

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 146th meeting, held on 24th February 1997 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chair), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Shand Hutchison, Keith Jeffrey, Insp. Keith Marwick, Alison Miller, Beryl Neil, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, David Turner, Lesley Turner, A/Sgt Simon Young.

APOLOGIES:

Isobel Allan, Sandy Begg, Sasha Callaghan, Diana Foster, Osbert Lancaster, Sheila McIvor, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Anne Millan, Brenda Molony, George Murray, Lesley Reid, Gavin Strang, Nick Stroud.

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

146.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present, and welcomed the speaker for the evening, Mr Tom McVey of the Association of Credit Unions.

146.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 27th JANUARY

There was an error in item 145.7a, where "six months" should read "six weeks".

With this correction the Minutes were adopted as correct (proposed by Shand Hutchison, seconded by Margaret Smith).

The floor was then handed to Tom McVey.

146.3 CREDIT UNIONS

The speaker explained that he works for Lothian Region Credit Union Development Agency Ltd., which is now funded by the City of Edinburgh Council to develop and support Credit Unions in Edinburgh. They provide information, training and support for those wishing to set up a Credit Union, and also to the members, volunteers, staff and directors of existing Credit Unions.

Mr McVey explained that Credit Unions are financial co-operatives, owned and controlled by the members, and can be one of three kinds: 'Residential' (covering a specific area); 'Associational' (for example catering for the members of a Trade Union or a Church); or 'Employee' (where the employer has set up a Credit Union for their staff).

The benefits of being in a Credit Union are that it encourages people to save. Members can obtain loans at a reasonable rate of interest (currently 12.68% APR). They can also earn a dividend on their money, and benefit from Life Saving Insurance and Loan Protection Insurance at no extra cost to themselves.

Credit Unions are regulated by the Registry of Friendly Societies, are run by an elected Board of Directors, and are legally required to carry insurance which protects members' savings from theft or fraud. Most of the workers are volunteers, although some of the larger Credit Unions employ staff.

A lively question and answer session followed the presentation, and the speaker was accorded a vote of thanks for his interesting and informative talk.

A list of Credit Unions which are operating in Lothian is available from Lothian Region Credit Union Development Agency, who can be contacted on 0131 229 7400.

146.4 MATTERS ARISING

146.4a Information Plaques: Celia reported that the Bird plaques are almost ready. The problem with the Coat of Arms was sorted out by Lawrence Marshall and the Chairman, but after some discussion it was agreed (only the Chairman dissenting) that the Lord Lyon should be asked to remove the Tower from the centre of the crest. The Chairman will write about this.

146.4b Portobello Museum: The Museum sub-committee reported back that in their opinion more financial and other support would be available if the main focus was on a Museum of Scottish Pottery, with a separate section for Portobello memorabilia. A paper with information and suggestions will be ready for our next meeting.

146.4c Brunstane Road bus stop: item continues.

146.4d Air Pollution: It was agreed that Environmental and Consumer Services (Gordon Greenhill) should be asked if he can provide any data on air pollution levels in the High Street for the last three or four years, in order that we can see the trend. The Secretary will write.

146.4e Portobello Older People's Project (POPP): Tom Smith will represent us on the Management Board of POPP.

146.5 REPORTS

146.5a Police

Inspector Marwick explained that during February officers gave attention to the High Street area in relation to litter, with patrols being concentrated on the school lunch-time period, and offenders being warned about their conduct.

He also commented on a recent incident in which it is alleged that two officers had not taken satisfactory action following a complaint of dog fouling. Inspector Marwick assured councillors that such complaints would be treated appropriately, and he has taken steps to remind all police personnel at Portobello of their responsibilities.

In closing he made mention of the recent Public Consultation Meetings at which the police obtained feedback from a wide cross-section of the local community. A number of issues were raised and will be borne in mind when drawing up forthcoming police objectives.

Acting Sergeant Young announced that on 8th February the Community Officers Team launched a Borrow a Book Ð Borrow a Property Marking Pen Ó initiative in conjunction with Portobello Library. The scheme had been run in the past and was a great success. It was hoped that this year would be no exception, with a substantial increase in the number of personnel/household effects being post-coded by UV pen. This will aid both the recovery and the return of stolen property, as well as the detection of offenders.

146.5b Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts as at 24th February 1997 are:

Treasurer's Account:	£ 515.45
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 671.21

Any expenses claims outstanding should be submitted to the Treasurer before 31st March (the end of our financial year).

146.5c Future Search

As the group who were campaigning against dog fouling have not reported back it was felt that the Secretary should contact them.

146.6 TWINNING PORTOBELLO

Item continues.

146.7 PROMOTING CYCLING IN PORTOBELLO

Invitations have gone out for two meetings to be held in the Baptist Church Hall, from 8pm to 9:30pm on Wednesday 5th March and Wednesday 12th March.

146.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

146.8a Le Vineyard: an application has been made to build 12 flats for Cairn Housing. The Secretary will write to ask local architect Iain Abbot for more information.

146.8b Forum of Community Councils: the Forum will meet at Craiglockhart campus on 15th March, from 9am to 1pm. Sasha, Sandy and Celia will represent us.

146.8c Licensing extensions: The Plough, the Pop Inn and the Portobello Bar have all applied for extensions to their opening hours. It was agreed that we have no grounds to object at this time, but this will be reviewed in the light of experience.

146.8d General Election: the Council of Churches has been asked to organise a public meeting with candidates from all parties invited to participate. We will discuss at our next meeting whether we could do this if the Churches are unable to.

146.8e P.C.F.A. Trophies: it was pointed out that several trophies have not yet been returned to the trophy case in the Library. The Secretary was asked to write to Lynn Aitchison to find out where they are.

146.8f Brunstane Road Traffic Action Group: this group has already approached the City Council with suggestions for traffic control in the area, and Ian Cooke will address our next meeting to ask for our support.

146.9 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 31st March

Monday 28th April

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 147th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 31st March 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. Ian Cooke, Brunstane Traffic Action Group**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Towerbank Sports Complex**
- 6. Reports**
- 7. AOCB**
- 8. Dates of future meetings**