £18,000 per annum. The School Board consulted the parents who were about 5:1 in favour of the principle of the proposal, so they have agreed to allow the Company to seek planning permission etc.

After considering the various arguments for and against a Saturday market in Portobello, the Council agreed that they had grave concerns, and would have to await further information about traffic control and have discussions with local traders and nearby residents before making any decision whether to oppose or support the idea.

133.5 REPORTS

133.5a Police

Sgt Boni reported that crime figures are almost the same as for last year at this time, but there has been a large increase in bike thefts over last month's figures. Traffic accidents are down to 23 with no fatalities, and most with no injuries either.

133.5b Treasurer's Report

The accounts as at 30th October 1995 are:

Treasurer's Account: £1631.09

Joppa Tennis Courts: £ 372.36

133.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

133.6a Baptist Church Clock: This has been out of order for some time and it was suggested that we might be able to contribute to the cost of its repair. The Secretary will make enquiries.

133.6b Proposed waiting restrictions in Brighton Place: objections were made to the proposal:

1) that yellow lines should go only as far as Sandford Gardens.

2) if lines must be put down, they should be the thin version as used at various locations in the city.

The Secretary will write.

133.6c Bus route maps and timetables: with the advent of the new type of bus shelters, the route maps and timetables which used to be displayed have not been provided. It was felt that this was a useful service which could easily be restored. The Secretary will write to the Transportation department.

133.6d Allotments at Craigentenny: it appears that the Recreation Committee of the District Council are trying to buy the land from the owners but if they sell to another party for development it was suggested that we should object to any application for planning permission. Cllr Marshall will keep us informed.

133.7 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meetings will be held on the following dates in Portobello Baptist Church Hall in the High Street (enter by the door to the right of the Portobello Bar), starting at 7:30pm:

Monday 27th November

*** No meeting in December ***

Monday 29th January 1996

Monday 26th February

Monday 25th March

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 134th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 25th September 1995 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Reports**
- 5. Treasurer's Report**
- 6. Role of Community Council**
- 7. 'Portobello Audit'**
- 8. AOCB**
- 9. Dates of future meetings**

‘Portobello Audit’

There have been many proposals over the years for improving Portobello, but often imposed from outside our town and without any clear identification of our needs – both for residents and for our visitors. If we want to make up a “wish list” for improvements in Portobello, I think we need to start by identifying what we’ve got, so that we can see what the gaps are and what priority they should have. I would be interested to hear what the Community Council thinks about this, and about my first attempt at tackling it – though this approach may be far too simple to work (please feel free to fill in the gaps!):

age group	no (%) cf	accommodation	school/work	facilities	recreation	problems
0-5		n/a	waiting lists for nurseries		three playgrounds on Prom	traffic
5-8		n/a	Towerbank and St Johns (both full)		three playgrounds on Prom	traffic
9-12		n/a	Towerbank and St Johns (both full)		Cubs, sports centre in summer	traffic
12-16		n/a	High School (largest in Lothian)		Scouts, sports centre in summer, PITZ offpeak	traffic, transport, drugs, violence, arcades, AIDS
16-20				buses		transport, drugs, violence, arcades, AIDS
single adults				buses, shops	PITZ soccer, church halls	unemployment, drugs, violence, arcades, AIDS
young families				buses, shops	church halls	
married couples				buses, shops	church halls	

elderly				buses, shops	church halls, bowling greens, sports centre,	
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