



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the 220th meeting held on 28th June 2004 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall**

**Present:** Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Brenda Molony, Margaret Monro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, John Smart, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, Nick Stroud.

**Apologies:** Alix Gaffney, Bob Jefferson, Lawrence Marshall, Sandy Smith, John Stewart, David Turner.

**In attendance:** Bob Wardrop (Portobello Police).

**220.1 Chairman's Introduction:** The Chairman welcomed members and noted the low attendance because some members were attending the Superstore protest public meeting organised for the same time in the Town Hall.

### **220.2 Police Report (Inspector Bob Wardrop)**

The police have organised Summer sessions of 5-a-side football for primary school children in the mornings and secondary school children in the afternoons. These will be held at the Portobello Powerleague, who have drastically reduced prices to support the project. The Police have applied for a local council grant and supported the initiative with £500 from police funds. Hibernian and Hearts have donated prizes. The Community Council agreed to support the event if further funding/prizes are required.

Portobello is one of the most heavily used beaches in the UK on sunny days. Policing this Summer will be increased with a team of five officers, a support caravan, and visits from mounted police and the marine police unit. The Child Safety Initiative, including the wristband and missing children scheme introduced last year, will be implemented for an extended period (2nd July to 28th August).

An area of the sea between Bellfield Street and Bath Street will be reserved for swimmers. Signs and notices to boat clubs will remind jet-skiers and other boat users to take care and keep away from the nearshore swimming areas. Powered boat users are reminded that they require the permission of the Forth Ports Authority Harbourmaster to launch boats. Excessive noise and nuisance by boat owners should be reported to the police.

### **220.3 Minutes of the 22nd AGM, held on May 31st 2004**

George Murray was added to the list of attendees. Minutes adopted: Proposed Celia Butterworth; Seconded Tom Smith.

### **220.4 Minutes of the 219th Meeting**

The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Margaret Monro; Seconded: Dawson Currie.

### **220.5 Matters Arising**

**220.5a Christmas Decorations.** The visit to the Council store to review available decorations was postponed. Action: Secretary to request photographs.

**220.5b Coade Stones.** Maureen Child reported that the Dept. of Culture & Leisure has agreed to maintain the coade stones at a site to be selected in Portobello.

**220.5c Harry Lauder Garden.** It was agreed to erect a sign in the garden indicating that Portobello Community Council maintains the gardens. Action: Dawson Currie. It was also agreed not to invest in a solar powered water feature because of the risk of theft.

**220.5d** The Secretary has received an acknowledgement from WREN in response to the application for funds for the paddling pool site redevelopment. The Secretary acknowledged the support of Alan Graham from Edinburgh Council in collating additional information required to support the bid.

### **220.6 Reports**

**220.6a Treasurer:** Account balances: Community Council £5,139.41    Tennis Club £3,653.65

The annual grant from the City Council will be included in next month's figures.

**220.6b Tennis Courts:** The season is going well, with good support for the coaching for children sessions.

**220.6c Task Force:** No report. Action Secretary to request one of the team leaders to attend future Community Council meetings.

**220.6d Planning:**

20mph zones: George Murray reported on the new plans, which were seen as reasonable and excluded bumps and signs on smaller roads and the Promenade (which is classed as a pedestrian-only footpath). There was support for the scheme to be extended to cover the "rat runs" to the south of the main road.

6 John Street: Decision on HMO for 12 people in 12 bedrooms deferred until 30th June when the application will be discussed at the Dean of Guild Court at the City Chambers at 3pm.

76 Portobello High Street. Application withdrawn.

**220.6e Councillors:**

Maureen Child – see attached written report. Work on the speed reducing measures in Brunstane Road has begun. A discussion on the need for the Strategic Regeneration of Portobello focused on the need to maintain recreational space and improve the quality of available space. The demands for more housing, a new High School and other developments results in conflict and requires a strategic plan for the area. Maureen Child highlighted input from the design champion for Edinburgh, Sir Terry Farrell, and a more visionary approach within Edinburgh Planning Department.

**220.6f Signs and Plaques** (Celia Butterworth): The new water quality digital board, based on modelled values from analysis of weather and tides, will be placed at the foot of Bellfield Street on the seaward side of the Promenade, and not against the Swimming Baths as preferred by the Community Council.

**220.7 A. O. B.**

**220.7a** Dawson Currie reported on the Edinburgh Joint Community Council meeting. The number of LDCs will be reduced from six to five in line with the Westminster constituencies. Community Councils will be grouped into approximately 15 groups of three to cover LDC issues. A consultation is underway to revise the Edinburgh Community Council scheme. Papers are available from the Secretary, who will collate comments prior to the next Community Council meeting (end August).

**220.7b** The Secretary has received a letter asking for support for the retention of Lismore and Brunstane schools. The Edinburgh Council policy is based on evaluation of falling pupil numbers, but no decision has yet been made.

**220.7c Seafield Community Liaison (Scottish Water):** The next meeting will be held on 29th June at Leith Academy.

**220.7d. Health Service.** The Secretary has consultation documents on out-of-hours health provision in Lothian.

**220.7e** Portobello Library. The Library has been awarded the excellence award for groups in the Get up and Go Awards for the Portobello Drop-In computer classes for older people. The Community Council expressed appreciation for the excellent work of Joyce Campbell and her team at the Library.

**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 30th August 2004