



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 218th meeting held on 26th April 2004 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present: Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, John Smart, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, David Turner.

Apologies: Dawson Currie, Bob Jefferson, Nick Stroud.

In attendance: Robert Davidson (CEC), Paul Lundberg (Portobello Police), Brian McCrow (John Street Group), Ian Wilson.

218.1 Chairman's Introduction

218.2 Police Report (Paul Lundberg, Community PC)

The new Chief Superintendent of the City Division is Alan Shanks (formerly of West Lothian). He has initiated a major review of Edinburgh operations, including Portobello Police Station opening hours. Officer numbers at Portobello may be reduced but this would then leave a guaranteed number, with fewer calls on officers to other parts of the city. PC Lundberg has attempted to develop dialogue with the groups of youths who like to gather on the Promenade and Beach. Most of these are not troublemakers, and he suggested that the amount of trouble had reduced. He also suggested the option of providing a steel shelter (Secretary has brochure), which could act as an informal meeting point and would be easier to police. After a discussion on potential sites, it was suggested that the most promising site might be close to or at the uncompleted bandstand at the foot of Marlborough Street. The sessions of 5-a-side football for 12–16 year olds at the Portobello pitches is set to continue through the Summer.

218.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

218.4 Matters Arising

218.4a Police Station Clock: It was reported that the police had accepted a new lower quote for the repairs. Action: Secretary to find out if co-funding application still required.

218.4b Christmas decorations: Iain MacFadyen (CEC) will be invited to attend the next meeting to talk about the lights.

218.5 Reports

218.5a Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £5,028.07 Tennis Club £2,679.46

The figures were now balanced, and Margaret Smith and Celia Butterworth agreed to act as auditors before the AGM next month.

218.5b Tennis Courts: It was noted that there was no report and no provision of new figures for the accounts. The figure reported would be out of date as new membership fees would have been received. Action: Secretary to discuss with Tennis Club Committee.

218.5c Cleansing etc (Robert Davidson): Harbour Place – slabs lifted and silver birch trees to be planted soon. Care would be taken to water trees regularly. The beach-cleaning machine has now been bought and the new season of cleaning would begin at the weekend. Seaweed collected would now be recycled as a fertilizer by Forth Resource Management, at a cost of £15 per tonne compared with £34 per tonne for landfill. The amount of fly posting, especially by the SSP was highlighted. RD reported that it was difficult to get convictions and fines were low. It may be possible to paint a special finish to structures like communications boxes to make sticking ineffective, but structure owners' permission and payment towards cost is required before action is taken. Costs are significant (£300 for a small communications box).

218.5d Planning (John Stewart):

6 John Street – Mr McCrow (John Street Action Group) reported on the latest developments regarding change of use applications for 6 John Street. An initial 24 bed HMO scheme was rejected. A 9-bedroom guesthouse plan was rejected. A new 7-bed HMO application has been lodged but without attached plans. This new application was not in the name of the owner. Because no notification had been posted at the property, the length of time to raise objections has been extended. A large campaign of opposition is predicted. Concern was expressed about the decision to turn down guesthouse permission on the grounds that the area was not suitable for such accommodation. The track record of the owner was a major concern and the proposed hostel for the homeless was not believed to be compatible with the neighbourhood. A view was expressed that this type of hostel accommodation has a track record of providing a very poor environment for the homeless. Whilst not wanting to curb the livelihood of the owner, it has proved impossible to open a dialogue with the owner about his business objectives.

Superstore Application – the new transport assessment survey results are not yet available, and the application will not come before the planning committee for at least a further three weeks.

11 Morton Street – PAS has submitted an objection to a large kitchen extension planning application after representations from local residents on the basis that it is out of keeping with the scale of garden, and other buildings in the same terrace.

288 Portobello High Street (top of Bellfield Lane). A retrospective planning application has been lodged. PAS has objected because the plans (including roller shutters) are out of character with the other Victorian shop fronts in the same block. There is no objection to a proposed colour change from yellow to green.

218.5e Councillors:

Maureen Child – see attached written report. Discussion focused on the proposed 20mph zone to the north of the High Street and Joppa Road, and it was suggested that signage and speed controlling measures should be in keeping with the conservation zone.

Action: Secretary to request speaker from Council to discuss proposals.

Lawrence Marshall – The meeting expressed sadness at the death of the child in a falling accident in a tenement in King's Road. The planning application for new fences at the Seafield bus depot has been approved with slight modifications where proposed walls/fences are close to houses in Seafield Road East. LM expressed concern that the possible third tramline has not been considered as part of an integrated transport scheme, and would cut across proposals for the south suburban railway line.

218.5f Signs and Plaques (Celia Butterworth): The Eastfield print has been replaced; a new print is being made for the Marlborough Street board. A community grant has been approved to redo the bird board at the Joppa Pumping Station. Two new plaques are in progress. The sub-committee has proposed Brighton Park or the Paddling Pool site as suitable venues for the coade stones. About £40,000–£70,000 will be required for renovation. The preferred site is at the paddling pool. Ownership of the stones is still to be clarified.

218.6 A. O. B.

218.6a The design and number of new bollards located at the Joppa end of the promenade was questioned, and a request for re-instatement of the central island in Joppa Road outside the Chinese takeaway was made. Action: Robert Davidson.

218.6b The status of Community Councillors who do not attend meetings was questioned. Action: Secretary to report at A.G.M.

218.6c An open meeting for all Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Portobello will be held at the Library on 10th May, 18.30–20.00. Action: Members to pass on details to groups.

218.6d The Harry Lauder garden now has a new gardener. His efforts are very much appreciated.

218.6e Licensing Seminar for Community Councils, European Room, City Chambers, 7pm on Wednesday 5th May. Up to three delegates. Names in advance to Eileen Hewitt, tel 4693838. Secretary has leaflet on objection procedure.

218.6f Portobello Community Centre AGM, 7.30pm on Friday 21st May. Community Councillors welcome (contact Facilities Coordinator on 669 8275 for nominations for Management Committee by 10th May).

218.6g EAST LDC: next meeting Tuesday 4th May at Royal High Primary School, where the main theme will be health issues.

218.6h Paddling Pool site: Community Council has been asked to apply for funds through WREN and Awards for All schemes.

Action: Secretary.

218.6i Local Council Multi Member Working: Community Council invited to respond to Scottish Executive consultation by 16th June.

Action: Secretary to draft response for discussion at next meeting.

218.6j Latest Flood Protection Newsletter received.

218.6k Portobello History Society has received ELDC grant for new video of the history of Portobello.

218.6l Additional items deferred until next meeting.

218.7 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 31st May 2004

Subsequent meetings are on 28th June 2004 and 30th August 2004.