



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 198th meeting, held on 29 April 2002
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

Present:

Celia Butterworth Cllr Maureen Child Dawson Currie (Sec) Margaret Downie Kathleen Hart (Treas) Shand Hutchison Keith Jeffrey
Nora Mackenzie Cllr Lawrence Marshall George Murray Patricia Ralph Sonya Seston (PHS) Margaret Smith Tom Smith (Chair)
John Stewart Nick Stroud Natalie Todd (PHS) Lewis Waugh. Also: Graham Addis K E Addis Liz Addis
Donald Anderson (Leader, City of Edinburgh Council) Jordan Burns (PHS) Robert Davidson (CEC Taskforce Manager) Bob Jefferson (KPT)
Margaret Munro (History Soc) David Turner David Wright (Head, PHS).

Apologies:

Lynn Aitchison Susan Deacon MSP Alix Gaffney Brenda Molony Beryl Neill L&B Police Alison Robinson Sandy Smith
Gavin Strang MP.

Item

Action

198.1

GUEST SPEAKER #1

David Wright (Head, PHS) apologised for his non-appearance due to sickness at the previous meeting. He gave us a potted history of his past including the facts that he had been educated at Kirkcaldy High School and had enjoyed it, and that the last school at which he had taught had been Dunbar. He favours a traditional approach and thinks that children should respect others. There are a few not so good children but the majority do not fall into this category. Asked what he thought of the Portobello Good Citizen idea he thought that more than one person should be recognised. Answering another question about whether the parents should be punished for their children's bad behaviour he thought that some parents had a very hard time and a move to family guidance and education would be the answer. The chairman thanked David for his attendance.

198.2

GUEST SPEAKER #2

Donald Anderson (Leader, City of Edinburgh Council) gave an interesting presentation on how good Edinburgh is. East of Scotland is one of the biggest areas of growth in Europe and its unemployment at 2% is one of the lowest although not evenly spread. His presentation continued covering Portobello upgrade, local schools (Smart Schools Investment Program £150,000 already spent at both PHS and Towerbank, with £10m or £20m still to be spent on PHS and Holy Rood), Local Environment (Task force working wheelie bin introduction (70% done but with the World Heritage Site still to do), co-operation with Scotland in Bloom, Environmental Wardens (with 184 fines, 1,450 warning letters (mainly dog fouling (14 fines) and bin bags out early) and CIMS results showing improvement on litter. Donald ended with his slogan "Portobello is one of the best places in one of the best cities". He went on to answer questions: Nick asked about youth initiatives and was told about 12 extra schools which includes all the maintenance for the contractual period. Other things like the 'Go for it' scheme at Christmas and Easter with the next one including under 12s and efforts being made to open cafes late to give youths somewhere to go rather than hang about. Other questions included the lack of beach cleaning in the winter months when the latest clean-up by volunteers yielded 96 kilos and the answer was that there were much better ways of spending the money but with an extra £3 million put into city cleansing there should be some room for manoeuvre. A comment was made that the High Street was much better now. In answer to a question about anti-social behaviour that included broken upturned bottles being left in the beach and the police not helping much due to underfunding, Donald agreed that such behaviour was not helping but the police budget had been improved and a national debate on such issues was taking place. The chairman thanked Donald for taking the time to come to speak to us.

198.3

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (25 March 2002)

Minute 192.4c should have read "Sandy Smith was arranging for someone else to arrange opera".
Moved Celia Seconded Margaret Downie.

198.4

MATTERS ARISING

198.4a

Seaside Award Good Beach Guide includes Portobello in Marine Conservation.

198.4b

PCFA Funds Cheque now deposited in our account. Agreed Sec should write thankyou letter to Lynn.

Sec

198.4c

Hugh Miller Official plaque ceremony to take place on 13 May.

198.5 REPORTS

198.5a Task Force Manager Robert Davidson reported that there were now three barrow beats; that ASDA had agreed to clean the valley twice weekly; the beach had been cleaned by both machines; the chewing gum clearing machine would be available in his area 2.5 weeks / year. The Environmental Wardens would come along to the June meeting. It was commented that during BRA's clean up of the Brighton and Rosefield parks much less rubbish was collected. This was undoubtedly due to the improved cleaning done by the Task Force.

198.5b Treasurer

Treasurers account	£ 963.76
Joppa Tennis Courts	£4064.19
Co-Warm account	£6726.10
Sir Harry Lauder Memorial Fund	£2674.06 (Includes Portobello Christmas Lights fund £950)

It was announced that we would not be being charged anything for the Christmas lights for last year. That means that the money is available for new lights this year. We had promised to give some money to the library for selling Harry Lauder stuff etc over the last two years. It was agreed that £50 should be given. Auditors were required: Agreed Celia and to ask Sandy Smith.

198.5c Amenity Society John had written on our behalf about the draft Edinburgh and Lothians Structure Plan. Objections had been raised about two planning applications to turn two shops at the foot of Bath Street into houses (windows etc not in alignment with ones above). Thorburns and Nursery applications had been approved with restrictions.

198.5d Councillors. Lawrence: Bus 26 back to 15 mins in the evenings; City car club meeting 16 May (notice handed out); The Tower has been given £40,000 (out of £213,000 cost); shopfront meeting had taken place with grants of up to £5,000 available; Scottish Power are leaving their Fishwives Causeway site at Kings Road. This site is zoned industrial but if re-zoned would make a good site for housing (maybe 50% social). Skateboarders to use grassy area at Bowling centre?
Maureen: John Street Paddling Pool site plans should be available in three weeks; Crossrail due 3 June on schedule; Joppa Tennis objectors means no Sunday tennis this year but will be raised again.

198.5e Police

	August	Nov	Dec	Jan
House break-ins	1	1	13+9	14+3
Attempted HB	2	1		5+3
Theft of motor vehicle	20	11		
Attempted theft of MV	1			
Theft from MV	4			
Vandalism		36		104
Accidents involving Motor Vehicles				
Damage only	8			
Injury minor	1			
Injury serious	0			

'+' Residential + Business

Written report read out by chair. Crime: housebreaking continues mostly to pay for drugs; Disorder: still too many calls when youths are just gathering; Policing methods: plain clothes police to try to catch housebreakers and the officers will also watch collections of youths with station assistants to ring back callers every half hour when unable to attend due to other commitments; Road safety: two pedestrian fatal accidents last year as the previous year but serious accidents slightly down. Road safety priorities are; parking at schools, not wearing seatbelts, drink driving and disqualified drivers.

198.5f Joppa Tennis No rep but AGM on 22 April. Courts are to be resurfaced but only one estimate was produced so at least one other to be done.

198.5g Harry Lauder Lectern made and foundations started but due to a misunderstanding the process has been delayed (lectern not ready in time) The Council has agreed to pay for the labour which leaves more money available for further planting.

198.5h Portobello Counts New figures published soon.

198.5i LDC Report: Next meeting 30 April at Meadowbank.

198.5j Information Boards and Building Plaques Seaside board now up with extra security. John Street board

vandalised and new polycarb required. Old town hall plaques to be put up at same time as Hugh Miller one.

- 198.5k Coade Stone Columns
Everything held at Granton Square has to be cleared by August. Attempts are being made to store at Robert's Fishwives Causeway site.
- 198.5l Prom Improvements: Old Ghost Train Site Lawrence: still not settled. Lawrence
- 198.5m Community Council's Web Site Basic structure now settled and limited access to 'not live' site available in a few weeks so that groups can update regularly prior to official launch later in the year.
- 198.6 AOB

PHS Celidh Friday 10 May in Town Hall
- 198.7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 19:30 on 27 May (AGM), (then, 24 June, no meeting July, 26 August, 30 September.)

Contacts
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20th AGM AGENDA

1. Returning Officer's Opening Remarks
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Election of Office Bearers
4. AOB

199th Meeting AGENDA

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks, apologies.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Reports
5. AOB
6. Dates of next meetings