

Minutes of the 205th meeting held on the 27th January 2003 in the Portobello Baptist Church

Present: - Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatcliffe, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Aileen Valentine, Lewis Waugh.

Apologies: - Lawrence Marshall, John Smart, Sandy Smith, and Bill Thomson.

In attendance: Robert Davidson, Graham Drummond, Gordon Mackay, Jacqui Mirta, , C Robinson and Joyce Campbell.

Opening remarks by Chairperson

The meeting was chaired by Tom Smith due to John Smart being ill.

No Police report was given as there had been an emergency at Leith Police Station and all officers were involved in this situation.

A presentation was given by Graham Drummond regarding HMO housing in Portobello as invited by Lawrence Marshall. Graham gave details of what HMO housing entailed. Also detailed what is being done by his department regarding this. Gave details of the costs to Landlords, licensing fees and what has to be done by them to bring any property up to code. Questions were raised about the amount of people there could be in a property before a licence was required and if the same regulations applied to DSS Housing. Also how is the £500 licence fee justified? And how could tenants in a property object to a flat being used for HMO housing. A final question was raised about listed building properties and how they could be upgraded but still keep the aesthetics. Mr Drummond also raised the point that the public and members of the Community Council could inform Edinburgh Council of properties that were being used for HMO housing to make sure that the landlord had the required licence. Contact number for queries 469 5193 hmo@edinburgh.gov.uk. Thank you to Mr Drummond

Before the meeting continued it was announced that due to personal matters Aileen Valentine could not continue as Secretary. Robert Gatcliffe said he would step in. Proposed by Margaret Smith and seconded by Aileen Valentine. Also agreed that those with e-mail addresses would have the minutes sent to them by e-mail.

205.1 Minutes of previous meeting:

Item 204.2b and 204.3c Mr Davidson is to be noted as Robert Davidson and Mr Jefferson is to be noted as Bob Jefferson so as not to confuse any further issues. With these amendments, the minutes were accepted, proposed by Kathleen Hart and seconded by David Scott.

205.2 Matters arising

205.2a CCTV. A letter was read out by Aileen Valentine regarding the funding of CCTV from the Council. Bob Jefferson has an appointment with Doug McGreavy at 11am on Thursday to see how CCTV works etc and would also raise the points in the letter from Jim Inch.

205.2b Christmas singers. There had been an excellent response from the children, 70 in total. Bob Jefferson was able to get juice, crisps and chocolate donated by the local Scotmid. Letters were sent to the local Scotmid and the Head Office Branch by Aileen Valentine, and a vote of thanks was given to her for doing this.

Reports

205.3a Treasurer

Treasurer's account -	£5,380.59
Joppa Tennis Court	£1,817.54

205.3b No Joppa Tennis Court report

205.3c Robert Davidson advised that the Coadstones were not at Seafield where they are in the open and would like to move them. He would also like a volunteer from the Amenity Society to come along and catalogue the items. Robert said that e-mail should be sent to Jim Rafferty of Bernard Hunter Ltd to thank him for his help in moving the Coadstones. Robert then went on to advise of new work to be done in the parks with trees and paths etc. He would like some volunteers to help clean up Rosefield Park and the burn around the 31st March. A question was raised about the lower part of the Figgate burn with all the silt and vegetation also there was an oil spill just before Figgate Pond. This was being dealt with. If anyone sees any damage to wildlife etc they should call 0800 80 70 60. Brenda will draft two letters to ask what steps are being taken to make sure the clean up is complete.

Robert Davidson Coadstone pillars are now at Seafield, where they are quite open would like to move them would like a volunteer from the amenity society to come along him and catalogue the items Bernard Hunter should be thanked and Jim Rafferty This was done in return for work done by Robert Davidson for Bernard Hunter. Robert has also talked to the re-cycling officer, hopefully he will make the March meeting and the team leader of the Environmental wards should be able to make the February meeting.

205.3d **Planning** - nothing to report.

205.3e **City of Edinburgh Council**

Aileen Valentine read out some letters and information from the City of Edinburgh Council. Also a letter from the local police station regarding the printing of warnings of bogus workmen letters for pensioners requesting a donation to help with the costs. A donation of £50 was agreed.

205.3f **Councillors**

Maureen Child circulated a written report.

205.4 **Any other business.**

205.4a Harry Lauder Garden

Tom Smith is happy to cut the grass, John Stewart happy to help. Kathleen Hart and Margaret Smith also Celia Butterworth all offered to help on a rota basis. Could it be combined to help the amenity society to water hanging baskets? Any help would be gratefully accepted. Dawson Currie raised the point that the space under the tree doesn't grow, could paving stones be put down? Kathleen has ordered bedding plants - maybe the new team could organise something for this spot. A question raised by Margaret Smith re kids in there on a Saturday morning with roller blades police were made aware.

205.4b **Gordon Mackay- said a few words about the Golden Days a paid organiser was recruited for last time but there is no guaranteed funding for this year. Last year's golden days had a good response. A couple of meetings would be required to organise matters. If we could recruit and get the money for a paid organiser it would go ahead. Basically a paid organiser is required to help the event to go ahead**

205.4c Celia - town hall plaques are now up re former town halls Baptist church and Police station two more are to go up and are being paid for by a community grant by the council - funds stand about £1100. This money could be used to repair interpretative boards when needed, the bird board and the board at Eastfield

205.4d Joyce talked about library services. Nick Stroud asked about the trials of having the libraries open on weekends. Joyce advised they went well but there would be further trials. There is free internet access and this was used. She also said there were 16 metres of old curtains up for grabs for anyone who wished to take them.

205.4e David Turner advised there was a meeting on the 11th re war against Iraq at the Northfield Community Centre.

205.4f Bob Jefferson re website he was willing to do a presentation at the end of the meeting for those interested. There is also a discussion forum which can be opened too www.portobello-edinburgh.org.uk. There is still no official launch date

205.4g Dawson Currie - International Festival of the Sea in May. Dawson said a few words about this event and how there was space at Ocean Terminal for seaside Community Councils to promote themselves.

205.5 Dates of future meetings:-

Meetings are held on the final Monday of each month, except July and December, at 7.30pm in the Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street.

The next meeting us on the 24th February 2003.

Subsequent meetings are on the 31st March, 28th April, 26th May and 30th June.