

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 141st meeting, held on 29th July 1996 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chairman), Tom Smith (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Harold Alexander-Bowen, PC Andy Allan, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Shand Hutchison,
Osbert Lancaster, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Inspector Keith Marwick, Brenda Molony, Beryl Neill, Lesley
Reid, Margaret Smith, Nick Stroud, Kathleen Ward, Lilian Warwick.

APOLOGIES:

Isobel Allan, Sandy Begg, George Murray, Gavin Strang, David Turner.

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

141.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present.

141.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24th JUNE

Kathleen Ward should have been included in Apologies. With this correction the Minutes of the last meeting were accepted (proposed by Harold Alexander-Bowen, seconded by Andy Allan).

141.3 MATTERS ARISING

141.3a Towerbank swingpark: Shand reported that holes in the brickwork have been filled in and the surface has been given some undercoat. Work continues.

141.3b Signposting and Plaques: Celia reported that Scottish Natural Heritage will fund 50% of the cost of one plaque (probably the bird one) which will be £900. This would leave the Community Council to find £200.

Buchan Pottery seem keen to contribute to plaques at the Kilns.

141.3c Universal Markets: Lawrence reported that no planning application has yet been made to the Council. While the Ambulance and Fire Services see no difficulties it now seems likely that the Police will oppose the granting of a licence.

141.3d Portobello Museum: no further information; item continues.

141.3e Bath Street development: this goes ahead as planned, except that the building line has been moved back.

141.3f Cycling on Promenade: further discussion took place. Objectors were advised to watch out for press announcements of the trial, then lodge their objections. Lesley thought we should give the Agenda item a new title, 'Promoting Cycling in Portobello'. Lesley will draw up a plan showing alternative routes to the Prom, and listing pros and cons. Maureen will try to find out the proposed start date for the trial.

141.3g Liaison Officer: Mr David Jack of the Council's Strategic Planning department, 12 St Giles Street, is presently dealing with Community Council matters.

141.3h Guest Speaker: it was agreed to ask Mr Alan Coupar, Area Manager North, to address our meeting in October. The Secretary will write to invite him.

141.4 REPORTS

141.4a Police

Vehicular accidents: there were 19 accidents in June, three involving injury; there were no fatalities.

Crime statistics: in comparison to the same period last year, there has again been a significant overall reduction in reported crime, particularly in the more serious offences of violence and dishonesty. However, a slight rise in minor vandalism has been noted; this is being addressed by officers along with its possible links to underage drinking.

Jet skiing: the Forth Ports Authority have designated a 'power lane' for motor boats and water skiers, but jet skis are not included in this. The F.P.A. is having a meeting with interested parties to see that a Code of Practice is adhered to.

141.4b Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts as at 29th July 1996 are:

Treasurer's Account:	£1380.95
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 644.86

141.4c Christmas Illuminations

We now have £230 donated, with a firm promise of a further £100. A meeting will be arranged with a supplier to see what is available in their new catalogue.

141.5 PORTOBELLO BATHS

This item was placed on the Agenda because it appears that the repairs to the Baths are being delayed by a Capital Budget problem. The money that was put aside by the last Council can now, it seems, be raided to fund other projects. The recurrent cost of reopening the Baths is also a problem. If work is not started by November it is possible that the Lottery money that was allocated to Portobello Baths could be lost.

Nick Stroud has drawn up petition sheets which will be distributed around Portobello, in the Library and with any local groups who will help. Individuals can help by writing letters to:

Cllr Keith Geddes (Leader of the Council)
Cllr Steve Cardownie (Recreation)
Cllrs Lawrence Marshall and Maureen Child (local representatives),

all at City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

141.6 AMALGAMATION CENTENARY AND FUTURE SEARCH

These two items are so intertwined that they will be treated together.

The thinking is that a large number of local groups will be invited to send representatives to the Town Hall on 1st November. In the first part of the evening the groups will share ideas. Later it is hoped that the Lord Provost will appear, along with the 'great and good' of Portobello, and there will be music and a buffet. The Chairman suggested that there should be some pageantry, such as Eric Milligan arriving in a carriage.

All this is still at the early planning stage, but a request for funding has been sent to the City Council.

141.7 TREES AT THE PUMPING STATION

These have still to be replaced, but there is continuing discussion about who looks after them while they become established.

141.8 TWINNING PORTOBELLO

This suggestion was raised by Shand, who was approached by a French friend in Blois, La Chaussées St Victor, where they apparently have similar conservation and restoration problems to ours in Portobello. The question was posed as to whether we could make our own decision about twinning, since we are part of Edinburgh. There is also the issue of what exactly is involved in twinning. The Chairman will make enquiries.

141.9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

141.9a Brunstane bus stops: no decision has been taken about Brunstane Road yet. This item continues.

141.9b Litter Bins: litter bins bearing sponsors' messages are under consideration, but not for Conservation Areas.

141.9c Pollution: one of our members had cause to complain about various forms of pollution, one of which was radiation from electricity pylons. During the discussion with a Scottish Power engineer who came to take readings at his house, it was stated that some Building Societies are now refusing loans on properties which are 'too close to electricity pylons'.

141.9d Rosefield Avenue closure: the saga continues. This is supposed to be with the Legal Department of the Council. Lawrence will try to speed up the process.

141.10 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting 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 30th September (AGM)

Secretary's Note: *the present scribe declined renomination to the Secretary's post in September 1995, but carried on until a volunteer could be found to replace him. He regrets that he will not carry on after September 1996.*

A new Secretary is urgently needed.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be the 14th AGM
on Monday 30th September 1996 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Chairman's report**
- 3. Treasurer's report**
- 4. Election of Office Bearers**
- 5. Minutes of previous meeting**
- 6. Matters arising**
- 7. Reports**
- 8. AOCB**
- 9. Dates of future meetings**

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- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Reports**
- 5. Portobello Baths**
- 6. Amalgamation Centenary and Future Search**
- 7. Twinning Portobello**
- 8. Promenade Charter**
- 9. AOCB**
- 10. Dates of future meetings**