



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 232nd meeting held on 26th September 2005 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Rachel Eadie (PHS), Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Brenda Molony, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, Avril Scott, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, Ruari Sutherland (PHS), Betty Young.

Apologies: Celia Butterworth, Susan Deacon, Alix Gaffney, Stephen Hawkins, Bob Jefferson, Brian McCrow, Lawrence Marshall, Margaret Munro, John Smart, Sandy Smith, David Turner, Insp. Norman Ward.

In attendance:

From SubZero: Mike Combe, Gavin Devereux, Dalal Singh, Ross Whotton, Ian Wilson.

From Joppa Tennis Courts: Hazel Bett, Chris Cowie.

232.1 Chairman's welcome: the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and invited our guests from SubZero to open proceedings with a presentation on their project.

232.2 SubZero

Four years ago a group of young people from Leith decided to open a youth café, but their plans evolved to take in a range of activities for under-18s, including a skate park, a music zone, bar bistro, fitness area, reading zone, computer/Internet area, games arcade, shop, cinema and dance zone. They were now looking for premises of around 35,000 square feet to accommodate 2,000 members from across Edinburgh, the PowerLeague site being one possibility suggested by the City Council. The centre would cost about £2.5m to build, and would be financially viable for an annual membership fee of as little as £60 and a weekly admission of £4. The Royal Bank of Scotland was among the supporters. The centre would create 40 full- and part-time jobs, many of them for young people and acting as extended work experience. Local and UK-wide research revealed strong demand for this kind of development. A similar centre already exists in Kilmarnock, but SubZero is unique, having been set up as a Company in England by five 14-year-olds because Scottish law required a minimum age of 18. The group was congratulated on its plans and its presentation, and was invited to participate in the public meeting on 12th October.

232.3 Minutes of the 231st Meeting:

The minutes were accepted: Proposed: Tom Smith, Seconded: John Stewart.

232.4 Matters Arising:

Brighton Park sundial: this is still being dealt with by the City Council.

- * **Flats at 19 Bath Street:** Lawrence Marshall has been assured that real stone is to be used for the frontage.
- * **Task Force:** held over to next meeting.
- * **High Street phase 2:** John Stewart has not yet received a detailed request from the City Council concerning the Community Council's noticeboards; when he has, Kathleen will arrange their insurance.

232.5 Public Meeting on 12th October

The Chairman distributed a draft flyer to advertise the meeting, which was refined in discussion; it was agreed that the heading "Is Portobello the Pitz?", though clever, was too negative, and would be better replaced with something like "Portobello, where next?" or "The future of Portobello". The plans were that he would chair and open the meeting, and speakers would include Stephen Hawkins, Lawrence Marshall,

someone from the Waterfront Project about the European seafront initiative, and SubZero, after which there would be an open discussion. It was agreed to have a questionnaire and tick-list so that everyone would have a chance to give their views. It was suggested that Duddingston House Properties be invited.

232.6 Community of the Year Award

The judges for this award would be visiting Portobello the following day, Tuesday 27th September, from 9 to 11am. They would start at the Community Centre with a presentation by Robert Gatliff which had been prepared by Bob Jefferson, and would then travel to the High School to find out about various eco-projects, the Joppa Tennis Courts, the John Street community garden, and finish up at Kitchener's to hear about PCATS. Anyone interested in participating would be welcome at the Community Centre at 9am.

232.7 Reports

232.7a Police: Inspector Ward had once again been prevented from attending the meeting. Regret was expressed that we had had no police representative since February.

232.7b Treasurer: Outgoings have been £80 for the Town Hall for the public meeting on 12th October and £50 for the sand sculptors. This left the current balances at:
Treasurer's Account: £6,409.14; Joppa Tennis Courts: £5,286.34.

The Chairman asked for a receipt for the payment for the repair to the Police Station clock, but as none had been received he agreed to obtain this direct.

- * **Action:** Robert Gatliff to get receipt for fee paid towards restoration of Police Station clock.

232.7c Joppa Tennis Courts: the two representatives from the Club thanked everyone whose efforts had led to the resurfacing of the courts, then spoke of the need to replace the clubhouse, which had been built around 1910 and was now in a serious state of disrepair. A replacement would cost £70-80,000, which was beyond all possibility, but a second-hand modular portacabin with water and electricity might cost as little as £3-4,000, which was feasible, although demolition costs would also have to be met. Kathleen Hart asked what conditions were specified in the lease, and offered to check her own copy to see if the City Council's permission would be needed for this work. It was also suggested that Awards for All or a Local Development Grant might cover the cost.

- * **Action:** Kathleen Hart to check the Tennis Club lease for any conditions about the clubhouse.
- * **Action:** Robert Gatliff to send the Tennis Club details of Local Development Grants.

232.7d Task Force: Held over to next meeting.

- * **Action:** City Councillors to request a Task Force representative to attend Community Council meetings.

232.7e Planning: John Stewart relayed the news that the Scottish Executive reporter had granted permission for Gregor Properties to have flats instead of shops on the ground floor of the Granny's Attic development (28-29 Promenade). He had objected on the Community Council's behalf to two planning applications, one to convert half a hotel to housing, and the other to turn a workshop in Bath Street into a flat, and had commented on a new white paper on modernising the planning system which threatened to tilt the balance even further in favour of developers.

232.7f Councillors:

Maureen Child had circulated her monthly report before the meeting, and had recently circulated a newsletter with questionnaire to every house in her ward.

Lawrence Marshall was unable to attend this meeting.

232.7g Signs, Plaques and coade stone: an application was being made to the Lottery for funding to erect the Coade Stone pillars in the community garden, but the estimated cost was £3,000 over the Lottery limit, so more would have to be raised locally – on top of what had been offered already. This funding had to be in place before the application could be submitted, so there wasn't time for a public collection or an approach to the Arts Council. It was agreed that the Community Council and PAS would jointly underwrite the shortfall, in equal measure, bringing the Community Council's total investment to £1,000 already committed, £400 already offered to Alison Robinson for her work with the High School, and £1,400 new underwriting.

232.7h Portobello Traders: no report this time.

232.7i Portobello Neighbourhood Watch: no report this time.

232.7j Portobello website: no report this time.

232.8 A. O. B.

1. **Cheque signatories:** It was agreed that the Secretary should be added to the group of people who can sign Community Council cheques (the others are presently the Treasurer and the Vice Chairman).
2. **Fire service changes:** There would be a public meeting at 7pm on 10th October in the Town Hall to discuss the proposed closure of the Macdonald Road and Marionville fire stations.
3. **Disability Awareness Training:** There were to be free two-hour training sessions on the Disability Discrimination Act on every Monday and Wednesday in October, at 7pm in Tollcross Community Centre (117 Fountainbridge).
4. **Get up and Go:** there would be activities for older people (50+) in Portobello Library and Portobello Swim Centre during 'Get up and Go' week, 3–7 October.
5. **Porty website:** There had been some criticism of Bob Jefferson's decision to accept sponsorship for Porty Online from the Portobello branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland. It was unanimously agreed to support this local sponsorship, and Bob was congratulated on having produced such a good website.
6. **Portobello bandstand:** The application to 'The People's Millions' for a new bandstand on the Prom had had to be withdrawn because of the difficulty of guaranteeing that it could be achieved to the required timescale.
7. **Police Station clock:** There was some feeling that the chimes were an hour ahead of the clock. The Chairman agreed to investigate this.

* **Action:** Robert Gatliff to check that the Police Station clock is chiming correctly.

232.9 Future meetings

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 meetings are on 12th October 2005 (public meeting, Town Hall)
31st October 2005 (ordinary meeting)

Subsequent dates are: 28th November 2005
30th January 2006
27th February 2006