



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 209th meeting held on 26th May 2003 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present: Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, Gordon Murray, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith.

Apologies: Celia Butterworth, Robert Davidson, Alix Gaffney, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Aileen Valentine.

In attendance: Sgt. Richie Adams (Portobello Police), Mary Dunbar (CEC).

209.1 Police Report (Sgt. Richie Adams)

The new single city division structure was now settling down and there are now five teams of one sergeant plus 4/6 officers dedicated to the area. The policy was now geared to a long-term view rather than the previous fire-fighting approach. Efforts were concentrating on youth crime and anti-social behaviour, which is a problem recognised across the city. Portobello is far from the worst area. All crimes will be investigated, and for minor vandalism where a conviction is unlikely, the policy is to note names, and if under 16 write to parents. If repeated, the youth will be taken home. This approach seems to be working and more than 40 letters have been written, with several positive replies from parents.

The police are working closely with community officers and outreach workers.

Two letters from residents were read out to Sgt. Adams regarding press coverage that Portobello Police Station was to close. Sgt Adams was able to assure the Council that general closure was not on the agenda. However, analysis of the use of the police station at night was under review and a survey has shown that fewer than ten people a week call at the police station between the hours of 11pm and 7am (Sun-Thur) and 3am-7am (Fri-Sat). All occurrences were considered minor and closure of the station between the times noted would pass unnoticed to almost all Portobello residents. Serious incidents would still be covered by telephone contact and response teams. Sgt. Adams stated that no decision has yet been taken.

Sgt Adams was asked if he could stay for more than the Police Report, as often the police representative would leave after their report. Sgt. Adams agreed that he would stay when other duties allowed, and he was pleased to be able to stay for the rest of this meeting.

209.2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted Proposed: Tom Smith Seconded: Margaret Munro.

209.3 Matters Arising

209.3a East Edinburgh Local Development Committee: Dawson Currie suggested that PCC should take the opportunity to use the East Edinburgh Local Development Committee to raise issues affecting the wider Portobello area, so that local Councillors could help make local decisions and influence Edinburgh Council. Mary Dunbar supported the interest that PCC were taking in the Local Development Committee and looked forward to community participation.

209.4 Reports

209.4a Treasurer

Account balances: Community Council £5570.12 Tennis Club £2739.96

A letter has been received from Eileen Hewitt itemising the insurance premiums for this year:

Public liability insurance £55.44 All-risks (for boards etc) £52.50

209.4b Tennis Courts - No report

209.4c Cleansing etc

Bob Jefferson presented a report for Robert Davidson. Two temporary staff have been taken on to help with the beach cleaning; two others will soon join, and because of the late start due to staff shortages, beach cleaning would continue until October. Portobello High School annual clean up would take place tomorrow.

Thanks were passed on to those who had helped with the Figgate Burn clean up. There is a move to change shift patterns to four days on, four days off, to help provide a better service at weekends. R S McColls had been approached about the red bins. There is still a problem with bags of rubbish and further discussions will be held. The coade stones have now been moved from Seafield.

209.4d Planning – no report

209.4e Councillors:

Maureen Child – see attached written report.

Lawrence Marshall: - not present.

209.4f Signs and Plaques – no report

209.5 A.O. B.

209.5a GoldenDays

The Secretary presented items from correspondence and information and a report from Gordon Mackay on the GoldenDays event to be held on the 14th June. Organisation was in hand with 20 volunteers in the supporting team. Gordon Mackay was still looking for four volunteers to act as guides on the Promenade during the event and two people who could act as Luton van drivers if there are last minute moves of equipment required. GoldenDays will provide the vans.

Volunteers/further info Call Gordon on 0131 348 2692

209.5b Portobello Open Door (POD)

Maureen Child presented information about POD. There was now an agreed constitution with membership (individual set at £1 per annum) open to all who support the aims – to promote and develop cultural education and the arts in Portobello. Meetings are on Fridays at 4pm, the Old Pier.

Events organised so far include:

Launch Night: Friday 27th June, Portobello Town Hall, 7pm-midnight. Tickets £8 and £6. Further information from pod@supalife.com, www.the-pod.org, or Telephone 07905 535 391.

POD at the Fringe: The Big Beach Bash. A programme of entertainment and artistry 9th to 17th August Sheila McWhirter (POD) has been invited to present details at the next Community Council meeting.

Other items from correspondence received:

- A letter of thanks from the Monday Centre acknowledging the £100 donation;
- Joyce Campbell (Portobello Library) notified the Community Council that a painting of the last Lord Provost of Portobello (1896) was about to be sold. She would forward further details.

Action: To inform Lawrence Marshall, Maureen Child and John Stewart of any details, so that they could look into purchasing opportunities, possibly via an Edinburgh Council arts purchase fund.

- The Portobello Community Centre AGM will be held on Tuesday 27th May.
- A Community Council Joint Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th June, 7pm, City Chambers. (Note: Agenda now available: 6.30-7.00 reception/coffee, 7-7.15 Donald Anderson, Leader of Council, 7.15-8 Overview of community planning, 8-8.40 Role of community councils in community planning-discussion groups 8.40-9 feedback. 9-9.15 closing remarks.

Action: Please let the Secretary know if you are definitely coming and he will forward names to assist with numbers etc.

- Association of Scottish Community Councils Conference 2003: Glasgow Caledonian University, Room m201 (2nd floor) Saturday 14th June. Community Council members wanting to attend – Secretary has programme and registration form.
- Kenny Turner, GoldenDays treasurer has offered to refurbish the two Community Council notice boards for the cost of materials. The Community Council agreed to accept his kind offer. John informed the meeting that the water board were taking down the large boards on the Promenade. Robert Gatliff offered his garage as a temporary store, to see if the materials could be used in the renovation project.

Action: Robert Gatliff to contact Kenny Turner and Graeme Paget (re boards).

209.6 Next meeting

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

The next meeting is on 30th June 2003.

Subsequent meetings are on 25th August and 29th September.