



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 212<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2003 in Portobello Baptist Church

**Present:** Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, George Murray Tom Nimmo, John Smart, Sandy Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud

**Apologies:** Celia Butterworth, Bob Jefferson, Margaret Munro, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, Aileen Valentine.

**In attendance:** Paul and Val Cairney, Jacqui Morton (Community Safety)

### 212.1 Chairman's Introduction

#### 212.2 Minutes of the 211<sup>th</sup> meeting

Alix Gaffney requested a set of minutes for the last meeting – Secretary to check e-mail list

The minutes were then accepted. Proposed: Kathleen Hart Seconded: Dawson Currie

#### 212.3 Matters arising from the last meeting

*Portobello Open Door (POD):* Sheila McWhirter was invited to the meeting to discuss the event and proposals for next year, but was away on holiday. POD have organised a public meeting on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 7-9pm at the St John's Church Hall, Brighton Place to discuss the event

*Alexander Brand Portrait:* The Council had agreed to the purchase and restoration of the painting, which would be hung in Portobello Library. Local societies had donated £300 to the purchase (History Society, PAS and the Community Council).

*One Ticket Scheme:* There was a request for more information about how to purchase tickets. Dawson Currie provided a leaflet.

#### 212.4 Reports

##### 212.4a Treasurer

Account balances: Community Council £5897.17          Tennis Club £2074.46

##### 212.4b Tennis Courts

No report

##### 212.4c Cleansing etc

R. Davidson had another meeting, but sent a report. The proposed Figgate Burn clean-up day during the weekend 20/21 September had been ~~presented letters written on behalf of the Community Council objecting to the development proposed at Portobello Baptist Church and also to the proposed development at the Scottish Power site.~~ postponed.

##### 212.4d Planning

John Stewart (PAS) presented two letters written on behalf of the Community Council to object to planning applications for Portobello Baptist Church and the Scottish Power site. A discussion on the Promenade near Bath Street was deferred until the end of the meeting so that Lawrence Marshall would be present.

##### 212.4e Councillors:

Maureen Child – see attached written report for more details

*Planning Department:* All planning applications can now be viewed on the Edinburgh Council website.

*Joppa Quarry Park:* It was indicated that the entrance from Brunstane Gardens is not a right of way, and the closure will be maintained. M. Child has a letter that she has written to local residents about this issue.

*6 John Street* – there is a lot of local concern about the real use that this property may be put to following application for change of use to Guest House. A guesthouse cannot be used as a cover for long-term multiple occupancy, for which a separate HMO licence is required.

*Paddling Pool Site.* Richard Barclay, Dave Bonner and Stephen Hawkings are leading the campaign to redevelop this site.

*Skate Board facilities:* Brenda Molony will write to the Council to express the Community Council view that Portobello should be one area with new skateboarding facilities, preferably next to the public lavatories at the western end of the Promenade.

Lawrence Marshall

*Proposed supermarket:* Development at the Scottish Power site: There are several hundred letters opposing the planning application.

*Lothian Buses* have had an application to increase the height of their fence at Seafield Road declined  
*Citizens Advice Bureau* have been offered two shops adjacent to the Scotmid shop at a rent similar to their current rent in the High Street

*Bridge Street:* Damage at the footbridge in Bridge Street was the responsibility of Edinburgh Leisure.

*19-24 Portobello Promenade.* Discussion on plans for this site were discussed following a short presentation by Paul Cairney. It was agreed that the Community Council was in favour of keeping the plot as an open space. It was hoped that residents would be able to purchase part of the plot. It was suggested that the owners have been unwilling to talk to local owners and it may be that the site has already been sold. No application for planning permission has yet been made, but Portobello Amenity Society is ready to coordinate a campaign to preserve the site as open space.

#### **212.4f Signs and Plaques**

The board at the bottom of Marlborough Street board will receive a new print. The perspex at the John Street board will be replaced. The Spiers Bruce plaque is being manufactured. The Secretary will find out when the Water Board boards will be removed.

#### **212.5 A.O. B.**

**212.5a. Ardrossan Community Council:** A letter has been received suggesting a national day of protest at the Scottish Parliament against anti social behaviour. It was agreed to suggest that the letter did not define what was meant, and it was suggested that the results of the current consultation by the Scottish Executive should be studied before any such activity should be considered.

**212.5b Sea Water Quality:** It was noted that there have been no water quality readings displayed on the beach this year even though there was more use of the sea for swimming than for many years. The Secretary would ask Edinburgh Council (? Stephen Walker or Diane Smith) to explain the current policy. It was noted that some places (Ardrossan / Saltcoats now highlight their water quality).

**212.5c. Portobello Library.** It was noted that there are refurbishment plans from the city architect; computer classes for City and Guilds have started; and the children's reading scheme had been very successful over the Summer.

**212.5d Community Safety:** Jacqui Morton, Community Safety Officer, presented the latest information on a series of initiatives to help reduce "anti social behaviour". These include community policing (recorded incidents reduced), and increased support for drop-ins and youth clubs with more facilities in Craigmillar and Niddrie, which has reduced the number of youths visiting Portobello (Brian Greatorax). The number of incidents has greatly reduced but there is no room for complacency. It was difficult to say which of several initiatives had resulted in the dramatic reduction in youth community problems, but it was the combination of initiatives. Jacqui invited the Community Council to support a new Community Council subgroup to focus on younger community members and improve intergenerational cooperation and understanding. This was warmly welcomed. It was also agreed that John Smart would visit Portobello High School to encourage student representatives to attend the Community Council meetings.

**212.5e Carol singing and Christmas lights:** It was agreed to leave dates for community carol singing to Margaret Smith. It was proposed that the lights be switched on at the beginning of December.

**212.5f Fireworks.** There was a query about the controls on sale and letting off of fireworks in Portobello. It was noted that there has been a problem with some local traders, but the police have a new initiative. The High School has a new approach to the dangers of fireworks through a play called TOAST.

**212.5g Community Council Joint Meeting:** A delegation of Portobello Community Council has been invited to attend the Craigmillar Community Council meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> October, 7pm, Community Centre, 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace to discuss Lothian Buses with a member of the management team of LRT.

**211.6 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 27<sup>th</sup> October 2003.

The subsequent meeting is on 24<sup>th</sup> November.