

# ***Portobello Community Council***

Minutes of the 176<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28 February 2000  
in Portobello Baptist Church hall

## **Present:**

Lynn Aitchison, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Margaret Downie, Keith Jeffrey, Linda Kelly, M McNulty, Brenda Molony, George Murray, Patricia Ralph, Alison Robinson, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith (Chair), John Stewart, Duncan Stroud, Nick Stroud, Sgt Townsend, David Turner.

**Apologies:** Sandy Begg, Morna Fergusson, Kathleen Hart, Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Steve Morris, Tom Nimmo, Susan Deacon (MSP), Gavin Strang (MP), Vince Ridd, Sandy Smith

Item		Action by:
176.1	<b><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></b> of 30 January 2000 Amendment re Millennium Committee report: Budget still to be approved by City of Edinburgh Council for putting up Christmas lights.	
176.2	<b><u>Matters arising</u></b>	
176.2a	<b>Information plaques.</b> £600 is still needed but application will be made to the Millennium awards. Request for refreshments of £10 for Geology board unveiling – approved. Horizon boards at manufacture; Seaside / Natural History boards at design stage.	KH
176.2b	<b>Brunstane Road Traffic.</b> Nothing new – (but see PAS report.)	
176.2c	<b>Credit Union.</b> Still waiting for registration. Coffee morning and sale on 11 March was publicised – St Johns Church Hall – 10.00 – 12.00.	
176.2d	<b>Walkway beside Indoor Bowling Centre.</b> Item ends.	
176.2e	<b>Portobello Community Council Coat of Arms.</b> Response from the Lord Lyon clarifies use of these armorial bearings. Secretary to write to Portobello Traders re sign posts.	LA
176.2f	<b>Seaside Award.</b> Still no response from Keep Scotland Beautiful. Send duplicate copy of letter.	LA
176.2g	<b>Waiting restrictions in the Bath Street area.</b> Road narrowed but still no yellow lines, which were supposed to be imminent.	
176.2h	<b>Public Toilets.</b> This is delayed until budget decisions are finalised.	
176.2i	<b>Shrub Mount – Hugh Miller</b> Still trying to locate owner. Item ends.	
176.2j	<b>Community Education Review – Consultation Meetings.</b> A questionnaire is going out to organisations and some households, trying to highlight any gaps in provision.	
176.3	<b><u>Reports</u></b>	
176.3a	<b>Police Report.</b> The drugs forum has been a great success, with tremendous response from the children in schools. Thanks to Sir Tom Farmer for supporting this venture. Also funded from this initiative are drug boxes - set up for education purposes.	

Figures for February are:

1 break in (to a business) 3 thefts from cars 3 thefts of cars  
9 damage only accidents, 4(one serious) with injury accidents.  
9 reports of vandalism. 23 crimes have been solved during the month.

The Chair asked whether any minutes of the meeting with the Chief Constable would be available as he missed the meeting.

JT

176.3b **Treasurer's Report.**

£1011.11 in Treasurer's Account  
£1838.79 in Joppa Tennis Court Account.  
£6000.00 in the Co-Warm account (plus interest of about £130 )  
£1150.90 in the Sir Harry Lauder Account

All expenses for the financial year should be brought to the next meeting.

All

176.3c **Joppa Tennis Courts.** (No report due at this meeting)

176.3d **Millennium Committee.**

Committee membership – more people are needed – contact Patricia Ralph.  
Line Dancing event planned for 6 May 2000 (provisional date).  
The Chair asked about publishing accounts linked to the Millennium events.  
Sir Harry Lauder Fund – a press release has gone out, and there has already been coverage in several newspapers. The Scottish Tourist Board will advertise in their members' newsletter. The mugs (£8.50 for limited numbers of china mugs; earthenware mugs will be around £5) and CDs (at £10) are now available. 7 mugs have gone to the USA.

KH

176.3e **Portobello Counts.**

The paper issued at the last meeting has been generally accepted and there were no further questions. There will be something in the next Reporter.

176.3f **Portobello Amenity Society.**

On Community Council behalf, two planning applications have been objected to. One is for an indoor bowling centre in the grounds of Jewel and Esk Valley College, as relocation premises for the Milton Street Bowling Club. The second is for a block of 53 flats in Brunstane Road on the former Heather Valley site, and access will be right beside the hump-back bridge.

The Planning Dept is currently drawing up Character Appraisals. Each conservation area has to have this appraisal, which will be used to inform future planning applications. PAS has written a large part of the draft version. An exhibition will be held in Portobello Library from 15 – 20 March, which will be followed by a public meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday, 22 March from 7.00 – 9.00pm. This is the chance for Portobello people to have their say, to ensure that future planning applications make Portobello better. The contribution made by PAS was commended at the Planning Committee.

All

**Councillors reports:**

Report tabled from Cllr Maureen Child, which covered three main issues: The Christian Path, The Promenade and Council Tax and Poll Tax Collection.

Portobello has much natural beauty, but little by way of development land. Any future developments should be for the good of the local residents and visitors. A leaflet has been produced for public consultation linked to the Granton Waterfront development, and our response could be that Portobello should be incorporated in the plan.

Economic development potential is often a trigger for funding and Portobello may not have sufficient economic impact potential. On the plus side, LEEL is involved as are Scottish Homes, and they have urban villages as a key focus.

Edinburgh Pedestrian Navigation System has produced a map for visitors, which carries no mention of Portobello. The response to this omission has been that this is purely a pedestrian map and people are not expected to walk from the city centre to Portobello. Dispersal of people from the city centre is still a priority of Edinburgh and

Lothian Tourist Board. Jack Munro is the Chief Executive of the Edinburgh & Lothians Tourist Board, based at 4 Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh EH 7RY) to be invited to speak to the Portobello Community Council. Topic could be “The Ways the Tourist Board Promotes Portobello.”

Normal maintenance of the Promenade was questioned, especially now that Lottery funding is not available. Money has been put identified long-term for the upgrade of the John Street Paddling Pool area, but there are various ideas about what the area should be used for. Further consultation is needed.

No report from Cllr Lawrence Marshall, who had put in his apologies for this meeting.

176.4 **AOCB**

176.4a Speakers suggestions– air pollution and the traffic effect - Jim Hunter of Development Dept and Richard Dickson of Friends of the Earth. No measurement is currently taken of traffic pollution.

176.4b Daisy Park and Brighton Park – a site visit is proposed to look at possible developments, which could also inform the John Street development. MC

176.4c Alex Mowatt has moved to another job. Details of a new community council liaison officer has not been notified.

176.4d Reorganisation of local government – very few responses were received to this document. The committee structure is under review, and will hopefully make decision making more effective.

176.5 **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:**

27 March 2000; 24 April 2000 – this date needs reviewed due to public holidays;  
29 May 2000; 26 June 2000