

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 137th meeting, held on 25th March 1996 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Shand Hutchison (Vice Chairman), Tom Smith (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Isobel Allan, Harold Alexander-Bowen, Sgt Peter Boni, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child,
Keith Jeffrey, Emma Laidlaw, Osbert Lancaster, Julie Lodge, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, George Murray,
Lesley Reid, Margaret Smith, Jenny Wilson.

APOLOGIES:

Anne Millan, Sheila McIvor, Beryl Neill, Sandy Smith, Gavin Strang, Nick Stroud, Kathleen Ward.

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

137.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

As Sandy Smith was unable to attend, Shand Hutchison took the Chair and welcomed those present – explaining that we had the minutes of our last *two* meetings to discuss.

137.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29th JANUARY

The Minutes were accepted as a true record (proposed by Harold Alexander-Bowen, seconded by Isobel Allan).

137.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM 29th JANUARY

137.3a Joppa Tennis Courts: Lesley Reid in discussion with the JTC sub-committee has produced a third draft of what could be called a Constitution for the running of the Club. It was pointed out that this was drawn up before the various comments and letters appeared in the Portobello Reporter. A copy of the conditions of let, signed in 1983, does not mention “no Sunday tennis”. Lesley will investigate and report back: item carried forward.

137.3b Litter around the Town Hall: a letter from Environmental Services states that the area is being cleaned to Departmental Standards, but consideration is being given to resiting existing litter bins or providing new ones.

137.3c 'Towerbank Playground' (on Prom by Toddlers' Hut): the work on the wall is now complete, but there is still no information about the shelter. We await a reply from Property Services.

137.3d Signposting and plaques: Celia reported that at the last meeting of Portobello Amenity Society it was decided that a survey of the Portobello area will be linked to a Seaside Award scheme. There have been several complaints about the new noticeboard at the Bank of Scotland, and PAS will contact the Tourist Board about this.

Lothian Housing have donated £750 to help with the cost of plaques, and we are still waiting to hear from Shell. We will offer to maintain any plaques or signposting as far as our finances allow. We hope to use the Portobello Coat of Arms, but as this costs several hundred pounds Lawrence will seek financial help from the new Council: item carried forward.

137.3e Universal Markets: a report has been received from Lothian Regional Council's Education Committee, showing that:

- 1) The Market will have exclusive use of Towerbank playground from 7am to 6pm (open to the public from 10am to 4pm).
- 2) The School could receive £48,000 a year (operator's estimate) paid for this use.
- 3) There has been no strong opposition to use of Towerbank so far.
- 4) If planning permission and the Operator's site licence are granted, the scheme will be for one year initially.
- 5) All interested parties will have a chance to object at the planning stage.

137.3f Portobello Audit: Osbert offered to invite a guest speaker to our next meeting – Mr Ian Griffith – who is a consultant on these matters. It was agreed to put this item on our next agenda.

137.3g Community Councils Reception: Shand Hutchison was the only one of our nominated representatives who was able to attend. He reported that he was not impressed with the arrangements, though he did wait until Neta Sinclair had been presented with her retirement gift before he left. We don't yet know who Neta's successor will be, and hope that we receive this information soon.

137.3h Funding for services: Lawrence gave a brief outline of the cuts that have been made, with £40 million being removed from the budget. Education, Recreation, Community Care and Community Education have all been cut, and there is talk of closing all peripheral toilets. Lawrence will seek clarification of those at Joppa.

137.4 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 26th FEBRUARY

The Minutes were accepted as a true record (proposed by Margaret Smith, seconded by Celia Butterworth).

137.5 MATTERS ARISING FROM 29th JANUARY

137.5a Presentation on North East Edinburgh Local Plan: The Community Council has sent in two objections to the Local Plan:

- 1) opposing the proposed cycleway on the Prom
- 2) asking for an area to be safeguarded for building a train station at Portobello

A question was asked about why there is now a proposal to allow a trial cycleway on the Prom for one year when the objections to the original proposal in the Local Plan have not yet been considered. Lawrence explained that this was probably caused by the timetables of two different bodies overtaking each other. There will still be proper publicity and a chance for objections to be lodged against the trial proposal, but he will try to give further clarification at our next meeting.

137.5b Seaside Award: Maureen reported that discussions are still going on about the requirements for this, as a large amount of money would be required to provide 15 Lifeguards and to hand-clean the beach during the day when there are too many people on the beach for vehicle access. Consultations are under way with resorts which already have a Seaside Award.

137.5c Publicity for Community Councils: The Secretary wrote to the New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Councils with several suggestions for free publicity, regretting that we could not join their scheme at this time.

137.6 REPORTS

137.6a Treasurer's Report

The accounts as at 25th March 1996 are:

Treasurer's Account: £1371.74

Joppa Tennis Courts: £ 372.36

The Treasurer asked that anyone who has expenses to claim should do so as soon as possible, as the books will be audited at the end of March.

137.6b Police

Sgt Boni presented the Police reports for December 1995 and January 1996.

The overall level of reported crimes in December was reduced over the Festive period, and crimes involving violence were down compared to the same period last year. Vehicle accidents increased slightly, to 27, five of which involved injury.

January's figures showed that the overall level of reported crime is reducing, but there was a small increase in crimes involving dishonesty (theft, housebreaking etc). There were only 17 vehicle accidents, but one of these, in Willowbrae Road, included a fatality.

137.7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

137.7a Dog fouling: Jenny Wilson acted as spokesperson for a group of 'responsible dog owners', who wished to raise various concerns with the Community Council. The group is alarmed at the actions (or non-actions) of people who allow their animals to foul the Prom and other footpaths. They have sought meetings with the Environmental Health Department and also the Dog Patrols, and are taking action either to shame owners into cooperating or else to try to get sufficient evidence to result in a successful prosecution. She asks for the assistance of the Community Council and members of the public to bring about an end to this antisocial behaviour.

The Chairman thanked her for her contribution.

137.7b Hope Lane Pillars: PAS presented a report from Sculpture Conservation and Restoration which goes into great detail over what is required to restore these pillars, and the methods to be used. Unfortunately the cost would be in the region of £20,000, plus 10% for materials and 10% for contingency work.

137.7c Agenda 21: a meeting of this Forum will take place in the Old Royal High School on Saturday 30th March. Osbert will represent us.

137.7d Community Councils Joint Forum: the annual meeting will be held on Saturday 20th April in the Members' House, Edinburgh Zoo, from 9am till 1pm. Up to five delegates can represent us at a cost of £15 per Council.

137.7e Training for Community Councils on Planning Matters: Planning Aid for Scotland are running a seminar on Saturday 15th June. Applications must be in by 30th April. The cost is £28 per person, and the session lasts from 9:30am till about 4:30pm, in the Craiglockhart campus of Napier University. Contact the Secretary if you wish to attend.

137.8 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 April

Monday 27th May

Monday 24th June

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 138th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 29th April 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. Presentation by Mr Ian Griffith on 'Portobello Audit'**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Reports**
- 6. AOCB**
- 7. Dates of future meetings**