

# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 134th meeting, held on 27th November 1995 in  
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

## PRESENT:

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

Harold Alexander-Bowen, Isobel Allan, Sgt Peter Boni (Portobello Police), Celia Butterworth, Elsie Collier, Shand Hutchison, Keith Jeffrey, Emma Laidlaw, Osbert Lancaster, Sheila McIvor, George Murray, Lesley Reid, Margaret Smith, Gordon Stirling, Nick Stroud, Elsie Thom, Keith Veitch, Kathleen Ward.

## APOLOGIES:

Sandy Begg, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Ann Millan (CAB), Beryl Neill, Gavin Strang.

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

### 134.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present.

### 134.2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was pointed out that there were two omissions from the minutes:

- Sheila McIvor had sent apologies.
- Under item 133.3(a), Maureen Child had suggested she arrange a meeting with Joppa Tennis Courts to draft an agreement delineating responsibilities. These would then be presented to the Community Council for discussion.

With these corrections, the Minutes were accepted (proposed by Kathleen Ward, seconded by Harold Alexander-Bowen).

### 134.3 MATTERS ARISING

134.3a Joppa Tennis Courts: as no meeting has taken place to draw up responsibilities, Lesley Reid offered to make up a list for discussion at the next meeting.

It was pointed out that although it had been agreed that the nets should be taken down, one was still up. Elsie Thom said she had taken both down the previous week. This looked like generating some pointless argument, and in view of the pending discussion on responsibilities the Chairman cut it short

No further information is available about the cost or feasibility of repair to the fence. The Secretary will write to Recreation.

134.3b Christmas decorations: the Chairman reported that there had been no positive response from Scottish Power. This resulted in two suggestions:

- as it was now too late for further negotiation the matter of lights and decorations should be dropped until next year.
- as the Secretary thought we could have the items in a few days we should order the star, pealights and transformer up to a maximum cost of £450.

The second item was agreed, and the Secretary will order them.

- 134.3c Litter around the Town Hall: it was suggested that there had been an improvement in this area but all the way up Brighton Place and in the vicinity of the High School the discarded food wrappings etc were a terrible eyesore. More litter bins have been requested but these are not yet in place. The School representatives will take this matter once more to the Headmaster and will report back.
- 134.3d “Towerbank Playground” (on Prom by Toddlers’ Hut): Shand Hutchison reported that despite numerous attempts he has been unable to contact Elizabeth Macleod of the Council to find out what is happening. Item continued.
- 134.3e Signposting and plaques: Celia was not able to give a timetable for the erection of the various noticeboards and signs. Item continued.
- 134.3f P.C.F.A. Trophies: some trophies have still not been returned to the display case. They may be getting engraved. The Chairman will follow this up.
- 134.3g Universal Markets: Nick Stroud reported that a draft contract has been received, which has been sent (with the School Board’s suggested alterations) to the Regional Solicitor for further advice. There has been little feedback from local traders and none has been systematically sought. Letters were sent to all the local neighbours around the School but no conclusions have yet been possible from their responses. The Education Committee seems to be in favour.

It was suggested that the School Board should contact every shop and business in Portobello to canvass their views of a Saturday market. Nick will report back to the next meeting.

- 134.3h Baptist Church Hall clock: it seems that Ritchie the Clockmaker maintains this clock, and always arrive without being called to adjust it at the appropriate times each year. So far as the Church Committee are aware, they are never charged for this service. It should be noted that the clock is working again.
- 134.3i Proposed waiting restrictions in Brighton Place: the Secretary has had no response to his letter of 4th November, but it appears that if the proposal goes ahead there will be provision of disabled parking spaces in Sandford Gardens.
- 134.3j Bus route maps and timetables: there has been no reply to the Secretary’s letter of 4th November.
- 134.3k Allotments at Craigentenny: letters from the Council and from Lawrence Marshall were read out, which said that the lease would go on for only one more year. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to encourage the purchase of the land by the Council.

## **134.4 REPORTS**

### **134.4a Police**

Sgt Boni reported the monthly statistics for the Portobello area. These were:

Crime:                    5,173 (1995 to date)    5,814 (1994)

Road accidents:    459 (1995 to date)    521 (1994)

Road accidents in October 1995: 48, with 12 injuries and one fatality.

Further discussion revolved around crime trends and those crimes which were seen either to be increasing or decreasing.

Questions were asked regarding the area covered by the crime statistics. It was explained that the yearly figures are for the whole of the Portobello area (Eastfield, Milton Road, Duddingston, Queen's Park, Meadowbank, Lochend Road, Leith Links and back along the coast to Eastfield). The monthly figures are for the eastern part of that area, bounded by King's Road, Portobello Road, Northfield Broadway, Willowbrae Road and Avenue to Queen's Park.

The vehicular accident figures are for the area covered by the monthly crime statistics.

#### **134.4b Treasurer's Report**

The accounts as at 27th November 1995 are:

Treasurer's Account:	£1577.47
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 372.36

#### **134.5 ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

As several people were unsure of the role of the Community Council, the Secretary read out the following extract from the city of Edinburgh District Council scheme for Community Councils:

*General Purpose of Community Councils*

*In addition to any other purpose which a Community Council may pursue, the general purpose of a Community Council should be to ascertain, coordinate and express to the local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those authorities are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable.*

It was agreed that we did, and would continue, to comply with that remit. No further discussion seemed necessary.

#### **134.6 'PORTOBELLO AUDIT'**

Nick Stroud briefly explained that his idea was to try to gather information of the size and needs of different age groups in the Portobello community, with particular regard to leisure and other activities, in order that we could initiate the provision of facilities rather than react to others' proposals when it would probably be too late to be effective. Osbert Lancaster said he could probably find out the methodology used to gather such information. Osbert, Nick and Lesley Reid will meet to discuss this and report back.

#### **134.7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

134.7a Millennium Fund: If Portobello is to benefit from this Fund, an application with plans etc must be lodged before 12th February 1996. A sub-committee of Shand Hutchison (Chair), Osbert Lancaster, Emma Laidlaw, Julie Lodge and Keith Veitch was formed to look into this.

134.7b Eastern General Hospital: it seems that discussions on the future of the Eastern General Hospital are continuing. It has been given to the Edinburgh Health Care Trust who are doing a Cost-Benefit Analysis. The Secretary will write to ask for their findings when they are available.

134.7c Lux Europa: it was suggested that as those illuminated decorations are available, we should ask for them to be put up on the Promenade. This item will be carried forward.

- 134.7d Promenade cycleway: the Secretary has a request from Lawrence Marshall to have this as an item for discussion at our January meeting. He can arrange for a member of the Regional Council's Cycle Project Team to talk to us. This was agreed, and the Secretary will deal with it.
- 134.7e Portobello Baths: questions were asked about how long the Baths are going to be closed, and what facilities will be provided in the refurbished building. It was pointed out that the estimate for the duration of the work is two years, and the plans are available in the Library. Information might be available from the Housing Improvement Office in Adelphi Grove.

#### **134.8 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 29th January 1996

Monday 26th February

Monday 25th March

# **PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The 135th meeting of Portobello Community Council  
will be held  
on Monday 29th January 1996 at 7:30pm,  
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 3. Promenade Cycleway**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Reports**
- 6. AOCB**
- 7. Dates of future meetings**