



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 223rd meeting held on 25th October 2004 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

**Present:** Dawson Currie, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Brian McCrow, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, Sheila Scott, John Smart, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, Betty Young.

**Apologies:** Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Alix Gaffney, Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Monro, Sandy Smith, George Murray, David Turner.

**In attendance:** Robert Davidson (CEC), Joyce Fleming (Joppa Tennis Club).

### 223.1 Chairman's Introduction: (John Smart)

The Chairman was delighted to welcome Joyce Fleming as the representative of Joppa Tennis Club, Sheila Scott as the representative of Portobello Traders, and Robert Davidson from the City of Edinburgh Council.

### 223.2 Minutes of the 222nd Meeting

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

### 223.3 Matters Arising

**223.3a Christmas Decorations.** Margaret Smith reported further discussions with Ian MacFadyen from the Council. Budgets for new decorations were low. It was agreed to support a proposal to focus decorations on and around the Town Hall. It was agreed to purchase new (non-commercial) tree lights for inside the town hall (budget up to £100).

**223.3b Harry Lauder Garden:** no progress.

### 223.4 Reports

**223.4a Police Report:** No police present.

**223.4b Treasurer:**(Kathleen Hart):

Account balances: Community Council £6,774.21, Tennis Club £3,845.65.

**Action:** Secretary to pay Scottish and Edinburgh associations of community councils' membership fees.

**223.4c Tennis Courts:** (Joyce Fleming): Despite the weather the use of the courts was up and this year there were 59 family memberships. Coaching would be available again next Summer. M Child had asked the Council to help with the maintenance (new gutters *etc*) to keep the pavilion wind and weatherproof. A club afternoon on the first Sunday of each month will be held throughout the Winter (13.00–dusk). It is hoped to get an electricity supply in the near future. John Smart thanked Joyce for coming to the meeting and looked forward to more regular communication between the Community Council and the Tennis Club.

**223.4d Task Force:** (Robert Davidson): Robert Davidson will arrange for David Lovie (Team Leader) to attend the next meeting (**Action:** Secretary to e-mail minutes). Some beach cleaning will continue over the Winter. A new beach-cleaning machine has been purchased for next year. Since mid-June more than 200 tonnes of seaweed has been collected for re-cycling, giving a major saving compared with landfill. Keep Scotland Beautiful were assessing how to introduce a new blue and yellow flag that could be awarded to Scottish beaches that meet a set of criteria suitable for Scotland. At present one poor reading (always after severe storms) means a beach does not meet the present criteria for a blue flag for at least two years. Council staff who work on the beach in Summer have other duties in the Winter, including graffiti removal. New legislation will help to improve Council powers to get graffiti removed through a system of served notices. The Council was also testing new anti-graffiti coatings in Newington. Sheila Scott highlighted the state of the High Street, particularly after school lunchtime. **Action:** Robert Davidson to talk to Environmental Wardens and Team Leaders to look at street cleaning and enforcement. It was suggested that the Community Council request more beach cleaning during the Winter. The amount of refuse recycled in

Edinburgh has risen from 7% to 18% and continues to rise. Bob Jefferson informed the meeting that Forth Estuary Forum had organised a beach clean up, but no-one had turned up, probably because of a lack of publicity.

**223.4e Planning:** (John Stewart):

**Superstore application:** As the CEC has decided not to defend the planning application on retail grounds, the cost and importance of action from CATS and the Portobello Traders is now rising and of crucial importance. The CEC will now defend their decision on urban design and traffic grounds only.

**Old Harbour/Fun City Site:** Archaeological investigation in progress.

**6 John Street:** The appeal against Edinburgh City Council's decision to decline of HMO status has been withdrawn. The appeal over the decision to decline change of use to guest house is still active, and a site meeting will be held on 9th November. Concern was expressed that guest house accommodation should be encouraged in Portobello, and that the arguments should focus on the record of the current applicant.

**76 Portobello High Street:** (Johnnie's Amusements). The original application has been withdrawn and a new application for a less obtrusive development of flats has been submitted. PAS will not object to the new proposal.

**228 Portobello High Street** (top of Bellfield Lane). The owners have appealed against the enforcement order to remove the shutters and repaint the shop front.

**223.4f Councillors:**

Maureen Child – see attached written report. It was agreed that the Community Council would support the CEC action to spend the allocated £100,000 on site clearance and some landscaping of the Paddling Pool Site. It was proposed to approach the Beechgrove Garden Task Force for additional help: **Actions:** Tom Smith (contact Beechgrove) and Secretary (contact Maureen Child).

**223.4g Signs and Plaques:** no report.

**223.4h Portobello Merchants & Hoteliers Association** (Sheila Scott): The new calendar (£4.99) will be ready next month. A Pledge-a-Pound campaign to raise funds is being championed by all members. Everyone was urged to support the campaign. More data on transport patterns will be collected. The campaign to fight the Superstore will be expensive, but any non-used funds will be used to continue supporting the local community.

**223.4i Portobello Neighbourhood Watch** (Brian McCrow): The next meeting will be held at 6.30pm on 23rd November, at the Library. There will be a talk on traffic calming. All welcome.

**223.5 Planning for 2005 onwards.** A sub-group (Robert Gatliff, Brian McCrow, John Stewart and Nick Stroud) would meet before the next meeting to brainstorm for future ideas and separate the "quick wins" from more complex and expensive projects. Results will be presented at the next meeting. **Action:** Secretary to arrange and discuss with Brenda Molony about publicising ideas in the Reporter.

**223.6 A. O. B.**

**223.6a Portobello Old People (POPS)** (Tom Smith): The Portobello Monday Centre for older people has lost their volunteer driver. New volunteers are needed. It was agreed to donate £100 to support the group.

**223.6b EACC Meeting:** (Dawson Currie): Notes from recent meeting were presented.

**223.6c Next meeting:** Will members please contact Margaret Smith to offer help with catering for the pre-Christmas meeting.

**223.7 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 29th November 2004.