

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 172nd meeting, held on 27th September 1999
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

Present:

Sandy Smith (Chair), Kathleen Hart (Minutes, Treasurer)
Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Margaret Downie, Keith Jeffrey,
Marjorie Jenkins-Thomas, Linda Kelly, Nora McKenzie, Brenda Molony, Insp. P. Morisetti,
George Murray, PC K. Owen, Patricia Ralph, Alison Robinson, John Stewart,
Duncan Stroud (PHS), Nick Stroud, David Turner.

Apologies:

Lynn Aitchison, Marion Fergusson, Shand Hutchison, Sheila Kennedy, Cllr Lawrence Marshall,
Beryl Neill, Vince Ridd, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, Gavin Strang, Sgt John Townsend.

Item

Action by

172.1 Minutes of Previous Meeting (30th August 1999)

Item 171.2a: delete the sentence "The Millennium ... boards."

Item 171.5: dates for future meetings should read "27th September, 25th October,
29th November".

With these corrections the minutes were accepted (proposed by Keith Jeffrey, seconded
by Margaret Downie).

172.2 Matters Arising

172.2a Information Plaques: the Geology and two horizon boards are well in hand and should
be in place by the end of the year. Postcards of the boards would be considered at a
later date.

CB et al

172.2b Brunstane Road traffic: there will be a meeting of the City Council's Transport
Committee on 4th October, which will consider a report recommending that Brunstane
Road *not* be closed. The road is however closed at the moment while the Water Board
is working there, so a further survey of traffic in the surrounding areas would be
appropriate; item continues.

MC

172.2c Credit Union: the Community Council has written in support of the proposed new
boundaries for the Portobello Credit Union, to take in the area served by Bingham
Credit Union (now closed) and extending up to the boundary of the Leith Credit Union.
More volunteers are needed; a new six-week training course begins on 4th October in
Portobello Community Centre, from 7pm to 8:30pm. Item continues.

172.2d Walkway beside Indoor Bowling Centre: item continues.

172.2e Photos of Coat of Arms: item continues.

172.2f Landfill Entrust: item continues.

172.2g Portobello High School: the Chairman welcomed Duncan Stroud as a new PHS
representative; a second representative has been nominated but could not attend this
meeting.

The School ceilidh was a great success, and the exhibition was well received by those who attended it.

172.3 SEASIDE AWARD

Cllr Child presented a paper about the major issues affecting the enhancement of the beach and Promenade. She reported that Portobello beach is now officially designated as a bathing beach. Notices are to be posted along the Promenade with this information, and stressing the responsibilities of dog owners. The City of Edinburgh Council has applied for Lottery funding to upgrade the Prom.

‘Keep Scotland Beautiful’ evaluates many of Scotland’s beaches and in its latest report it lowered its grading of Portobello beach. It sets high standards which include banning dogs, having lifeguards available and providing ready access to the beach (which they translate as having a large car park). Cllr Child feels that on this latter basis we are being compared unfavourably with rural beaches, and will draft a letter to ‘Keep Scotland Beautiful’, on behalf of the Community Council, asking for an opportunity to discuss these issues with them.

MC

It has been estimated that it would cost some £200,000 per year to meet the standards. We need to have discussions with local residents about local needs and priorities.

172.4 REPORTS

172.4a Police

Insp. Morisetti reported that the following crimes were committed in our area in September:

- 4 house breakins (2 huts)
- 2 house breakins with intent
- 11 thefts of motor vehicles
- 3 attempted breakins to motor vehicles
- 4 pedal cycles stolen

The Police are concerned about the cycle thefts and would welcome any information about these; they are exploring ways to make bikes more ‘thief-proof’.

172.4b Treasurer’s Report

The accounts as at 27th September 1999 are as follows:

Treasurer’s Account:	£1543.48	
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£1925.37	
Cowarm account	£5115.58	(interest approximate)

172.4c Millennium Committee

The plans for the torchlight procession and festive fair are progressing well. Some shops are staying open, others are taking tables in the Town Hall. It has been confirmed that a pipe band will take part. Meetings have been held in connection with the proposed Christmas lights, which look promising. We have a boat for a beacon event on 31st December, but need volunteers for it.

There has been no response to our letter to the Merchants' and Hoteliers' Association regarding events on 8th December.

172.4d Portobello Counts

An estimated budget was circulated to support the request for funding. The feeling was that 'Portobello Counts' was at the heart of the Community Council's concerns, and its funding was approved.

172.4e Joppa Tennis Courts

The committee is meeting Corporate Services with a view to submitting a Lottery application by October. They have had a good year financially, having 40 members; another fund-raising ceilidh is planned.

172.5 Any Other Business

172.5a Bath Street traffic: the Police reported that 43 people have been charged with parking offences. It was suggested that since so few motorists seem to realise that it is illegal to park on pavements, it would be a good public relations exercise to stick warning notices on offending cars rather than move straight to towings away and prosecutions.

172.5b Post Office relocation: letters from Cllr Marshall and Mr B. McGill of the Post Office were read out. Scotmid accepted their appointment as sub postmasters on the understanding that they would continue to operate the Post Office from the existing premises on the High Street. Any proposed relocation would be subject to a detailed consultation process involving the City Council, local MP, MSP and Community Council.

172.5c Lights on Promenade: the lights were bought by local traders in 1983 and now belong to the Community Council. It was decided to write to Ian McFadyen of the City Council requesting that, if he considers the lights now to be unsafe, they should be removed, but with the supporting wires retained. We would also request his advice on the old Santa and Snowman decorations. The Millennium sub-committee will deal with this.

172.5d Portobello Swim Centre toilets: the toilets are supposed to be available to the general public, and not just patrons. Some people have apparently been turned away, reportedly because too much sand was being brought into the Centre (and through the changing rooms). Cllr Child will discuss the possibility of drawing up a code of conduct with the manager of the Swim Centre.

MC

172.5e Federation of Community Councils: A meeting was held in the City Chambers on 16th September, at which it was decided not to form a Federation of Edinburgh Community Councils. It was however agreed that it would be useful to meet collectively on an ad hoc basis to discuss matters of mutual interest. Drafts of guidelines for Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers of Community Councils were circulated. Training seminars on planning and licensing applications were proposed.

172.5f Portobello High School magazine 'Porty Blethers': we have received a letter from the High School thanking us for our interest in and financial support for 'Porty Blethers'.

172.5g Scottish Power Open Day: there is a meeting in Glasgow on 17th October.

175.2h Stanley Street sewage improvements: an explanatory letter was read out.

175.2i Susan Deacon: hopes to attend a Community Council meeting very soon; the Secretary will write to invite her to the November meeting.

LA

172.6 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 25th October 1999

Monday 29th November 1999