



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 228th meeting held on 25th April 2005 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, Avril Scott, Sheila Scott, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, Nick Stroud.

Apologies: Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Nora Mackenzie, Brian McCrow, John Smart, John Stewart, Betty Young.

228.1 Chairman's Introduction: Tom Smith welcomed members.

228.2 Minutes of the 227th Meeting: There were two mistakes in the minutes: item "226.6f" should have been "item 227.6f" and should have read "no report". The date of the next meeting should have read "25th April 2005".

With these corrections the minutes were accepted. Proposed: Brenda Molony, Seconded: Kathleen Hart.

228.3 Matters Arising:

Triathlon: It was observed that the day of the Triathlon is the first day of this year's Edinburgh Festival. Apparently no one is following up the possibility of holding other events in Portobello on this day.

Brighton Park sundial: Celia agreed to find out if any progress had been made on repairing the plinth.

Hustings: Some of the local candidates refused to take part, so there would be no election hustings this time.

228.4 Reports

228.4a Police: police not present.

228.4b Tennis Courts: The minutes of the latest club meeting showed that club chairman Alan Learmonth was due to attend this meeting of the Community Council, but no representative was present.

228.4c Signs and Plaques (Celia Butterworth): £140 had been received towards the cost of the Ned Barnie plaque; the rest would be raised from present funds and PAS. The geology board had been renewed and much improved. The level of vandalism was generally low.

PAS was applying for an LDC community grant to produce some modern coade stone, for the John Street community garden and with High School pupils in May and June. The Council was offering to pay for the foundations for the coade stone pillars in the community garden. It was agreed that the sub-committee could apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the Community Council's name for a £40,000 grant to help with the garden (for which the latest plans are on display in the Library foyer).

228.4d Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £6,557.60, Joppa Tennis Club £5,071.34. The accounts for the year had been drawn up, and would be audited (by Celia Butterworth and Margaret Smith) as soon as the Tennis Club accounts had been received.

228.4e Councillors:

Maureen Child circulated her report at the meeting (see attached report). In response to questions she confirmed that the telecom mast had now been erected at the junction of Brunstane Road South and Milton Road; and reported that fewer headstones than feared had had to be laid flat in Portobello Cemetery and that the Council was looking for descendants to get those headstones put back in place. The Council was still keen to provide one or more skateboard facilities in the city but with no visible progress yet; the Council was putting a bill through the Scottish Parliament to remove various obstacles from such developments.

Lawrence Marshall referred to some controversial local planning issues and said that while the Council wanted the best possible developments for Portobello, everything should be done according to the rules. The meeting agreed that there should be a 'level playing field' for all developers. There was a plan to provide an

overflow culvert for the Figgate Burn behind Adelphi Place, and the meeting agreed that this would be the best option. Work was now starting to realign the High Street outside the high flats; phase 2 would involve improvements at the bus stops opposite the Town Hall. It was unlikely that Portobello would be allowed to have a zebra crossing in the High Street. Lawrence agreed to find out what was happening about a pedestrian crossing in Moira Terrace. In relation to co-events for the Triathlon on 14th August, Lawrence confirmed that he had been in touch with the Swim Centre, would ask the Council's economic development department about doing something on the day, and would be following up other leads; LDC grants might cover some of the costs.

Action: Lawrence Marshall to find out about the new pedestrian crossing on Moira Terrace and investigate possible extra activities in Portobello on 14th August.

228.4f Portobello Traders: (Sheila Scott) It seemed likely that the funds raised for the superstore enquiry would cover the costs of the expert witnesses; any surplus would be put back into the community.

228.4g Portobello High School: (Avril Scott) Standard Life would be supporting the School's initiatives to improve its environment, and this project was one of the events in this year's suspended timetable in June. Lottery funding was being sought to help with the School's allotment, which was being enthusiastically supported by pupils. The School would be circulating Bob Jefferson's questionnaire on improving facilities in local parks, and a delegation of pupils would attend the meeting with the Council. All would be welcome at a meeting in the Library at 6:30pm on Tuesday 10th May to look at provision for teenagers in the Portobello area.

228.4h Planning: A planning application had been submitted to replace the Milton Road indoor bowling centre with flats. John Stewart had written on behalf of the Community Council to object to three planning applications, a drive-in in Argyle Crescent, a house in a garden in Joppa Park, and inappropriate railings in St Mary's Place.

228.4i Portobello Neighbourhood Watch: no report.

228.5 Portobello Community Planning

The local business directory was building up on the website, funded by local businesses; it was open to any local business to join, for a fee of £20 per annum. The questionnaires about playpark provision were being distributed to all local nurseries and primary schools, and to the High School. The Community Council declined the suggestion to join the Forth Estuary Forum at this stage, in pursuit of its objective of linking the Promenade into the local long-distance coastal path. Bob Jefferson reported that a new permanent banner would shortly appear on the Town Hall to advertise the website's address.

228.6 A. O. B.

1. **Election Hustings.** Dawson Currie circulated a notice about a meeting in Edinburgh West.
2. **TV aerial on Bath Street flats:** Lawrence Marshall pointed out the negative effect of this aerial on the Promenade; PAS agreed to follow this up.
3. **Community Centre AGM:** This would be held on 13th May at 7:30pm, and all would be welcome.
4. **Environmental noise:** the Secretary had received a letter from a Bellfield resident complaining about noise in the very early morning, possibly coming from the railway depot. Several people agreed that they were sometimes disturbed by noise at night but that it was almost impossible to pinpoint its source. Lawrence Marshall pointed out that in his experience the railway companies took great care to minimise noise nuisance from Craigentenny. It was agreed that the Secretary should ask Environmental Health why the source of this noise pollution could not be identified, and reply to the correspondent sympathising with the problem but not knowing what more to do about it.
Action: Secretary to write two letters about noise pollution.

228.7 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 the AGM, to be held on 30th May 2005.