

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 142nd meeting, held on 30th September 1996 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chairman), Tom Smith (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Harold Alexander-Bowen, Isobel Allan, Sandy Begg, Celia Butterworth, Sasha Callaghan,
Cllr Maureen Child, Bill Duncan (Portobello British Legion), Shand Hutchison, Keith Jeffrey,
Sheila McIvor, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Inspector Keith Marwick, Brenda Molony, George Murray,
Lesley Reid, Sgt Peter Scholes, John Scott, Margaret Smith, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Kathleen Ward,
Lilian Warwick.

APOLOGIES:

Joan Beattie, Osbert Lancaster, Anne Millan, Gavin Strang.

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

142.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present to the 142nd meeting of Portobello Community Council.

142.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29th JULY

The Minutes of the last meeting were adopted as correct (proposed by Harold Alexander-Bowen,
seconded by Kathleen Ward).

142.3 MATTERS ARISING

142.3a Towerbank swingpark: item continues.

142.3b Information Plaques: LEEL have donated £900 for the bird information board. A new
complication is that advertising permission is required for such boards; it will cost about £80 to
obtain this.

142.3c Universal Markets: As Towerbank is going to have a new gym built in the playground next year
there won't be room for a market there, on top of police reservations about traffic.

*(The Market Operator has since notified the City Council that he will not be proceeding with his
plans for a market at Towerbank.)*

142.3d Portobello Museum: item continues.

142.3e Cycling on Promenade ('Promoting Cycling in Portobello'): Lesley has already started work on
this project by taking photographs of parts of the Prom. She pointed out that she intended to
work on this project all through the winter months, in conjunction with Osbert Lancaster and
Kathleen Ward.

142.3f Guest Speaker: Mr Alan Coupar was invited to speak to our meeting in October, but he
suggested that we wait until the Council 'goes public' with its proposals for funding various
projects. This should happen in November, and he will get in touch with us about it.

142.3g Brunstane Road bus stop: the City Council was not aware of any problems in this area, but the
official will investigate and liaise with Maureen.

- 142.3h Pollution (electricity pylons): Shand has written an article for the Porty Reporter and will enlarge on the subject in the December issue. The meeting thought that the practice of Surveyors and Building Societies in labelling buildings unsuitable for mortgage loans was unfair. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to the British Institute of Chartered Surveyors asking for clarification. Shand and Kathleen will liaise with the Sasha.
- 142.3i Underage Drinking: this was mentioned as a possibility in the Police report to the last Community Council meeting, but the Police representatives assured the meeting that they did not consider this to be a problem in Portobello. They are, however, aware of what is going on and will keep monitoring the position.
- 142.3j Portobello Baths: The work on refurbishing the Baths will begin on Monday 7th October.

The Community Council wishes to thank everyone in Portobello and further afield who took the trouble to sign petitions, write letters and attend meetings. Particular thanks were expressed to our two Councillors, Maureen Child and Lawrence Child, Gavin Strang M.P., the Friends of Portobello Baths, the shops, pubs, Library, Dr's Surgery and other places who held copies of the Petition, and to everyone else who helped.

142.4 REPORTS

142.4a Police

Sgt Scholes presented the Police report for July and August, as follows:

Vehicular accidents: there were 23 accidents in July, three involving injury; there were no fatalities. In August the total number of accidents rose to 27; six of these involved injury, and there were again no fatalities.

Crime statistics: in comparison to the same period last year, there was a significant overall reduction in the number of reported crimes in July and August. The decline in reported crime was more notable in August, particularly in relation to crimes of dishonesty.

142.4b Treasurer's Report

(See item A14.3 above.)

142.4c Christmas Illuminations

The donations total now stands at £400 donated. The Community Council decided to await the result of our enquiry concerning this year's funding before deciding how to proceed with this year's acquisitions.

142.5 AMALGAMATION CENTENARY AND FUTURE SEARCH

Both these schemes are now well under way, with hall, catering, music etc all organised and invitations sent out.

142.6 TWINNING PORTOBELLO

The Chairman had obtained a paper produced by the City Council which gives the ins and outs of twinning. It appears that there are no legal obstacles to Portobello setting up its own twinning arrangements so long as the City Council is kept informed. This item continues.

142.7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 142.7a Traffic in Portobello: there was some discussion about general traffic problems in Portobello, with mention of traffic-calming measures and stopping-up of roads. Maureen suggested that it would be best to look at the complete picture in Portobello and its surroundings as a whole, rather than taking a piecemeal approach to particular problems and locations.

It was suggested that the Community Council should come up with the broad concepts of an overall plan, but it was decided to await the result of the Future Search workshop before launching any new sub-committee to look into this.

- 142.7b BT Experience: BT is organising an interactive audio-visual exhibition at 155 Slateford Road from 7th October to 17th November, and in association with this will be giving away three £500 Community Awards. The Secretary will find out more about this.
- 142.7c Agenda 21: another Talkfest will be held in the New Parliament House (the old Royal High School) on 30th November at 10am. We will be looking for one or more delegates at the October meeting.

142.8 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 28th October

Monday 25th November

*** No meeting in December ***

Monday 27th January 1997

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 143rd meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 28th October 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. Amalgamation Centenary and Future Search**
- 6. Twinning Portobello**
- 7. Promenade Charter**
- 8. AOCB**
- 9 Dates of future meetings**