

# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 178th meeting, held on 24th April 2000  
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

## **Present:**

Tom Smith (Chair) , Kathleen Hart (Minutes, Treasurer)  
Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Margaret Downie, Alix Gaffney,  
Shand Hutchison, Nora McKenzie, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, George Murray, Patricia Ralph,  
Margaret Smith, John Stewart, Duncan Stroud (PHS), Nick Stroud, Sgt John Townsend,  
David Turner.

## **Apologies:**

Lynn Aitchison, Sandy Begg, Susan Deacon, Marion Fergusson, Keith Jeffrey, Vince Ridd,  
Sandy Smith, Gavin Strang.

## **Item**

## **Action by**

### **178.1 Special Request**

Lewis Waugh, a teacher at Portobello High School, asked for volunteers to help as scribes and readers for children with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia and lack of motor skills) in the Standard Grade and Higher exams which start on 16th May. Help is required for individual pupils, particularly for Maths, English and languages. Most exams are 90 minutes to two hours long, and are in both mornings and afternoons. The main requirements are literacy, legible writing, patience, calm and sympathy; French and German speakers are very welcome. If interested, please contact Janet Grierson at the School (669 2324, ext 287).

### **178.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting (27th March 2000)**

Celia Butterworth was not present, and should have been included in the 'Apologies'.

Item 177.3b: "Millennium account" at the end of this paragraph should be "Sir Harry Lauder Memorial Fund".

With these corrections the minutes were accepted (proposed by David Turner, seconded by Margaret Smith).

### **178.3 Matters Arising**

178.3a Information Plaques: we await planning permission to dig holes in the Promenade for the supports for the two horizon boards (the Prom is classified as a "road"!).

178.3b Brunstane Road traffic: no new developments; item continues.

178.3c Credit Union: the new date for the meeting with the Registrar is 2nd May.

178.3d Coat of Arms: still not arrived; item continues.

178.3e Public Toilets: the toilets at Bath Street and Joppa are to be open all year round, those at Pipe Street in the summer only (1st May to 3rd September). The toilets in the Indoor Bowling Centre and the Swim Centre are also available for public use. (Six automatic toilets are still proposed for Edinburgh as a whole, two at the bus station, but none in Portobello.)

178.3f Seaside Award: there has been no response to the letter we sent; it will be sent again. **MC**

178.3g Community Education Review: nothing new at present; item ends.

178.3h Parks: there will be a tour of local parks on Saturday (6th May), and subsequent meetings to plan the future of the John Street site (ex paddling pool).

Staff at the Library wish to improve the appearance of the area around the entrance, with planters (direct planting is not possible because of the nature of the ground), and possibly removing the cobblestones.

178.3i Reorganisation of Local Government: it appeared that no one had written or telephoned about this consultation. The intention is to reorganise the City Council along the lines of the Scottish Parliament, with an executive and panels to scrutinise policy more closely. This should bring decisions closer to the communities affected by them, and also lower the barriers between Council departments. Maureen assured the Community Council that she would still attend its meetings.

178.3j Portobello Community Centre: no minutes have been received since our last meeting.

178.3k Bus services: Neil Renilson (Chief Executive of LRT) was not available to attend this meeting; he will be invited to address our next meeting, on 26th June. **LA**

178.3l Portobello Post Office: no further news. Lawrence Marshall has written but so far received only an acknowledgement in reply; item continues.

## **178.4 REPORTS**

### **178.4a Police**

Sgt Townsend apologised for having to miss our last meeting. The crime figures for March and two thirds of April were as follows:

	<u>1-31 March</u>	<u>1-20 April</u>
house breakins	4	1
attempted house breakins	1	3
thefts of motor vehicles	18	7
attempted breakins to motor vehicles	5	1
vandalism	17	9

The Road Traffic Accident statistics were as follows:

	<u>1-31 March</u>	<u>1-20 April</u>
damage only	10	2
minor injury	2	1
serious injury	0	1

One of the injuries in March was to a cyclist.

The main concern at the moment is with vandalism. The Police have therefore been organising high-profile patrols, and also plain-clothes patrols in unmarked cars. The East Edinburgh Crime Prevention Panel has produced a leaflet and may request help in distributing it to local households.

Housebreaking was the focus of attention in March, when several known housebreakers were targeted and a lot of stolen property was recovered. Operation Foil also tackled drug problems.

Shand asked for new signs to be erected at the tunnel in Brighton Place reminding drivers of the 'give way' rules.

#### **178.4b Councillors' Reports**

All the items in Maureen's report had already arisen during the course of the meeting.

Lawrence is still pursuing the repairs at the bridge over the burn near the Bridge Street car park. The missing paving makes one of the steps unreasonably high, a problem made worse by the failure of the nearby streetlight.

Crossrail is definitely going ahead, with trains running between Newcraighall and Bathgate by 2002. This would include a station at Brunstane Road, but a station at Portobello is by no means so certain, especially since it would be difficult to restore. (Two guest speakers at the PAS AGM, at 7:30 on 24th May at St Mark's Church, will discuss the past and future of local rail travel.)

Planning permission for the finger posts proposed by the local traders association has been turned down, but it is hoped that this decision can be reviewed.

#### **178.4c Treasurer's Report**

The accounts as at 24th April 2000 are as follows:

Treasurer's Account:	£ 920.32	
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£3153.33	
Cowarm account:	£6000	(plus interest £135)
Sir Harry Lauder Memorial Fund:	£ 981.11	

#### **178.4d Joppa Tennis Courts**

Maureen will try and get money for a feasibility study.

**MC**

Sport Scotland is not willing to support tennis with lottery funding. The JTC committee is therefore looking for new funding possibilities, which will require that plans are as socially inclusive as possible. The courts themselves should just be playable for this year.

#### **178.4e Millennium Committee**

There hadn't been much response to the discussion at the previous meeting, but on the other hand the Committee had not asked for anything specific.

It was agreed to go ahead with this year's torchlight procession, on 8th December.

#### **178.4f Portobello Amenity Society**

The application to build flats on the Thorburns site in Bellfield Lane had been turned down. The application to extend the house at 20 Bellfield Street has been opposed.

The South East Edinburgh Structure Plan has now been agreed. We will have to make sure there are no further encroachments on the Green Belt. There is a conflict in the report's policy for retail parks; John Stewart will write to object.

**JS**

**178.4g Portobello Counts**

A meeting is to be held on 27th April in the Bellfield Street Parish Church coffee lounge to discuss the traffic aspects of Portobello Counts. A small traffic survey is proposed, with input from residents associations welcome.

The High School may be able to help with a survey on air pollution, and it is hoped to arrange a meeting with representatives from the City Council and Friends of the Earth.

**178.5 Any Other Business**

There was no further business this time.

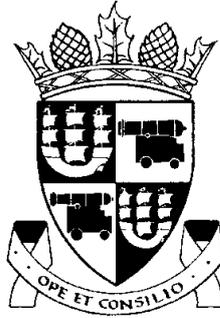
**178.6 Future meetings**

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 29th May 2000 (AGM)

Monday 26th June 2000

July: Summer break; no meeting



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The 179th meeting of Portobello Community Council  
will be held  
on Monday 29th May,  
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street, Portobello,  
immediately following the AGM.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 24th April 2000**
- 3. Matters arising from meeting of 24th April 2000**
- 4. Reports:**
  - Police**
  - Councillors**
  - Treasurer**
  - Millennium**
  - Portobello Counts**
  - JTC**
- 5. AOCB**

## **6. Dates of future meetings**



