



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 227th meeting held on 28th March 2005 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present: Dawson Currie, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner.

Apologies: Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Nora Mackenzie, Brian McCrow, Sheila Scott, John Smart, Sandy Smith, Bill Thomson,

In attendance: Betty Young (Neighbourhood watch), Steven Hawkins and Diane Cairns (PCATS).

227.1 Chairman's Introduction (Tom Smith): Welcomed members and visitors.

227.2 Police Report: police not present.

227.3 PCATS (Steven Hawkins and Diane Cairns): Steven Hawkins presented a review of the public enquiry. The number of objectors was over 300, many more than for nearly all planning enquiries and on a par with the recent M74 enquiry. The attendance by supporters was excellent and the tone of the enquiry was friendly, with experts suggesting that the chances are in favour of turning down the application. The result is likely to be announced in May or June. PCATS had raised £23,000 and the hiring of expert witnesses to support the traffic and retail arguments was vital. It is clear that if PCATS had relied on the Council experts, the case would have been presented very poorly. The Council officials thought that local roads could cope and retail arguments were not supported – hardly the view of Portobello residents! Members of the Community Council thanked PCATS for their excellent work and invited PCATS to be represented on the Community Council.

227.4 Minutes of the 226th Meeting: The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Margaret Munro, Seconded: Brenda Molony.

227.5 Matters Arising:

Triathlon: Secretary approached POD about musical events during the weekend of 14th August

Action: Dawson Currie to enquire about availability of the Town Hall.

Finances: A discussion on decisions made to assign some of the reserves to specific activities indicated that these decisions were made without enough analysis. It was suggested that future decisions be considered more carefully.

227.6 Reports

227.6a Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £6,551.32, Tennis Club £4,531.34. Members were requested to submit receipts for any expenditure before the end of the week. It was agreed to reappoint last year's auditors.

227.6b Tennis Courts: The Treasurer had attended the poorly attended AGM of the Tennis Club. Although the finances were in a good state, there were potential liabilities to pay for maintenance on the clubhouse and there were questions about payment of NI contributions for the summer staff. **Action:** Secretary to contact chairman (Alan Learmonth) about future attendances at the Community Council.

227.6c Task Force: No report.

227.6d Planning: (John Stewart):

Indoor Bowling Centre, Milton Road East: A planning application has been lodged to demolish the club and build two blocks 6 and 4 storeys high, containing about 100 flats. PAS, The Community Council and the Cockburn Association have objected on the grounds that the buildings are out of scale with the surroundings and that the land is classified as open space. The only reason the bowling club was given planning permission was that it was a sporting facility. It is probably the premier indoor bowls centre in

Scotland and would be a sad loss. A change to the SE Edinburgh Local Plan has changed the designation as open space, although PAS had not been notified.

Brighton Park Sundial: The plinth for this 17th Century sundial is damaged and requires repair. Brighton Residents and PAS have each donated £100 and the Community Council agreed to donate a further £100 to cover repair costs.

227.6e Councillors: Maureen Child – see attached written report.

Lawrence Marshall: L. Marshall expressed regret that the Council had not supported the retail arguments against the Superstore. The proposed environmental improvements to the High Street were welcomed; these will include an extra pelican crossing. Sport Scotland will almost certainly object to the closure of the bowling centre in Milton Road East. The boundaries for the new STV wards have been published. Portobello (from King's Road to Eastfield), Milton, part of the Durhams and the Magdalenes will form one 3-member ward. There will be 17 wards, which will form community planning areas, replacing the LDCs.

226.6f Signs and Plaques (Celia Butterworth): Following an article in the Reporter, Ned Barney's daughter has been in contact about the plaque. A meeting had been held to look at options for the coade stones. It has been agreed to develop ideas for raising funds to include the stones in the new design for the Paddling Pool site. A sum of £20–£50 thousand will be required. The Community Council agreed to donate £1,000.

Alison Robinson presented a piece of newly made coade stone. This is hard and long-wearing and one idea is to use new coade stone (possibly manufactured in conjunction with local art students) as a cladding for the garden walls.

227.6g Portobello Merchants & Hoteliers Association: no report.

227.6h Portobello Neighbourhood Watch: no report.

227.7 Portobello Community Planning

Bob Jefferson: A questionnaire for primary school children has been prepared. A similar form for secondary schools is planned. It was suggested that Standard Life be approached for printing sponsorship. The Rotary Club are keen to be involved in the proposed Portobello "Person of the Year Award". The Council needs to formalise procedures. The local online directory will be ready for the website at a cost of £20 per year for a listing. The proposals for a measured mile on the Promenade have been welcomed by the City Council.

227.8 A. O. B.

- 1. Portobello High School.** The Secretary has received a letter of thanks following the donation to the garden plans.
- 2. Hustings for General Election:** Secretary to explore possibilities.
- 3. Scottish Parliament:** Secretary to explore a visit for the Community Council with Susan Deacon. The Parliament has Open House 29th March to 8th April.
- 4. King's Road roundabout:** Secretary has copy of scheme for bus lanes and traffic lights.

227.9 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 24th April 2005.