



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 210th meeting held on 30th June 2003 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present: Celia Butterworth, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Bob Jefferson, Lawrence Marshall, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, John Smart, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Stewart Weaver.

Apologies: Maureen Child, Kathleen Hart, Brenda Molony, Aileen Valentine.

In attendance: Alan Anderson, Sgt. Richie Adams (Portobello Police), Bob Wardrop (Portobello Police), Ian Wilson.

210.1 Chairman's Introduction

John Smart welcomed Stewart Weaver as the new representative of the Portobello Council of Churches, and also announced that Khalid Mir had agreed to join the Council as a representative of the local Muslim Society.

210.2 Police Report (Insp. Bob Wardrop and Sgt. Richie Adams)

Insp. Wardrop stated that in his view the recent press criticism of the new police structure was not valid. Although there were some teething problems, and too many community police officers had been called off to work on other duties, the rate of solving crime in Portobello was at 36.5% and not the 20% as reported. He suggested that there was more chance of getting local CCTV if Local Councillors and the Community Council made supporting requests to the Council. If the bid were successful, sites would probably be restricted to the main routes, such as the High Street.

The police hoped that more use of the Bowling Centre could be made available as a resource for local youth, and along with Jackie Morton, a Community Safety Officer, options were being explored. There was discussion on the provision of outdoor skateboarding facilities and a comparison between the facilities provided by councils like Livingston compared with the limited service in Edinburgh. L. Marshall said that the Go4it scheme was a major Edinburgh initiative for youth during the summer. It was suggested that the scheme should include events in Portobello.

The police were concerned that a recent article in the Evening News comparing POD to the Notting Hill carnival was the first that the police had heard about the event. The police were assured that this was major press over-hype.

Sgt Adams presented a new proposal known as Prom Seal to help reduce the number and amount of time children go missing on the Promenade during the school holidays. The police would endeavour to have a police presence on the beach all day and proposed to provide red child wristbands with a mobile telephone number attached. An advertising campaign would publicise the scheme. The Community Council agreed to provide £150 towards the cost. (Proposed: Nick Stroud; Seconded: Margaret Smith)

210.3 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

210.3a AGM

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

210.3b Minutes of the 209th meeting

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

210.4 Reports

210.4a Treasurer

Account balances: Community Council £5208.03

Tennis Club £2404.91

210.4b Tennis Courts

The formal opening of the new courts was held last Saturday. Despite the weather, it was an enjoyable day. The opening and first shots were made by Mrs Brown, who first played at Joppa Tennis Club before the War.

210.4c Cleansing etc – no report

210.4d Planning

The new revised draft Edinburgh and Lothians plan has been published. Suggestions submitted by John Stewart on behalf of PAS/Community Council had generally been included. These included conservation of open space, affordable house provision, public transport funding (not clear in the plan), increased stress on local roads in response to developments in East Lothian, and absence of brownfield sites on the waterfront in Portobello

210.4e Councillors:

Maureen Child – see attached written report

Lawrence Marshall: - Bath St development is temporarily halted until next month. The position of the new building was now broadly agreed and did extend further onto the Promenade by about a foot compared with the tenement on the west side. Concern was expressed that the Council decision to allow access to the site via the Promenade at John Street was ridiculous, and was already damaging the Promenade. L. Marshall indicated that there was no suitable alternative.

Traffic lights would be installed at the King's Road roundabout.

The Royal Hotel had been sold with planning permission for change of use to flats.

The First Bus 49 route was retendered and won by LRT. Other route changes would take place in July (particularly affecting the 2, 12 and 42)

The Community Council was encouraged to ask Scotrail to increase promotion of the service from Newcraighall and Brunstane, improve fare collection to ensure true passenger numbers were recorded and urge the provision of a Sunday service. The service would soon be extended to Edinburgh Park.

The Friday night event at the Town Hall to raise funds for POD had been very successful and enjoyable.

210.4f Signs and Plaques

A new bronze plaque will be erected in Rosefield Place. New prints would be placed in the seashore and seaside boards.

210.5 A.O. B.

210.5a Mobile Telephone Masts

Notification of a proposal to put a new Vodaphone mast in the tower of Portobello Old Parish Church in Bellfield Street to the local residents generated extensive discussion. No planning application has yet been lodged, and the Church has not made a decision. A meeting will be held at the church on the evening of July 10th to discuss the proposal. The Church of Scotland delegates decisions on these matters to the local congregation. At the end of the discussion it was agreed (vote: Proposed Nick Stroud; Seconded John Stewart: Result: 10 FOR, 2 AGAINST) that the Secretary would send a letter to the Vodaphone agents highlighting the objection to siting of masts in residential areas and a preference for masts to be erected at or near the industrial land around the Railway. Grounds for objection were based on environmental and health and safety grounds. Copies would also be sent to the local MP, MSP and planning authorities (see attached).

210.5b Portobello Open Door (POD)

The organisers have requested temporary use a Council property at 113 High Street to publicise the event. As Council properties have to be let at commercial rates, an application has been made for a grant. This may be for 100% in the first year but would have to reduce to 50% the following year, and then stopped after the second grant.

210.5c Portobello Promenade Events

Triathlon: The organisers were looking for £1500 to pay for deployment of traffic cones prior to the event.

On 20th July. Cones are required even though the event is taking place on early Sunday morning.

Edinburgh Marathon: It was agreed to write a note of thanks/support to the City following the success of the marathon. The relatively poor turn out of spectators may be because of the timing of the event, and apparent lack of awareness of many residents

Golden Days: Those who took part or were on the Promenade during the day expressed their support for the event and looked forward to another successful event next year

210.5d Portobello Citizens Advice Bureau

C. Butterworth announced that the CAB premises in the High Street would no longer be available sometime after March next year. This was due to redevelopments at the Baptist Church, who currently provided the site at a very reasonable rent. It was likely that more funds would be required to maintain the service at a new location.

210.5e Hanging Baskets

Members of PAS asked for volunteers to water the baskets near the Town Hall. Watering is required three times a week. There is now a hand pump so that the baskets can be watered without the need for ladders etc. Margaret Smith agreed to approach potential volunteers.

210.5f Alexander Brand Portrait

R. Gatliff reported that he had seen the painting of the last Provost of Portobello during a recent visit to London. The painting (by an artist called Vos) appeared in good condition although it is in a replacement frame and has a new backing. The painting can be secured through payment of a deposit, which would allow movement of the painting to Edinburgh. There would be a few months to raise the balance. It is hoped that funds to purchase the painting would be available from the Council-run Jean Watson Bequest fund. The painting will be presented at the next meeting later in July. Thanks were expressed to both PAS (John Stewart) and Portobello History Society (Archie Foley) who have pledged financial support towards the purchase.

D. Currie asked the Secretary to check whether the Council already owned other portraits of Provost Brand. It was agreed that £100 deposit should be paid to the vendor in London to secure the painting (Proposed: Celia Butterworth; Seconded: Nick Stroud)

210.5g One Ticket Scheme

A leaflet describing the One-Ticket scheme, which provides for day, week, 4-week and annual tickets combining LRT, First and local train travel was presented to the Council. This kind of ticket is little known about and offers a more integrated approach to season tickets compared with the individual company ticket schemes.

210.6 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 25h August 2003.

Subsequent meetings are on 29th September and 27th October