



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting held on 26th May 2008 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Robert Gatliff (Chair), Nick Stroud (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer) Dawson Currie, Diana Cairns (PCATS), Maria Devoy, Caroline Hosking, Bob Jefferson (*Porty Online*), Peter McColl (PEDAL), Brenda Molony (*Porty Reporter*), Margaret Munro (Portobello History Society), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), Margaret Smith (Portobello Labour Party), Tom Smith, John Stewart (PAS), David Turner (Portobello Amnesty Group), Sean Watters (PFANS).

Apologies: Cllr Michael Bridgman, Celia Butterworth, Jet Cameron (PPAG), Lawrence Marshall, Tom Nimmo (Brighton Residents), Kenneth Owen (Police), Sheila Scott (Merchants & Hoteliers), Margaret Williamson (High School), William Wilson.

In attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, Mary Dunbar (CEC), Cllr Stephen Hawkins, James Hunter (CEC), Linda Kelly, John Lau, Rosemary Smith, Anne Ward.

26.1 Chairman's Introduction

Robert Gatliff welcomed everyone to the Community Council's 26th AGM. He thanked everyone for their participation in the Community Council, and for all the hard work people had put in over the many issues which had confronted us. He hoped we would be able to concentrate more proactively on our own agenda in the coming year, rather than reacting to other people's. He also recalled with sadness the Community Councillors who had passed away since the last AGM.

26.2 Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were approved at the June 2007 ordinary Community Council meeting, with the correction that Maria Devoy seconded Nick Stroud as Secretary. The Chairman invited additional comments, but there were none.

26.3 Treasurer's Report

Kathleen Hart presented a summary of the accounts for 2007–2008, including detailed summaries of income and expenditure for the Community Council, Joppa Tennis Courts, and Interpretive Boards. The balance of **£3,415.32** at the bank included 'ring-fenced' money from several specific events: the 'Christmas lights' fund contained £950; the 'Golden Days' account stood at £1,100 of which £500 had been offered to Portobello Open Door; money raised to maintain the Harry Lauder Garden at the Town Hall had dwindled to £89, and it was hoped that the City Council would now take over its maintenance; there was £28 left from the Helen Hopekirk events which could presumably now come to the Community Council; and £420 remained of the money raised by Bob Jefferson for the website. This meant that the Community Council had less than £1,000 of its own to spend. We would soon be receiving this year's City Council grant, though that was likely to be lower than in previous years because of the reduction in the size of our catchment area. We had not made our usual donation to the Portobello Older People's Project this year.

James Hunter said that the City Council would not be able to give the same level of attention to the Harry Lauder Garden as a dedicated gardener had done, but he thought it possible that they could take on grass-cutting. He agreed to attend an on-site meeting to discuss possibilities.

Kathleen Hart was warmly thanked for her report and for all her work as treasurer, and Margaret Smith and Celia Butterworth were thanked for auditing the accounts.

- * **Action:** James Hunter to meet Margaret Smith and Kathleen Hart at the Harry Lauder Garden to discuss its ongoing maintenance.

26.4 Election of officers for 2008–2009

The election of new office bearers was postponed, until an Extraordinary General Meeting could be held to ratify an updated constitution also. This would give us the chance to fill the 5–6 vacancies we currently have

for elected members; Robert Gatliff agreed to write a piece for the Porty Reporter asking for interested people to join the Community Council. Diana Cairns wanted to separate the issues of electing office bearers and getting new members, but Margaret Munro pointed out that we needed more people to share out the work and be more proactive. Everyone was clear that we would like new members who are interested in Portobello as a whole and not just in single issues. Robert Gatliff suggested setting up a small working group to oversee attracting new members and managing an EGM to adopt the new constitution and elect office bearers; all volunteers of help with this would be appreciated. It was therefore agreed to maintain the status quo until an EGM probably in August (proposed Tom Smith, seconded Maria Devoy).

- * **Action:** anyone interested in helping to find new members and plan the Extraordinary General Meeting to contact the Chair or Secretary before 20th June.

26.5 Any Other Business

There was none.

26.6 Next AGM

The next AGM is due to be held on Monday 25th May 2009.