

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 15th AGM of Portobello Community Council,
held on 29th September 1997 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chair), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Sandy Begg, Cllr Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Shand Hutchison, Keith Jeffrey, Osbert Lancaster,
James McGachie, Sheila McIvor, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Insp. Keith Marwick, George Murray,
Beryl Neill, Tom Nimmo, Adam O'Brien, Lesley Reid, Alison Robinson, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith,
Hazel Thomas, Kathleen Ward.

APOLOGIES:

Celia Butterworth, Sasha Callaghan, Marjorie Jenkins-Thomas, Anne Millan, Brenda Molony,
Gavin Strang, Nick Stroud, David Turner.

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

15.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present to our 15th AGM and in particular introduced the two new Portobello High School representatives, Hazel Thomas and James McGachie.

15.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 28th JULY

At the Chairman's request the minutes were formally moved by Shand Hutchison and seconded by Sandy Begg. Any matters arising will be dealt with at the October meeting.

15.3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman pointed out that over the past year we had been involved in, commented on or taken action on an assortment of some 60 issues, including such matters as road closures, Portobello Museum, twinning, pollution from electricity pylons, underage drinking, Towerbank sports facilities, cycling on the Prom, information plaques, hanging baskets, Christmas illuminations, Portobello baths, the Loyalty Card, most recently a Credit Union, and the meeting for which we got the biggest public turnout, the General Election hustings, when all the party candidates appeared on one platform. Another significant event was the Centenary celebrations last year, which were a great success.

The Chairman ended his report by thanking all the Council members for their support and participation, and hoped this would continue.

15.4 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the accounts as at 29th September 1997 are:

Treasurer's Account:	£1812.94
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 812.64

The Treasurer had copies of the audited accounts for perusal. The JTC accounts were not yet to hand, but hopefully this would be taken care of soon.

The Treasurer then intimated that several local groups were in financial difficulty due to cuts in funding, and after some discussion it was agreed to make the following donations:

£200 to Portobello Citizens Advice Bureau

£200 to Portobello Older People Project

£50 to help the proposed Credit Union with initial administration costs

The Chairman thanked Kathleen for her report and for the excellent work she has done over the past year.

15.5 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Marion Mason has been appointed by the City Council to run this project, but was unable to attend our meeting. Maureen Child gave a brief presentation explaining that Portobello and Wester Hailes were chosen as pilot areas as part of a National Project. The object of the exercise is to consult as many local groups and interests as possible to see what they identify as their priorities in the area. The area for special attention in Portobello will be Bath Street to Figgate Street, and from the High Street to the Promenade. Portobello is a special area in Edinburgh, and as such, special resources will be provided to enhance it.

15.6 COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON AND DEVELOPMENT

Adam O'Brien is the Community Council Liaison and Development Officer for the City Council, and was invited to address our meeting.

Adam began by explaining that, apart from general liaison, his job is to set up training for community councillors, probably the most useful part of which would be to help us to increase our effectiveness when objecting to planning proposals.

The Council is setting up a database register of Community Organisations, and it is the Liaison Officer's job to set up administrative support for community councils, although this hasn't been possible yet.

During the question and answer session which followed, several suggestions were made about how we could produce our 'paperwork', and these will be explored.

The Chairman thanked Adam for his contribution, and his offer to provide us with names and contact information we might find useful.

The next joint meeting of community councils with the City Council is on 4th November 1997.

15.7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.7a Forth Estuary Project: Osbert Lancaster had attended a meeting about the current economic audit of the Forth region. Seventeen community councils and members of the Development Consultants were involved.

The main points affecting Portobello were:

- compared to Granton and Silverknowes, Portobello Promenade is a good example of a walking and recreational space which reduces stress and raises the spirits of locals and visitors alike.
- the beach is an important tourist asset which should be better promoted.

- large supermarkets are having an impact on local shops and services.
- an integrated transport system is needed.
- there are opportunities to improve bus and rail links to local tourism beaches and help generate local employment.

It is the Forum's intention to have regular meetings with community council groupings or with individual community councils on specific issues, and community councils are invited to become formal members of the Forum.

Without further discussion it was agreed that we would apply for membership. The Secretary will write.

- 15.7b Portobello High School Open Evening: all members of the Community Council were invited to attend an open evening at the High School on Wednesday 8th October, from 6:30-8:30pm.
- 15.7c Christmas illuminations: the City Council has agreed in principle that we can provide fixings for two Christmas trees on the roof of the Town Hall. Our Councillors were asked to enquire about funding, and the High School representatives were asked to investigate the possibility of the brackets being made in the craft workshop.
- 15.7d Centenary Workshop report: Osbert handed round copies of the Draft Report and asked that these be examined and discussed if necessary at the October meeting. This was agreed.
- 15.7e Cycling in Portobello: Lesley Reid's report has been deferred several times, but will definitely be presented at the October meeting.
- 15.7f Community Council letterheaded paper: a price for 5,000 sheets with coloured crest and trimmings was offered to the Council, but after some discussion it was decided to seek a quotation for a black and white version. Lesley will investigate this for our next meeting.

15.8 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 27th October

Monday 24th November

**** No meeting in December ****

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 152nd meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 27th October 1997 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: AGM on 29th September**
- 3. Matters arising from meeting of 28th July 1997
(please bring your copy of these minutes)**
- 4. Reports**
- 5. Cycling in Portobello (Lesley Reid)**
- 6. Forth Estuary Project (Osbert Lancaster)**
- 7. Portobello Action Group (Celia Butterworth)**
- 8. AOCB**
- 9. Dates of future meetings**