

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 138th meeting, held on 29th April 1996 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chairman), Tom Smith (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Harold Alexander-Bowen, Sandy Begg, Sgt Peter Boni, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Shand
Hutchison, Keith Jeffrey, Osbert Lancaster, Sheila McIvor, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, George Murray,
Lesley Reid, Sgt Peter Scholes, Margaret Smith, David Turner, Kathleen Ward.

Ian Griffith and Eddie Palmer of Open Futures.

APOLOGIES:

Anne Millan, Gavin Strang, Nick Stroud, Lilian Warwick.

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

138.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present, in particular Sgt Peter Scholes who is our new Police representative. Sgt Boni was thanked for his contributions at past meetings and wished well in his new posting. The Chairman then welcomed our guests Ian Griffith and Eddie Palmer of Open Futures, and invited them to make their presentation.

138.2 PORTOBELLO AUDIT

By way of introduction, Osbert Lancaster explained that it seemed an appropriate time to look to Portobello's future as this was the 100th anniversary of the amalgamation with Edinburgh, and also the first year of Edinburgh Council's reorganisation. In the past most changes and additions to Portobello's facilities and Community amenities have been initiated and carried through by outside bodies and we could usually only oppose or accept what was on offer, with no chance to amend it. A system called Future Search, operated by our two speakers, will help us to come together to draw a picture of how we would like Portobello to be in three, five or ten years' time, and draw up plans to make it happen.

Eddie and Ian made the point that they would not be telling us what we should do. They are facilitators: they assist large groups to come together to produce a plan or develop an issue in consultation with the community. What they do is to challenge the community to see if they are ready to go ahead with changes and find out if the energy is available to get things going. People have to be able to see where they fit into the plan for change in order that they know what they as individuals have to do to bring the plan to fruition.

What makes a Future Search work? It brings together a large number of new groups and individuals who have not met before (64 people is a good number as that gives eight groups each of eight people for discussions). The groups would normally manage themselves but would be given clear instructions for reporting back to the facilitators.

Future Focus is not about fixing things that have been done wrongly, but about drawing a picture of what could be. Strongly held differences are set aside and the focus is on common ground.

A question session followed during which an estimated cost of this exercise, which would be a three-day conference at some suitable venue, with meals etc, was given as £7-8,000.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their ideas, and after a round of applause next business was called.

138.3 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 25th MARCH

The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record (proposed by Harold Alexander-Bowen, seconded by Maureen Child).

138.4 MATTERS ARISING

138.4a Towerbank playground: an official opening will be carried out by David Brown on 3rd May at 10am. Members of the Community Council are invited. The shelter wall will be prepared ready for painting: this is in hand with Property Services.

138.4b Signposting and Plaques: Celia reported that we are still awaiting replies from possible sponsors, and the Tourist Board have yet to reply to our query concerning the noticeboard outside the Bank of Scotland.

With regard to the Portobello Coat of Arms, Lawrence will raise this matter again.

It was agreed that a joint bank account between the Community Council and Portobello Amenity Society (PAS) would be set up with the Bank of Scotland. It will be called the 'Portobello Community Amenity Signs Account' and Celia and Kathleen will be the signatories.

138.4c Universal Markets: The Secretary has received a letter from two residents who stay near Towerbank asking for our support in opposing the proposed Market. After some discussion during which it was obvious that the nearer people lived to Towerbank the more strongly they were opposed to the Market, it was agreed that we would wait until the planning application was published before we lodged an objection.

138.4d Community Council Joint Forum: Lesley Reid and Sandy Smith attended on our behalf, and had found it very useful in that they met members of other community councils and had been able to get some ideas from them. They also felt that the speakers had given some commitment to consulting with community councils. This was hopeful.

138.4e Training for community councils on planning matters: this event runs on Saturday 15th June. The Chairman will represent us.

138.5 REPORTS

138.5a Treasurer's Report

The accounts as at 29th April 1996 are:

Treasurer's Account: £1356.74

Joppa Tennis Courts: £ 432.36

138.6b Police

Sgt Boni introduced Sgt Scholes to the meeting, and gave the February and March reports as follows:

Vehicular accidents: in February accidents were up to 26 in number. Thankfully only eight of these involved injury, with no fatalities. In March the number of accidents reduced to a total of 19, six of these involving injury.

Accidents involving pedal cyclists: While it was not possible at this meeting to enter into the details of each individual accident, the following information was offered: Enquiry was made as to the number of accidents reported to the Police involving pedal cyclists, especially in the area of the Promenade. In the area Joppa Road/Esplanade Terrace to the King's Road roundabout there were nine such accidents in 1995 with none recorded on the Promenade, and none so far this year.

Crime statistics: The underlying trend for the reduction in reported crime continues. As reported at last month's meeting there has been a small increase in the crimes involving dishonesty, mainly in the High Street area.

138.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

138.6a Joppa Tennis Courts: Kathleen reported that agreed rules and regulations including charges and opening times have been accepted and signed on our behalf.

The City Council will repair the fences, remove weeds and cut back trees. They are also supplying new nets.

The Club is applying for Lottery Fund money to resurface the courts.

There will be an Open Day on 22nd June with stalls and competitions: all welcome.

138.6b Brunstane Road traffic: Maureen Child reported that through traffic on this road is posing a serious problem: she has had about 50 letters about it. She wants to make us aware that this is a live issue in the area, and she is doing her best to resolve it with the greatest advantage to the community.

138.6c Neta Sinclair (community councils liaison officer, retired): a letter from Neta was read out, thanking everyone for their good wishes and the crystal presentation she was given.

138.6d Litter bins: PAS has written to Environmental Services about the removal of litter bins mounted on lampposts. Maureen and Lawrence argued the City Council's point of view in the face of the large cuts in Government support money, but didn't seem to get a very sympathetic hearing. George Murray will draw up a list of Council services which seem to have deteriorated, for our next meeting.

138.6e Future Search: in view of the earlier presentation it was agreed that a sub-committee with Osbert as Chairman would organise a meeting with a view to bringing suggestions for future progress to our May meeting.

138.6f Illuminations Committee: as Wonderland Illuminations have contacted us it was thought appropriate to re-establish the Illuminations Committee, with Margaret and Tom Smith and Lesley Reid.

138.6g Community Interest Groups: it was agreed that with the Future Search project in hand it would be a good idea to invite local interest groups to a meeting and social gathering.

138.7 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 May

Monday 24th June

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 139th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 27th May 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. Matters arising**
- 4. Reports**
- 5. AOCB**
- 6. Dates of future meetings**