



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 200th meeting held on 24th June 2002 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

Present:

Matthew Brennan, Celia Butterworth, Joyce Campbell, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Gillian Dunn, Kathleen Hart (Treasurer), Bob Jefferson, Keith Jeffery, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, John Smart (Chair), Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Aileen Valentine (Secretary), Lewis Waugh.

In attendance:

Stephen Dishon, Colin McBeth.

Apologies:

Robert Davidson, Susan Deacon, Robert Gatliff, Lawrence Marshall, Sandy Smith, Gavin Strang.

Opening remarks by Chairman:

The new Chairman welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the new Community Council, introducing himself and the new Secretary.

200.1 Portobello Web site

Bob Jefferson gave an explanation of the Portobello Community website, Portobello Online, and requested comments from the Community Council to supplement the work of the focus group. It is hoped that the site will be made live within the next few months. Bob gave a broad overview of the site, with a tour of its facilities and amenities. Thanks were recorded to Bob, Colin and Steven.

200.2 Minutes of previous meeting (27th May 2002)

Minutes of previous meeting and of AGM: proposed by Tom Smith, seconded by Brenda Molony.

Minutes of 29th April: proposed by Tom Smith, seconded by Margaret Smith.

200.3 Reports

200.3a Portobello Task Force Manager

The Task Force Manager was not present so his report was read by Dawson Currie. If anyone has any pressing items they should contact Robert. The Kings Road roundabout still has to be pruned; this should be done in about six weeks (there was a delay because of repainting chevrons round the outside).

200.3b Treasurer

Treasurers account	£2,757.20
Joppa Tennis Court account	£1,892.54
Cowarm account	£6,668.35 (closed)
Sir Harry Lauder account	£2,414.96
(to be transferred to Treasurer's account)	

The money from the Cowarm account has been handed over to help pay for the refurbishment of the Joppa Tennis Courts, where work is expected to begin shortly. It was agreed that the Sir Harry Lauder Account be closed and monies transferred to the Treasurer's account, as an extra 1% interest is given on that account.

200.3c Amenity Society (PAS)

John Stewart reported that 70 people attended the AGM. PAS made planning submissions on the Community Council's behalf about two shops in Bath Street which are to be converted to houses; the applications have been granted, with the comments taken on board.

200.3d Councillors

Maureen Child reported that the John Street Paddling Pool sub-committee was about to meet to finalise plans to convert the site in accordance with the community's wishes for landscaping and basketball, at minimal cost but maximising the use of the site. There has been a lot of local interest in the City Car Club: it needs six

members to put one car on the road, and more people are currently needed to get a second car in Portobello; people can send a post-dated cheque which will not be cashed until cars are in use.

Lawrence Marshall was not present.

200.3e Police

No representatives were present.

200.3f Joppa Tennis Club

This was covered in the reports from Maureen and Kathleen.

200.3g Harry Lauder

The sub-committee has been wound up. The treasurer reported that the fence has been attended to, at a cost of £15.60 for parts. Tom Smith wanted the position over a garden maintenance person to be clarified; the treasurer said it was being dealt with by her but could be handed over to members of the Council who might be interested in some gardening (the money for this will only last about three years).

200.3h Portobello Counts

Nothing new to report at this time.

200.3i Information Boards and building plaques

The next sub-committee meeting would be on 25th June. The Chairman expressed his appreciation of the boards and plaques, which make a lot of difference to Portobello, and commended the work of the sub-committee. Dawson pointed out that the bird board seems to have been damaged rudely; this will be checked out. Three small problems of damage need to be addressed, but there is a little money left.

200.4 Matters arising

200.4a LDC: The next meeting is on 10th September, at 7pm; the venue hasn't yet been announced.

200.4b Coade Stone columns: Robert Davidson was not present, so no news.

200.4c Prom improvements: Lawrence Marshall was not present, so no news.

200.4d Portobello website: Bob Jefferson suggested that a Community Council sub-committee should be formed to oversee the development of the website and ensure that everything is done in the best interests of the site and of the Community Council. This was agreed, and Bob was proposed as its Chairperson. Other members would be Maureen, Lawrence, John (Stewart), Brenda and Nick. The treasurer asked what the website might cost; Bob reassured her that while expenses might arise in the long term there is no cost at present.

200.5 Any other business

200.5a Margaret Munro asked about the possibility of having an archive for the Community Council, for example to preserve all the papers involved with the creation of the Harry Lauder garden. The Library already has a lot of Portobello material, including Community Council papers and all back numbers of the *Portobello Reporter*. It was agreed that Margaret and Joyce Campbell would get together and see what they can come up with.

Action: Margaret & Joyce.

200.5b Nick Stroud pointed out that this was the 200th meeting of Portobello Community Council, and that all the many people who had worked for it over its 20 year history deserved a lot of credit for making it such a successful organisation.

200.5c Nick Stroud suggested that the Community Council should publicise the new Crossrail service in local hotels and guest houses. It was however agreed that it is Scotrail's job to do this. The Secretary was asked to write to Scotrail to make this suggestion.

Action: Aileen.

200.5d Maureen Child reminded the meeting that it would be very helpful if everyone could respond to the City of Edinburgh Council's consultation on congestion charging.

Action: all.

200.6 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 26th August, and thereafter on the last Monday of each month.

Tom Smith moved a vote of thanks for the new Chair and Secretary.