

# ***Portobello Community Council***

Minutes of the 177<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 27 March 2000  
in Portobello Baptist Church hall

## **Present:**

Lynn Aitchison, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Iain Cook, Dawson Currie, Margaret Downie, Alix Gaffney, Kathleen Hart, Shand Hutchison, Keith Jeffrey, Linda Kelly, Lawrence Marshall, Steve Morris, George Murray, Beryl Neill, Patricia Ralph, Margaret Smith, Sandy Smith, Tom Smith (Chair), John Stewart, Duncan Stroud, Nick Stroud, David Turner.

**Apologies:** Susan Deacon (MSP), Gavin Strang (MP)

Item	Action by:
177.1	<b><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></b> of 28 February 2000 Accepted as accurate
177.2	<b><u>Matters arising</u></b> <b>Information plaques.</b>
177.2a	The Horizon Boards are now ready.
177.2b	<b>Brunstane Road Traffic.</b> Nothing new.
177.2c	<b>Credit Union.</b> Coffee morning and sale on 11 March was successful, raising £200. 27 April is the date for registration. Good luck was expressed for the future of the credit union.
177.2d	<b>Portobello Community Council Coat of Arms.</b> The finished product - 28 by 21 inches – will go above the doorways of the Town Hall. It has still to go to the picture framer.
177.2e	<b>Seaside Award.</b> Still no response from Keep Scotland Beautiful.
177.2f	<b>Waiting restrictions in the Bath Street area.</b> Item ends.
177.2g	<b>Public Toilets.</b> There is money approved in the City of Edinburgh Council budget for the toilet opening with a mobile staffing.
177.2h	<b>Community Education Review – Consultation Meetings.</b> Nothing further at this stage.
177.2i	<b>Daisy Park and Brighton Park.</b> Trying to organise a site visit to see whether the parks provision locally is well integrated with overall plans, including the paddling pool development at John Street. Some work has been done at the paddling pool site, and that work has already been vandalised. This will be brought to the attention of the appropriate City of Edinburgh Council official. MC Opinion was that the site was left very untidy, with stones left lying. Suggestion that the library vicinity could be included in this visit – agreed.
177.2j	<b>Community council liaison officer.</b> New officer is Eileen Hewitt who takes up post on the 10 April 2000.
177.2k	<b>Reorganisation of local government.</b> This consultation continues.
177.3	<b><u>Reports</u></b>
177.3a	<b>Police Report.</b> No response from Chief Constable

No report this month.

177.3b **Treasurer's Report.**

£900.54 in Treasurer's Account  
£3153.33 in Joppa Tennis Court Account – following a successful ceilidh.  
£6000.00 in the Co-Warm account (plus interest of about £130 )  
£1334.07 in the Sir Harry Lauder Account

A mini balance sheet has been prepared for the Millennium events and will be presented at the AGM. £1545 came in donations from local traders to support these events. Christmas lights in Portobello – payment for upkeep – £950 has been reserved for maintenance of these lights within the Millennium account.

177.3c **Joppa Tennis Courts.**

The Treasurer reported that the recent bid for funding had been turned down, so there is no money for the feasibility study. Landscaping and resurfacing of courts – fundraising has produced about one sixth of what is required. City of Edinburgh Council has offered to replace the fences, but there is still a shortfall. As well as sporting, there are economic and community factors that would support any future funding bids. Perhaps some reduced project could be started? If funding for the current project is not secured, what will happen to the space? The committee will be meeting to review these issues. It was agreed that a year would be a suitable time-scale for planning, before any decisions are made. The Portobello Community Council wishes the Tennis Court committee well, and hopes they will continue their superb efforts! Higher interest accounts for the current money could be considered.

177.3d **Millennium Committee.**

Due to perceived lack of support the sub-committee disbanded itself at its last meeting. The Line Dancing event planned for 6 May 2000 has been cancelled. Help has not been forthcoming from Portobello Community Council membership for assistance at events, especially notification in advance that help would be given on the day. On the other hand, perhaps requests for help have not been presented as urgent. Flood-lighting of the police station could be missed, although this is mainly letter writing. Patricia agreed to write these letters. PR

Moral support for events is not sufficient, but people do need advice about what is actually involved. Calls for volunteers could be attempted via the Reporter. People can be co-opted on to the Millennium committee, so that Portobello can have future “community spirit generating” events. All

The committee agreed to continue, focussing on the torchlight procession – which will hopefully become an annual event, putting out requests for specific jobs as necessary.

Sir Harry Lauder Memorial Fund – request for a contribution from the Portobello Community Council. Agreed that this would be deferred. Mugs and CDs are still for sale, and the library will be a central point for sales.

**Portobello Counts.**

177.3e Nothing further to report.

**Portobello Amenity Society.**

177.3f Planning issues – Planning permission for the indoor bowling centre has been granted. The flats in Brunstane Road – no decision yet. The former Thorburn yard in Bellfield Lane has been proposed for flats and this has been objected to.

**South East Edinburgh Plan.** The plan was outlined to the Community Council. Developments are proposed all around the vicinity of the new hospital, with the northern boundary down the Milton Road to Joppa. City of Edinburgh Council has over-ruled objections to developments of the green belt. 5,000 houses are to be built, some 800 of

which are to be at the back of Craigmillar/ Greendykes. The City of Edinburgh Council is thus putting forward a blue print for environment, housing, transport and economic development – which will be referred to for any future planning applications. It is a duty of the local authority to provide housing. The Wisp will be realigned, alongside the next phase of Kinnaird Park. Much of this plan is actually within Midlothian.

The main policies that relate to Portobello are:

Country park around Craigmillar Castle; wildlife corridor along Brunstane Burn (which will be managed); protecting cycle paths and rights of way. Some woodland will be developed in “locked areas” beside Kinnaird Park. Further retail development will be limited, but some extension will be made to the business park behind B & Q. Peffermill will be developed. Transport – greater use of public transport – SE wedge proposals must be shown to restrict car use, and developments should not be adverse in terms of traffic. Proposed station sites for the railway line are protected, and also a park and ride area at Newcraighall. Light rapid transport system will be developed from Ferniehill in to the city. No new roads are proposed in the area.

Report will be circulated as quickly as possible, for further discussion at the next meeting.

177.3g **Councillors reports:**

(Not presented at this meeting due to the SE Edinburgh plan presentation.)

177.4 **AOCB**

177.4a **Agenda** Two copies will be produced for the notice boards. Any notes will go into the minutes.

177.4b **Portobello Community Centre** Minutes of Management Committee will be tabled.

177.4c **Bus services** now appear to be worse in Portobello, with many services ending at Kings Road, some increase in journey times, and noticeable gaps between 7 00 – 8.00pm. City of Edinburgh Council can tender for additional services, but decisions about the day to day running are made by Lothian Buses (formerly LRT). We could invite Neil Renilson to outline changes for Portobello.

(Note: Mr Renilson is not available on the date of the next meeting)

177.4d **Portobello Post Office.** Letter received re proposal to move this to Bath Street.

177.5 **Dates of future meetings:**

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

**Dates of next meetings:**

24 April 2000 (agreed to keep this date even although it is a public holidays)

29 May 2000

26 June 2000