

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 155th meeting, held on 26th January 1998 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chair), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Lynn Aitchison, Harold Alexander-Bowen, Neil Buchanan, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child,
Dawson Currie, Linda Kelly, Osbert Lancaster, Insp Harry McAdam, Cllr Lawrence Marshall,
Marianne Mason, Brenda Molony, George Murray, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, Hazel Thomas,
David Turner, Kathleen Ward.

APOLOGIES:

Shand Hutchison, James McGachie, Anne Millan, Beryl Neill, Gavin Strang, Nick Stroud.

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

155.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present and hoped that we were all looking forward to a happy and successful 1998.

155.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24th NOVEMBER 1997

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record: proposed by Kathleen Hart, seconded by Margaret Smith.

155.3 MATTERS ARISING

155.3a Sustainable Communities: Marianne Mason gave a short report on various projects which are in hand and possible sources of funding. She would still like to hear from members of the public who want to offer opinions about priorities and improvements for Portobello. Contact her on 469 3585 or at Towerbank Annexe.

155.3b Information Plaques: the sub-committee met on 10th December. The pottery board layout has been finalised and funding is still being sought, especially from LEEL, who seem to be sympathetic. It is thought that if an overall plan for four more plaques (cost £10,000) is presented rather than piecemeal plans for individual ones, this will improve the chances of success.

155.3c Air pollution: a reply to the Secretary's letter has been received, saying that testing of air quality recommenced last May, with results to be published later. However it seems that Portobello is not one of the testing sites.

155.3d Planning Applications: a site inspection will take place at Pittville Street Lane on 19th February.

155.3e Brunstane Road traffic: it appears that all the necessary work for the census and report has not yet been completed. Item continues.

155.3f Telferton allotments: a site investigation has taken place which caused some damage and disruption to the allotments, but the holders intend to persevere.

155.3g Lord Lyon: item continues.

- 155.3h Pottery Museum: as we are anxious that this project gets off the ground as soon as possible in order that it can be included in the overall plan for the refurbishment of the Prom, it was agreed that Lawrence Marshall would chase up the City Council working party which is currently considering the plans.
- 155.3i Car Club: although Ford Motors have offered support and this will be a non-profit making venture, further major sponsors are still required as the scheme is not likely to be in surplus for about five years.
- 155.3j Credit Union: David Turner reported that about 25 people attended the last meeting, of whom ten have made a commitment to attend study groups with a view to deciding whether they will become more involved in the setting up and running of this scheme.
- 155.3k Christmas Illuminations and Carol Singing: it was agreed that the trees and lights were a great improvement on last year: the Community Council recorded its appreciation of Gordon Russell and Andrew Craig. Our thanks also to the children who entertained us with carol singing outside the Town Hall, and to Portobello Scotmid who provided crisps and soft drinks for them all. Portobello Garden Centre gave the tree for inside the Town Hall: our thanks to them also. It was proposed that Andrew be given a gift for his help; this was agreed.
- 155.3l Headed Notepaper: we have no further information about prices; item continues.
- 155.3m Amalgamation Event video: thanks to Linda Kelly we now have an unedited version of the video tape which is being passed around Council members to view before a decision is taken about paying to have it edited. It was agreed that we pay Dave Smith who made the video his costs of £5.80.

155.4 REPORTS

155.4a Police

Insp. McAdam reported that he felt that the Neighbourhood Watch schemes were not being fully utilised, either by the public or by the Police, and he hoped to implement initiatives to improve this situation.

The purchase and consumption of alcohol by those under age is still being closely monitored

Despite the recent identification stamping of bikes carried out by the Police, the public should be aware that bikes, unless properly secured when left unattended, are very much at risk of being stolen.

155.4b Treasurer's Report

The accounts as at 26th January 1998 are:

Treasurer's Account:	£1208.06
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 819.34

The Treasurer has not yet made contact with the Joppa Tennis Courts committee.

155.5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 155.5a Multilateral agreement on investment: David Turner drew attention to this agreement which is being promoted by the 26 wealthiest nations of the world to the detriment of the poorer developing ones. In effect, if ratified unchanged, it will mean that foreign investors will be able to sue any country which they say discriminates against them because of their environmental and safety regulations. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Gavin Strang expressing our concern.
- 155.5b Portobello Swim Centre: this is scheduled to reopen on 16th April 1998.
- 155.5c Information at bus stops: it was reported that plans to have route and time boards at bus stops have been put on hold due to staff rearrangements in the City Chambers. It was agreed that the Secretary will write to protest.
- 155.5d Community Indicators: Osbert Lancaster proposed that a scheme such as this, which will mean checking improvement/deterioration at regular intervals on various concerns chosen by us (for instance empty shops and dog dirt in parks) would be a good follow-up to the Future Search. Sandy Smith and Marianne Mason agreed to cooperate with Osbert on this, and it will be a major item on the February agenda.

155.6 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 23rd February

Monday 30th March

Monday 27th April

Monday 25th May

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 156th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 23rd February 1998 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 26th January 1998**
- 3. Community Indicators (Osbert Lancaster)**
- 4. Portobello Community Festival Association: Write off or right on! (Lynn Aitchison)**
- 5. Matters arising from meeting of 26th January**
- 6. Reports**
- 7. Planning**
- 8 AOCB**
- 9. Dates of future meetings**