

Portobello Community Council

Minutes of the 175th meeting held on 31 January 2000
in Portobello Baptist Church hall

Present:

Lynn Aitchison, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Iain Cook, Dawson Currie, Morna Fergusson, Kathleen Hart, Wilma Irvine (Joppa Tennis Courts), Keith Jeffrey, Linda Kelly, Nora Mackenzie, M McNulty, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, George Murray, Beryl Neill, Patricia Ralph, Alison Robinson, Tom Smith (Chair), Duncan Stroud, Nick Stroud, David Turner.

Apologies: Sandy Begg, Shand Hutchison, Steve Morris, Inspector Morisetti, Sandy Smith, Gavin Strang, Susan Deacon, Margaret Smith, John Stewart, Sgt Townsend.

Item		Action by:
175.1	<u>Minutes of previous meeting</u> of 29 November 1999 Approved	

Special item: Finance - to allocate the £1500 won in the Calor Gas Community of the Year competition .

It was agreed that this money should not be given to anything that is a City of Edinburgh Council responsibility.

Possibility was discussed of using money to pump-prime something bigger, eg a Lottery bid to raise the profile of Portobello – eg local guide book.

Projects considered for funding:

Portobello Older People's Project – brings frail and elderly in to the Baptist Church Hall for activities and speakers – money needed for transport, as most helpers are volunteers. Their grant has been frozen – to be looked at by City of Edinburgh Council, but situation unlikely to improve. Community Education used to offer some support but this has stopped. Currently just about breaking even for this financial year.

Information Boards – will be short of about £600 of which PAS has agreed to pay £300, and request to Portobello Community Council for balance. However, this money can probably come from main funds.

CAB – hoping for a standstill budget rather than a cut for this coming year, but will have a shortfall, and have cut back hours of opening. Lloyds TSB are involved in funding. For this money, a problem is that the management of CABs is a wider issue than just Portobello.

Joppa Tennis Courts – feasibility study is likely to go ahead, and have met with an architect. Did not get the Millennium grant applied for – to upgrade the putting green. Accent for development is to be on youth and tourism.

Decision: £500 for Portobello Old People's Project and £1000 for Joppa Tennis Courts.

KH

Harry Lauder Memorial (Statue) Fund. Issue discussed of an account linked to the American Harry Lauder web-site so that people can donate world-wide. Bank of Scotland have given reassurance re security that nobody other than the signatories can withdraw from that account. Any cash conversion of foreign currency should be paid by the person paying in the money, which would have to be made clear on the web-site, as the Community Council would not want to have to pay currency conversion costs. Proposal that a new committee be formed to deal with any Harry Lauder Fund as this could potentially involve a lot of money – initial costing for a statue was around £20,000. Other fund-raising efforts would be done alongside the donation account, such as the sale of

mugs and CDs. A scale of fund-raising was suggested – to have a final goal but also have some proposals for interim goals if the target is not reached by a dead-line date. (Note: Scottish Arts Council funding might also be available at some point in the future if a statue is produced by a local artist.)

Agreed that a Harry Lauder Statue is a good idea.

Agreed that an account be set up linked to the web-site.

To set up a Harry Lauder sub-committee – *names of those interested to Patricia Ralph as soon as possible*, which could include co-opted members. Noted that the chair of any sub-committee must be a Portobello Community Council member. All/ PR

The Treasurer expressed concern about the expanding number of accounts now linked to the Community Council – possibility of creating an assistant treasurer from the membership of the Harry Lauder Fund sub-committee.

Letter to Susan Deacon.

There are a number of issues that the Portobello Community Council wishes to bring to the attention of Susan Deacon, the local MSP. Drafts of letters had been circulated. Funding links between local and central government were discussed and the possibility (unsubstantiated?) of the Waterfront Development (Granton) spreading along to Portobello – *Iain Cook to investigate*.

Should focus on beach, sea, traffic and parks – topics pertinent to Portobello being stressed along with other generic issues. Current amenities can not be left to decay away into nothing, and risk being lost – as seen in the recent Swim Centre public action. *Drafts to be merged by secretary*.

A review of recreational services is currently happening, which involves staff consultation. There are threats to Council-maintained leisure facilities from private sector developments. LA

175.2 **Matters arising**

175.2a **Information plaques.** Already discussed under “Finance”.

175.2b **Brunstane Road Traffic.** Data still being processed with aim of getting a report for the transportation committee out soon.

175.2c **Credit Union.** Launch can not be until April. Portobello Community Council will be asked about ways of promoting the Credit Union. Fundraiser at St Johns Church hall on 11 March 2000 from 10.00 – 12.00.

175.2d **Walkway beside Indoor Bowling Centre.** Still no sign of any action as ownership is a major issue.

175.2e **Portobello Community Council Coat of Arms.** Address needed for Lord Lyon – to be forwarded to secretary. PR/ LA

175.2f **Seaside Award.** No response from Keep Scotland Beautiful.

175.2g **Waiting restrictions in the Bath Street area.** Item continues.

175.2h **Lights on the Promenade.** Lights to be taken down tomorrow. Item ends.

175.2i **Public Toilets.** Currently part of the budget process, although a commitment

has been made.

175.2j **Shrub Mount – Hugh Miller** Ownership still being tracked.

175.2k **Britain in Bloom** No report. Item ends.

175.2l **Community Education Review – Consultation Meetings.**

Review prompted by Scottish Exec on three strands - work with adults, work with children and young people, work with local communities. Lot of new policies and Comm Ed must look at how they will respond to highlighted issues such as Lifelong Learning. Information now being collated and review should be ready for submission to the Scottish Exec by April. Local workers have been given information to consider how this will affect the local community. A Community Learning Strategic plan can be seen on Capinfo: comments invited.

175.3 **Reports**

175.3a **Police Report.**

Due to illness, there was no Police Report, but figures for January are:

3 break ins (2 houses, 1 shop), and 2 attempted break-ins.

3 thefts from cars

3 thefts of cars and 3 thefts of bicycles.

11 damage only accidents and 4 (minor) injury accidents.

175.3b **Treasurer's Report.**

£3931.89 in Treasurer's Account (which includes the £1500 from Calor Gas and £1216 from the Millennium fund).

£1925.37 in Joppa Tennis Court Account.

£5000.00 in the Co-Warm account (plus interest of about £130)

Balance of Millennium money (£1216) will be put into the new account.

£550 donated to St Philips towards their rebuilding fund.

Thank you gift was presented to the Portobello High School rep as a thank you for help at the Torchlight procession.

Donation agreed to Town Hall caretaker - £25.

KH

175.3c **Joppa Tennis Courts.**

Tickets for the Ceilidh on 18 February 2000 are now available.

175.3d **Millennium Committee.**

Torchlight procession – The Chair expressed thanks to the Millennium Committee for all their efforts. 1100 – 1200 people attended, most of whom decided to come into the Town Hall. The stalls did not do very well. Coffee and mulled wine was popular, and the hot soup went “like hotcakes!” The torches had come recommended, and some did not last throughout the procession. Lessons have been learnt for any similar future event. Shop opening was a waste of time, according to local traders.

City of Edinburgh Council will put up lights next year at no cost to Portobello Community Council. Would like to consider floodlighting of the Police Station. Not all Portobello Xmas lights were used this year. The fittings were

all on the outside of the lamp-posts because of internal wiring.
Next project is the Country and Western week-end – date not yet set.

Portobello Counts.

Summary sheet issued and comments will be invited at the next Portobello Community Council meeting.

All

175.4 **AOCB**

175.4a Film-makers have been involved recently locally. Portobello could become more involved.

175.4b Several organisations have approached Portobello Community Council about giving presentations. Agreed to invite somebody to every third meeting, starting with CRAG.

LA

175.4c £50,000 fund has been made available for Millennium grants for local communities. Application was made for details of this in March 1999.

175.4d It is disappointing that Portobello was unsuccessful in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to upgrade the Promenade.

175.4e Make Waste Your Business – just launched. Report tabled. Item ends.

175.4f Energy efficiency leaflets tabled. Item ends.

175.5 **Dates of future meetings:**

For general planning, the Community Council meets on the last Monday of each month, except for December and the summer break.

All

Dates of next meetings:

28 February 2000, 27 March 2000

Notice of 176th Meeting
of Portobello Community Council

on Monday 28 February 2000 at 7.30pm
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street

AGENDA

- 1 **Chairman's welcome: apologies**
- 2 **Minutes of the 175th meeting of 30 January 2000**
- 3 **Matters arising**
- 4 **Reports: Police**
 Treasurer
 Sub-committees
- 5 **AOCB**
- 6 **Date of next meeting: 27 March 2000**

Apologies to Secretary: Lynn Aitchison, 0131 669-1108