

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 144th meeting, held on 25th November 1996 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Shand Hutchison (Vice Chairman), Sasha Callaghan (Secretary)
Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Diana Foster, Osbert Lancaster, Insp Keith Marwick,
Alison Miller, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, Lesley Reid, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, Gordon Stirling,
Nick Stroud, David Turner, Lesley Turner, Lilian Warwick, A/Sgt Simon Young.

APOLOGIES:

Sandy Begg, Kathleen Hart, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Anne Millan, Sandy Smith, Gavin Strang, Kathleen Ward.

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

144.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Shand Hutchison took the Chair in the absence of Sandy Smith, and read out a message of thanks from Sandy to all those who had played a particular part in helping the Centenary event to go smoothly.

144.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 28th OCTOBER

The Minutes of the last meeting were adopted as correct (proposed by Margaret Smith, seconded by George Murray).

144.3 MATTERS ARISING

- 144.3a Towerbank swingpark: Due to the onset of Winter, Shand does not propose to approach the School again until Spring.
- 144.3b Information Plaques: Celia gave a very comprehensive report. Planning permission to erect the boards is still awaited. Sites have been chosen for a Geology board at Joppa Pans, a Pottery board at the Kilns (Huntly House Museum will help with the text for this), and a Bird information board at the Pumping Station. Sites have still to be chosen for some Historical Plaques.
- 144.3c Portobello Museum: it was suggested that a building near the old Co-op in the High Street would be a good site, but we were reminded that Portobello Tower has also been offered. Another site on the Prom is also due to be developed. Item continues.
- 144.3d Promoting Cycling in Portobello George Murray gave a report that during any trial period a path would be marked out on the Prom. An informal meeting has been promised before any decision is taken.

Lesley reported on the sub-committee's activities: one meeting has taken place and six more will be arranged with six different groupings:

- 1 The Community Council
- 2 Objectors to cycling on the Prom
- 3 Supporters of cycling on the Prom

- 4 Elderly people
- 5 People with learning difficulties
- 6 People with young children

The sub-committee proposed to use large-scale maps of Portobello, and to study all articles and documents relating to the promotion of cycling in Lothian. It will collate all this information and meet with the six groups before reporting back to the Community Council in March.

It was agreed that one hour of the January meeting will be devoted to this item. Some funding will be required for postage and other paperwork.

- 144.3e Brunstane Road bus stop: item continues.
- 144.3f Pollution (electricity pylons): a reply is still awaited to the Secretary's letter to the Institute of Chartered Surveyors. It was pointed out that the problem is not with radiation, but the fact that particles of matter get charged up and can then adhere to the lining of the lung, causing cancer.
- 144.3g Earth tremors: according to the Director of Property Services, the cause of the tremors has been identified as work in Monktonhall Colliery.
- 144.3h Litter Bins: it was pointed out that there are no litter bins in the 'Bank Square' on the corner of Brighton Place and the High Street. The Secretary will write to request that this is corrected. Lesley agreed to ask a Wester Hailes Group to research the litter problem in Portobello.

144.4 REPORTS

144.4a Police

Acting Sergeant Young gave the Police report for October, for Vehicular accidents and Crime statistics; these will be included with the minutes of the next meeting.

144.4b Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts as at 25th November 1996 are:

Treasurer's Account:	£1,438.30
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 651.21

We have received £820 from the City Council to pay the Lord Lyon for the Portobello Coat of Arms.

The outlay so far for the Centenary Event is £1,614.43, with some expenses still to be met. We have spent about £800 of our annual grant of £900 on this project. 'Incidental expenses' which were not discussed at meetings are mounting up, so the Treasurer asked for a further £250 to cover these; this was agreed. It was also agreed that an honorarium be given to the Hall Keeper for his excellent cooperation and assistance.

144.4c Christmas Illuminations

Discussion with the City Council could not solve the problem of lighting the tree at the Bank, so we decided we would rather not have it, and make our own alternative arrangements.

The High School regretted that it could not provide a Choir and Band on our chosen date of 9th December since this clashed with exams, but with sufficient notice they would like to be involved in future years.

144.4d Amalgamation Centenary and Future Search

Osbert Lancaster reported that the results from the workshop were very good, and showed that there is a strong community feeling and social awareness in Portobello. The most common points made were that we need:

- good transport links (e.g. with the train station reopened)
- to improve the beach and Prom to Blue Flag standard
- to improve the High Street and town centre management

Several participants said they would be willing to help promote various projects, and a meeting has been arranged to keep this moving, at 7:30pm on Monday 20th January, in the Baptist Church Hall. Osbert will notify all concerned.

144.5 TWINNING PORTOBELLO

The sub-committee is still looking at this and will report back in the New Year.

144.6 TRAFFIC MEASURES

This will be part of the discussion at the Future Search meeting, to see how all interests can be integrated.

144.7 PROMENADE CHARTER

This can now be joined with item 144.3(d).

144.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 144.8a Requests for funding: requests for funding more hanging baskets and a local information booklet have been received. No decision can be taken until our financial position is clearer.
- 144.8b Portobello Post Office: we still await an answer to the Secretary's letter, but we have been informed that although there are over 20 applicants for the business, the chances are that it will remain where it is in the High Street.
- 144.8c Citizens Loyalty Card: this scheme is being promoted by several local traders, LEEL and the City Council, and should be of great benefit to our shops and to the people who use them. Watch out for promotional material in shop windows.
- 144.8d Archive Officer: Our Chairman thinks that as we have several artefacts of some historical interest, we should have someone to look after them. We are therefore looking for a volunteer.
- 144.8e Planning sub-committee: it was agreed that with the new rules on consultation on Planning Matters, and to avoid duplication of effort, a joint sub-committee of the Community Council and Amenity Society (PAS) should be formed, with Celia and Shand our representatives.
- 144.8f Tourist Notice Board: this will be resited outside the Bank of Scotland, by March 1997.
- 144.8g Air pollution: the Secretary will write to Friends of the Earth asking them to check the quality of the air in Portobello High Street.
- 144.8h Credit Union: a speaker on Credit Unions will be asked to address our February meeting. David Turner will arrange this.

144.9 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 January

Monday 24th February

Monday 31st March

Monday 28th April

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 145th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 27th January 1997 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 3. Promoting Cycling in Portobello**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Reports**
- 6. Future Search**
- 7. AOCB**
- 8. Dates of future meetings**