

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 149th meeting, held on 26th May 1997 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Shand Hutchison (Vice Chair), Sasha Callaghan (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Sgt. James Brooks, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Diana Foster, Marjorie Jenkins-Thomas,
Osbert Lancaster, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Insp. Keith Marwick, Alison Miller, Brenda Molony,
George Murray, Lesley Reid, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith.

APOLOGIES:

Sandy Begg, Anne Millan, Sandy Smith, Gavin Strang, Nick Stroud, David Turner.

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

149.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Shand Hutchison was in the Chair once again and welcomed all present, in particular
Sgt James Brooks, our new Police representative, and Marjorie Jenkins-Thomas, who will
represent Joppa Tennis Club in place of Elsie Thom.

149.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 28th APRIL

Maureen Child, referring to item 148.3j, pointed out that the speaker referred to would be from
the "Sustainable Communities" project, not from the Portobello Economic Study. She thought it
would be appropriate to wait until this person is in post before asking him to speak to us.

With this clarification, the minutes were accepted as a true record (proposed by George Murray,
seconded by Margaret Smith).

149.3 MATTERS ARISING

149.3a Information Plaques: Celia reported that the bird information board is now in place, and
invitations have been sent out for an event on 6th June to mark the occasion. £174 is left in the
fund for the next (probably Pottery) board, and the geology board is being worked on at the
moment. The Treasurer will arrange to have the boards included in the Community Council's
insurance cover.

The next sub-committee meeting will be on 2nd July.

149.3b Air quality in Portobello High Street: we are still waiting for a reply from the City Council;
item continues.

149.3c Le Vineyard: a reply has been received to the effect that our comments will be noted.

149.3d Community Forum: item continues.

149.3e P.C.F.A. trophies: item continues.

149.3f Wheelie Bins: in response to a further letter from Shand Hutchison, most of the points he raised
have now been addressed, and he was assured that the aged and infirm have been considered.
Portobello is not in any of the pilot schemes.

149.3g Hope Lane pillars: we await a reply from the Chief Executive; item continues.

- 149.3h East of Scotland Water: Shand reported that he was impressed with the meeting. East of Scotland Water plans to invest £1 billion over the next five years, and a new design for the proposed incinerator at Seafield should solve the problem of smell. December 1998 is the last date for the use of the 'Gardyloo' for dumping sludge at sea. In response to a question, he was told that East of Scotland Water is not required by law to meet the standards required for Blue Flag status and Seaside Awards.
- 149.3i Planning Applications: a letter from PAS was read out which set out their proposals on how the joint PAS-CC sub-committee should work. These proposals were accepted with the proviso that in future 'Planning' is always on our agenda, so that proposals and objections are brought to our attention.

We still await a reply to our objections to development at 25 Pittville Street.

- 149.3j Community Focus Workshop: the next meeting is in Towerbank in June.

149.4 REPORTS

149.4a Police

Inspector Marwick introduced Sgt Brooks to the meeting; Sgt Brooks has recently joined the team at Portobello as the community sergeant.

Dog Wardens were on patrol in Portobello between 12th and 15th May, giving advice to 36 dog owners and issuing 23 'pooper scoopers' as part of an initiative to reduce dog fouling. They were here again on 22nd and 23rd May though we don't yet have details of their action then. The Wardens had the full co-operation of the Police, whom they were able to contact by telephone if required.

An anti-litter initiative is about to go into operation in the High Street area. The Edinburgh East Junior Crime Prevention Panel, with the assistance of Community Constable Loreen Irvine, have bought and decorated two litter bins to be sited in the High Street at lunch times; they hope to encourage young people to dispose of their lunch-wrappings responsibly.

The 'Speedwatch' campaign is still ongoing; full details will be reported to the next meeting. Complaints about speeding in specific locations around Portobello were noted. The Community Council welcomes and supports these initiatives.

Concern was expressed about a newspaper article containing a photograph of a police checkpoint in Portobello which was manned by armed police officers. The circumstances surrounding the activity were explained by Inspector Marwick and Sergeant Brooks.

149.4b Public Transport sub-group

Awaiting report-back; item continues.

149.4c Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts as at 26th May 1997 are:

Treasurer's Account:	£1188.12
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 671.21

She reported that £50 rent for the Tennis Courts is now due and the Club, which will have an open day on 14th June, and be open to the public during the school holidays, has asked for £100 as a float for some repairs which are required. This was agreed.

The Parks Department has been asked to spray weeds and to attend to the Putting Green area. We are hopeful that they will do this.

149.4d Cycling

Copies of an initial report were handed round for perusal, and Lesley Reid gave a comprehensive report of what has been done so far. The sub-group has spoken to four of the six groups they have identified as interest groups either for or against cycling, identified six different cyclists groups, looked at alternative routes through Portobello avoiding the Promenade, and made suggestions to enable cycling on the Prom.

A full report will be placed in the Library by mid-June in the hope that comments from all parties will be available for discussion at our June meeting.

149.5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

149.5a Extension of permitted licensing hours: a letter has been received from the Assistant Chief Constable detailing the Police Policy on extended hours, supported by various statistics showing that their policy of zoning and other measures seem to be working in the City, with a resulting reduction in assaults and crimes of violence. The Secretary will write giving our views, which are that Portobello doesn't seem to suffer the problems of the City despite having several pubs which are open until after midnight.

149.5b Community Council Liaison Officer: it was agreed that the Secretary would invite Adam O'Brien to address our September meeting.

149.5c Brunstane Road traffic: a reply has been received to our letter about closing off Brunstane Road – agreeing that the solution to the problem will only be found by studying the wider area. A workshop has been arranged at the Jewel & Esk Valley College at 6:30pm on 24th June to discuss this problem, and no decision will be taken before this.

149.5d Telferton allotments: with the present financial restrictions and the number of projects competing for funding, it now looks as though no money will be available at present to buy the ground for these allotments. As there is now another bidder in the market it seems likely that the ground will be sold for housing.

149.5d Litter report: the people from the Wester Hailes Project who investigated the litter problem in Portobello some time ago will report their findings to our June meeting.

149.5d Quicksands on the beach: the scare that Portobello Beach is not safe due to quicksand – albeit the problem is right along at Eastfield – has gone largely unanswered. It was agreed that Maureen Child would try to get some publicity to ensure that visitors are made aware that Portobello Beach is perfectly safe.

149.6 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 30th June

Monday 28th July

**** No meeting in August ****

Monday 29th September

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 150th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 30th June 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. Matters arising**
- 4. Wester Hailes Project report**
- 5. Reports**
- 6 Planning Matters**
- 7. AOCB**
- 8. Dates of future meetings**