

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 145th meeting, held on 27th January 1997 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chair), Sasha Callaghan (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Harold Alexander-Bowen, Sandy Begg, Telfer Blacklock, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Diana Foster, Shand Hutchison, Osbert Lancaster, Sheila McIvor, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Insp Keith Marwick, Alison Miller, Brenda Molony, George Murray, Lesley Reid, Alison Robinson, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Kathleen Ward, A/Sgt Simon Young.

APOLOGIES:

Keith Jeffrey, Anne Millan, Gavin Strang,

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

145.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 1997 and wished them well for the New Year.

145.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 25th NOVEMBER

George Murray asked for a correction to be made to 144.3(d) to read that 'during any trial period a path would be *probably* be marked out on the Prom. An informal meeting *will probably be held* before any decision is taken.'

With this correction the Minutes were adopted as correct (proposed by Celia Butterworth, seconded by Harold Alexander-Bowen).

145.3 MATTERS ARISING

- 145.3a Information Plaques: Celia once again gave a very comprehensive report. Due to difficulties about maintenance once the plaques are mounted, the Community Council has agreed to accept responsibility for them. We are already covered by Public Liability Insurance, and a small extra premium would insure the Plaques themselves. Another difficulty has arisen concerning the Coat of Arms: the Chairman will look into this.
- 145.3b Portobello Museum: following on from the discussion of plaques, and specifically the one intended for the Kilns, Alison Robinson suggested that since Portobello pottery is well-known and has been extensively researched, we should concentrate on getting a Pottery Museum £ hopefully with the help of Lottery funding. It was pointed out that Lawrence Marshall is working hard for a Portobello Museum, and we should continue to support his efforts. It was thought appropriate to form a sub-committee, consisting of Alison, Celia, Sheila, Shand, and John Stewart (of PAS), to examine the Pottery connection.
- 145.3c Brunstane Road bus stop: item continues.
- 145.3d Earth tremors: these have started again, after a lull over Christmas. Item continues.
- 145.3e Litter Bins: a reply from the City Council says that Portobello High Street has a higher ratio of litter bins for its size than most of Edinburgh.

The Wester Hailes group will undertake the research project for us later in the year.

- 145.3f Portobello Post Office: a reply from the Post Office explains the current position and states that before any decision is taken to move the premises a full consultation procedure with all interested parties will be initiated.
- 145.3g Archive Officer: Keith Jeffrey of Portobello History Society has agreed to be our Archive Officer.
- 145.3h Air Pollution: a reply from Friends of the Earth indicates that they do not undertake testing for outside bodies, but can supply a kit, costing £14, for a one-off test. They suggest that we ask the Council's Environmental Health department to undertake a study.
- 145.3i Credit Union: Mr Tom McVey of the Association of Credit Unions will speak at our next meeting.

145.4 REPORTS

145.4a Police

The report for the November meeting which was left out of the last minutes was as follows:

Crime Statistics: The number of reported crimes committed during October decreased in general terms compared to the same period the previous year. This is reflected in a downward trend in the majority of crime types, with the exception of theft of motor vehicles and vandalism, which have shown an increase throughout the Portobello area.

Vehicular accidents: at the time of the November meeting there had been a total of 20 accidents that month; nine involved injury and there were no fatalities. This figure is one less than that reported during the same period in 1995, however there is a slightly higher incidence of injury in 1996.

January Report: Inspector Marwick commented on remarks made after the previous meeting relating to the value and suitability of the Police reports based on statistics. He proposed that future reports should include more meaningful information, concentrating on community-related issues. This was welcomed by those present.

Inspector Marwick went on to explain that over the Festive period Lothian and Borders Police launched a force-wide initiative known as 'Operation Shield'. This initiative incorporated a variety of strategies designed to reduce the opportunity for crime during the busy period over Christmas and New Year, including extra uniformed patrols, covert targeting of licensed premises, and proactive raids on such premises in which offences were suspected of being committed. He also mentioned the current winter lighting/cycling initiative, in which motorists and cyclists who fail to comply with the law in relation to lighting and observation of traffic signals/directions are being targeted.

Acting Sergeant Young announced that Community Officers at Portobello had distributed a package containing Crime Prevention Advice to local shops and businesses during December because of the additional revenue that was generated by seasonal spending. He also stated that the officers were running a course in conjunction with the Community Education Department in February and March to focus on Women's Safety. This course consists of four evenings in which techniques of self defence, crime prevention, personal safety and self assertiveness are addressed.

In closing, A/Sgt Young informed councillors that the East of Edinburgh Crime Prevention Panel would be hosting a Neighbourhood Watch Seminar on 6th March at the Kings Manor Hotel, with a variety of speakers.

145.4b Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts as at 27th January 1997 are:

Treasurer's Account: £1221.36

Joppa Tennis Courts: £ 671.21

The total so spent on the Centenary celebrations is £1,714.43.

As the J.T.C. committee has not been in touch since they indicated that they might have problems next season, the Secretary was asked to write to ask them to clarify their position, and also to see if they managed to adhere to the conditions set out and signed by the Club Committee and the Community Council.

145.4c Christmas Illuminations

A large tree was set up on the roof of the Town Hall, but due to the lack of any proper fixings it had to be placed to the rear for safety's sake. We will need more volunteers next year. Many thanks to the Hall keeper.

145.4d Future Search

There was a good turnout on 20th January, and it is hoped that the groups will continue to pursue their objectives themselves or come back to us for backup, letter-writing etc.

145.5 TWINNING PORTOBELLO

Item continues.

145.6 PROMOTING CYCLING IN PORTOBELLO

Lesley explained that she wanted us to write down our hopes, concerns and ideas for Portobello. When these are all gathered a report will be produced and given to us, the City Council and the Library. This should happen in April or May.

It was suggested that we seek funding from Lothian Health: the Secretary will write.

145.7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

145.7a Portobello Older People's Project (POPP): POPP are keen that a member of the Community Council should join their Management Committee. Meetings are held every six months at 10:30am in the Baptist Church, the next one being on 3rd March 1997. We will ask for a volunteer at our February meeting.

145.9 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 24th February

Monday 31st March

Monday 28th April

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 146th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 24th February 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. Speaker: Mr Tom McVey, Association of Credit Unions**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Reports**
- 6. AOCB**
- 7 Dates of future meetings**