



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 201st meeting, held on 26 August 2002
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

Present:

Cllr Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Bob Jefferson, Peter McCabe, Nora Mackenzie, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Aileen Valentine.

In Attendance:

Robert Davidson, Bob Hope, Sheila Kennedy, Joyce Campbell.

Apologies:

Celia Butterworth, Susan Deacon M.S.P., Kathleen Hart, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Gavin Strang M.P., Nick Stroud, David Turner.

Opening remarks by Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Inspector Bob Hope of the Portobello Police.

201.1 Minutes of Previous meeting (24th June)

Proposed by Brenda Molony, seconded by Tom Smith.

201.2 Matters arising from previous Minutes

201.2a Archives: Margaret Munro and Joyce Campbell are arranging this between them.

201.2b Crossrail: Nick Stroud had requested better publicity; a letter has been sent to Scotrail but no reply received yet.

201.2c Prom improvements: Lawrence was absent, but a meeting has been set for 17th Oct at 2.30pm in the Community Centre. The Council had difficulty in producing boards for the dog ban, so this was postponed until next summer. Also discussed were the repairs to the railings at Kings Road.

201.2d Website: Bob Jefferson said there was slow progress. Colin was no longer involved and Bob was looking for a replacement; he was due to have a meeting the following day with Alan Blackie. There is no enthusiasm for involving City Connect, who were not able to offer much support, so a permanent home for the website is still required.

201.3 Reports

201.3a Police:

Housebreaking accounts for 46% of local crimes; the solve rate of 35% compares with a target of 40%. There had been auto crime in Joppa and attempted theft and this was mainly put down to youths. There had been 404 vandal type crimes since 1st April. Tom Nimmo raised a question about drugs and youths in the area; Inspector

Hope was aware of the problem. Margaret Smith raised concerns about youths in Rosefield Park.

201.3b Joppa Tennis Courts:

Tom Smith reported that all the work has been done in co-operation with the Joppa Tennis Court.

201.3c Portobello Task Force:

Robert Davidson reported that he hoped to move the Codestones the following week, and will let us know once he has found somewhere to store them. He gave information on the Kings Road roundabout, including the hope of getting some sponsorship from the car dealerships to redevelop it. Portobello got a 64% rate in June from Keep Britain Tidy, but was aiming for 66%.

A point was raised about Rosefield Park; Maureen Child said a degree of lighting might discourage the youths from hanging around. There will also be more rubbish bins situated in Portobello and there was permanent funding now in place for the street cleaner.

201.3d Treasurer:

Treasurers account	£6,260.44
Joppa Tennis Courts	£1,717.54

The Harry Lauder account has been closed and the balance (£2,402.55) transferred to the Treasurer's account. We have received our annual grant from C.E.C. that now includes £100 which goes towards renting the hall for our meetings. The total, less agreed insurance, was £814.44.

201.3e Amenity Society (PAS):

John Stewart said some of the hanging baskets were OK but some have been vandalised and two have been stolen; he was hoping to replace them.

On behalf of the Community Council PAS had objected to a canopy over the washbay at 19 Windsor Place but this was still passed. No objection was made for the changes to 16 Promenade.

201.3f Councillors:

A written report was distributed by Maureen Child (*circulated with the minutes*). All relevant information is in the report. Dawson Currie advised that the next LDC meeting is on 12th September at Portobello High School, at 7pm.

201.3g Harry Lauder:

The sub-committee has been wound up.

201.3h Portobello Counts:

The water quality signs have been changed to add another column, which says whether the water is good, fair or bad. Maureen Child added that the water should all be good now. However the Figgate Burn was of low quality due to the run-off from the Pentland Hills.

201.3i Information board and building plaques:

Celia Butterworth has repaired the bird board. Some of the boards have faded in the sun. The History Society has arranged a talk about David Laing on 14th September. The next plaque will be placed on Rock Cottage.

201.4 Any Other Business

- 201.4a Portobello Lifelong Learning: at Craigentenny Castle at 10:30am on 6th September; no volunteers.
- 201.4b Portobello 250: John Smart read out Nick Stroud's letter about the possibility of celebrating Portobello's 250th anniversary in 2003 (*the list of possible events and initiatives is attached to these minutes*).
- 201.4c Waverley railway line: Nick Ball of the Waverley Railway Project wants to speak to us.
- 201.4d Secretary's information: Aileen Valentine gave brief information on an all-party panel of MPs on 5th October. Portobello Library will be open on Saturdays and Sundays for a trial period. We have received information on City Connect website training, and information on a focus group for older people run by the Council. We have received two reports, on the Review of Progress on the City Plan, and Measuring Edinburgh's Performance, both published by the Council.

201.5 Dates of next meetings

The next meeting is on Monday 30th Sept at 7.30pm.

The other meetings in 2002 are on 28th October and 25th November.