



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 234th meeting held on 28th November 2005 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present:

Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, Avril Scott, John Smart, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Betty Young.

Apologies:

Susan Deacon, Alix Gaffney, Brian McCrow, Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Sandy Smith.

In attendance:

John Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Colin Cuthbert, Ron Dymond, Archie Foley, Stephen Hawkins, Keith I'Anson, Sheila I'Anson, Peter Lake, Margaret Rae, Ian Ross, Ian Wilson.

234.1 Chairman's welcome: Robert Gatliff welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Ron Dymond from the City's Task Force, and former Community Council chairman John Smart.

234.2 Minutes of the 232nd Meeting:

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

234.3 Matters Arising:

- * **234.3a High Street phase 2:** Stuart Smith of the City Council was due to contact John Stewart before this meeting but hadn't. The contractor's schedule has delayed the start of the work. Ongoing.
- * **234.3b Joppa Tennis Courts:** Maureen Child has put the City Planning Department in touch with the Club to plan options for the clubhouse renewal. Robert Gatliff said that one of the judges of the Community of the Year award had expressed a preference for renovation of the clubhouse rather than demolition, and might be able to suggest sources of help. Ongoing.
- * **234.3c October's public meeting:** Brenda Molony said there wasn't room in the *Reporter* to publish the meeting's results, but there was information about it in the *Library* and *Party Online*. The Secretary had still to send the questionnaire results to the Council Directors: ongoing.
- * **234.3d CCTV results in Rosefield Avenue:** there has been no feedback from the Police about whether CCTV records contain clues in relation to damaged cars in Rosefield Avenue.
- * **234.3e outstanding bills:** Maureen Child was asked to get our bill for maintenance of the Harry Lauder Garden, and Dawson Currie for our membership of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.
- * **234.3f quality of shellfish:** Maureen Child had found out about local shellfish, as requested. The best advice is not to eat them.
- * **234.3g vehicles on the beach:** the Police have not yet reported on the legality of taking vehicles on to the beach.
- * **234.3h petition to the Parliament:** the Secretary has yet to look into an ePetition on jet-skis. Ongoing.
- * **234.3i signage on Prom:** Maureen Child thought that Lawrence Marshall should be the one City Councillor to request better signage for the Prom to discourage antisocial use.
- * **234.3j news of national events:** Stephen Hawkins is awaiting a response from the Scottish Executive about getting on the Scottish Parliament's meeting notification list.

- * **234.3k primary school closures:** anyone who would like to comment on the City Council's proposals to close several primary schools should pass their objections on to Robert Gatliff, to make a joint submission.

234.4 Reports

234.4a Police: there was no police representative.

234.4b Treasurer: The only change this month had been the payment of the bill for maintenance of the Harry Lauder Garden. This left the current balances at:

Treasurer's Account: £6,409.14; Joppa Tennis Courts: £5,286.34.

234.4c Joppa Tennis Courts: no report this time.

234.4d Task Force: Ron Dymond was welcomed back to Portobello, having worked here five years previously. He reported on several Council initiatives which are helping to improve the area. The Council is using special coatings on street furniture such as telephone cabinets to try and prevent graffiti and fly-posting. The Task Force would like local volunteers to be responsible for wiping off graffiti, and will let us have a list of the items to be "adopted". This approach is being tested in Portobello before being used throughout the city. Work in the local parks has been paying off, so the work would be continued and expanded next year. Bob Jefferson asked about broken lights in Rosefield Park; Ron Dymond offered to find out why they haven't been fixed. Nick Stroud asked for multi-compartment litter bins on the Prom to encourage more recycling; Ron Dymond said that the City Council wants to promote recycling and is currently investigating new types of bin. Alix Gaffney asked about gates to the Prom, but these are not part of the Task Force's remit. There is graffiti on the wall where the swing park used to be in Joppa Quarry Park; Ron Dymond agreed to have this removed if it is still there.

The Task Force is happy to receive reports from the public about any problem within its remit, on 078 101 81039, from 6:30am to 5:30pm, seven days a week.

- * **Action:** Ron Dymond to let us know what items of street furniture we can "adopt".
- * **Action:** Ron Dymond to find out why the lights in Rosefield Park have not been fixed yet.
- * **Action:** Ron Dymond to arrange for graffiti in Joppa Quarry Park to be removed.

234.4e Planning: John Stewart reported objections to a slightly-revised plan to convert half a hotel to housing, and to an application to build two flats in Bellfield Lane next to the new nursery.

234.4f Councillors:

Maureen Child circulated her monthly report at the meeting, and drew attention to some key points. Local cockles and mussels are not fit for human consumption. Vehicles are not allowed on the Prom without authorisation, and although opinion is divided roughly equally for and against cycling, the law against it is still in force. The gates on to the Prom are due to be replaced, and could be operated electrically or have a key kept locally. Bob Jefferson asked that the new gates be vandal-proof, and Margaret Munro asked for improved signage to let people know what was permitted. Maureen Child agreed to report these points back to the Council.

Lawrence Marshall was unable to attend this meeting.

234.4g Signs, Plaques and coade stone: the Lottery has not yet responded to the application for funding to erect the Coade Stone pillars in the community garden. The seashells have to be well-washed by the rain before they can be spread on the beds in the community garden. The bronze wall plaques are showing signs of weathering, and future ones may be made in Aluminium instead. The information boards are all in quite good state.

234.4h Portobello Traders: no report this time.

234.4i Portobello Neighbourhood Watch: no report this time.

234.4j Portobello website: Maria Devoy reported a new feature in the site, drawing attention to new local businesses. 'Radio Free Porty' is now established and the possibility of having a local TV station on the Internet is being explored. An application is to be made to Channel 4 to try and get some funding for a local piece of outdoor art. During discussion of what such art might be, Dawson Currie suggested joining in with the growing worldwide 'cowfest' movement (e.g. see <http://www.nucleus.com/~keith/cowphotos.html>), by

putting a painted fibreglass cow in some public space (it was suggested after the meeting that plastic haggises might be easier to achieve). Robert Gatliff will talk to 'Big Things on the Beach' about possibilities for local works of art.

- * **Action:** Dawson Currie to find out about fibreglass cows.

234.4k Community development planning: no report this time.

234.5 Any Other Business

234.5a New book on Portobello history: Copies are still awaited.

234.5b Helen Hopekirk: Helen Hopekirk was a composer who lived in the High Street before emigrating to the USA, where she was regarded as one of the great concert pianists of her generation. The 150th anniversary of her birth is in May 2006, and it would be fitting to mark this occasion with a musical event in Portobello, and the erection of a commemorative plaque. A professor of music in Massachusetts has been in touch with the History Society, offering to participate in an event. The likely venue would be St Marks hall. There was general agreement to support this initiative, and Stephen Hawkins offered to help Archie Foley apply for an LDC grant on the Community Council's behalf to help achieve this and the plaque.

- * **Action:** Stephen Hawkins to assist with an application for an LDC grant.

234.5c City Council meeting about community councils: Tom Smith agreed to attend a meeting on 15th December at the City Council, to find out about plans for community councils. Tom Smith and Dawson Currie have copies of a Scottish Executive report on community councils.

- * **Action:** Tom Smith to find out what the City Council plans for community councils.

234.5d 25th anniversary: The City Council is hosting a reception in December to celebrate the 25th anniversary of community councils in Edinburgh. Portobello will be represented by Tom and Margaret Smith and Dawson Currie.

234.5e Sustainable future for Portobello: Stephen Hawkins had attended a meeting on 27th November on the subject of a sustainable future for Portobello. One major theme had been the need to reduce our use of fossil fuels. The meeting was well attended and enthusiastic, and will be followed up early in the new year. One result of this meeting is that people are finding out about having a farmers' market in Portobello.

234.6 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 meeting is on 30th January 2006.

Subsequent dates are: 27th February 2006
27th March 2006
24th April 2006