



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 219th meeting held on 31st May 2004 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present: Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud.

Apologies: Susan Deacon, Nora Mackenzie, David Turner.

In attendance: Robert Davidson (CEC), Iain MacFadyen (CEC), Bob Wardrop (Portobello Police), Rosemary Smith, Mr Young, John Butterworth, Robert Todd, Margaret O'Neill.

219.1 Chairman's Introduction: See minutes of 22nd AGM held prior to this meeting.

219.2 Police Report (Inspector Bob Wardrop)

A new central call system was introduced across the city, but an underestimation of the number of calls received led to a very poor response time. Revised procedures are now in place. In future there may be more response officers at the expense of some community policing. During the long nights there are more youths about and extra teams of officers out in the evening. There is a programme of tackling under-age drinking through liaison with parents through home visits. The police have funding for a shelter for youths to meet informally, but a site has not yet been agreed. The sessions of 5-a-side football for 12–16 year olds and primary children is set to continue but the police are looking for additional pitches. The wristband and missing children scheme introduced last year will be implemented again this Summer.

Parking is no longer a criminal offence to be investigated by the police but is the responsibility of the traffic wardens. The wardens will attend to problems if requested to.

219.3 Report on Council Christmas Decorations (Iain MacFadyen)

Mr MacFadyen reviewed the current status of Christmas decorations available for Portobello. Lights on the trees were open to vandalism. Fixing decorations to the Town Hall requires special permission because the Hall is listed. There are some old decorations previously used in George Street, which could be available. Hanging decorations across the road requires controls in the streetlights. They may cost up to £1,000 per light to fit. The poor quality of Christmas decorations in Portobello does not compare favourably with other areas in Edinburgh.

Action: Sandy Smith, Tom Smith and Margaret Smith to visit the Council store in Penicuik to assess which extra decorations could be used in Portobello.

219.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

218.5c: This section will be called Task Force in future. The beach-cleaning machine has not yet been bought.

218.5f: The coade stones are owned by the City Council.

The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Kathleen Hart Seconded: Brenda Molony.

219.5 Matters Arising

219.5a Police Station Clock: Consultation with local residents is continuing. Only one objection received.

219.5b Neighbourhood Watch: A new Portobello Association of Neighbourhood Watch schemes has been set up, with Brian McCrow (St Johns Action Group) as the Chairman.

219.6 Reports

219.6a Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £5,160.17 Tennis Club £3,503.65

219.6b Tennis Courts: Coaching for children on Friday afternoons; coaching day for children on Saturday 11th June (pm).

219.6c Task Force (Robert Davidson): Harbour Place – one of three silver birch trees already destroyed. Joppa – all bollards to be painted the same colour following donation of money from Scottish Water for paint. The Task Force will be re-organised from 11th June to provide 7-day weekly coverage between 0630 and 1745. Two shifts will be led by John Ritchie and David Lovie. Robert Davidson will take over a new city-wide task force, and would have less direct responsibility for Portobello. He would still be in charge of the beach operations. The Task Force would provide a monthly report for Portobello-Online.

Robert Davidson would not be able to attend as many Community Council meetings in future. John Smart, on behalf of the Community Council, expressed appreciation for the excellent work Robert has undertaken for the Portobello community, and wished him well in his new job.

219.6d Planning (John Stewart):

6 John Street – Decision on HMO for 12 people in 12 bedrooms deferred until 30th June

Superstore Application – the agents for the supermarket developers have asked to go to Public Enquiry. This is based on the slow process of decision by the Planning Department. The main reason for slow progress is the slow provision of transport analysis by the development agents. The protest group (CATS) has organised a public meeting on 28th June at the Town Hall – the same day as the next Community Council meeting.

11 Morton Street – application withdrawn.

288 Portobello High Street (top of Bellfield Lane). Application refused and to be enforced retrospectively.

76 Portobello High Street. Objection entered against plan to demolish Amusement Arcade and erect a new two-storey building at the front and a four-storey block of glass fronted and backed flats to rear. Owner also owns part of the Hugh Miller property (Shrub Mount).

29 Pittville Street. Objection entered against plan to build a house in a rear garden fronting on to the rear lane, on the grounds that the proposed house would be too large and take nearly all the garden from a substantial Georgian villa.

The **Portobello Amenity Society AGM** will be on Wednesday 23rd June at 7.30pm. Guest speaker will be Robert Davidson. All welcome.

219.6e Councillors:

Maureen Child – see attached written report. Plans for speed-reducing measures in Brunstane Road were presented.

Lawrence Marshall – There will be an East area LDC meeting on 22nd June (7pm Portobello High School) to discuss 20mph zones. The Argyle Nursing home is to close. There is a proposal to build a new shed at the Marine Bus Depot.

219.6f Signs and Plaques (Celia Butterworth): There is a new proposal to display water quality digitally, based on modelled values from analysis of weather and tides etc (trials suggest 96% accuracy). It was suggested that the board be placed on the landward side of the Promenade in front of the eastern part of the Baths.

219.7 A. O. B.

219.7a Dawson Curry suggested that the Community Council should publicise activities more, and suggested notices at the Harry Lauder garden about the garden, hanging baskets etc. He also proposed installing a solar-powered water feature in the garden. **Action:** Discuss proposals at next meeting.

219.7b The Secretary has submitted an application for funding from WREN for the paddling pool site. It was agreed that another application through Awards For All would be made.

219.7c The Secretary invited comments on a draft submission to a Scottish Executive consultation on multi-member wards for local elections. Comments to Secretary by 10th June.

219.7d Other items deferred to next meeting.

219.8 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 **28th June 2004**. The subsequent meeting is on 30th August 2004.