



**PORTOBELLO
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL**

**DRAFT Minutes of the 268th meeting held on 27th April 2009 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall**

Present: Archie Burns (P Park Action Group), Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns (Acting Joint Secretary, PCATS), Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Robert Gatliff (Chair, part meeting), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer, CAB), Caroline Hosking (Acting Joint Secretary), Lawrence Marshall, Margaret Munro (Vice Chair, P History Society), David Scott (P Community Centre), Margaret Smith (P Labour Party), Tom Smith, John Stewart (P Amenity Society), David Turner (P Amnesty Group), William Wilson.

Apologies: James Hunter (CEC), Kenny MacAskill MSP, Peter McColl (PEDAL), Brenda Molony (Porty Reporter),

In attendance: Cllr Mike Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Stephen Hawkins, Sarah Potter (Portobello Police), Margaret Williamson (Portobello High School), Susan Carr (Minutes).

268.1 Chair's welcome

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that the meeting allow a few minutes for Phil Myerscough from BL Developments to address the meeting and this was agreed. Mr Myerscough informed the meeting that a planning application was submitted today and that it may take a week or so before it is formally registered. Neighbourhood notification has been carried out and there is 21 days to comment from the day it is registered. There will also be a model in the library from the end of the week as well as visuals and boards which he hopes everyone will take an opportunity to peruse at their leisure. He also advised that the plans will be available on the planning portal of the Council and that he has made 4 copies for the Portobello Community Council. A request to have a further set available in the library alongside the model and boards was agreed.

268.2 Minutes of March meeting

The minute of the previous meeting was proposed as a correct record by Maria Devoy and seconded by David Turner with the following amendment; the Jet-ski report in the Councillors' reports was attributable to Cllr Hawkins report not Cllr Child.

268.3 Matters Arising

263.7 Skills Audit – Copies were handed out and it is also available on the web address to circulate. Archie agreed to send a link to this to Caroline Hosking to circulate. It can be submitted by paper or electronically.

ACTION: Archie to email link to web address or copy to Caroline Hosking to circulate.

267.6 Community Council Election – Joyce Campbell from the library has agreed to be the Returning Officer.

267.9 Planning – 1A Eastfield – Cllr Hawkins clarified the previous minute to the effect that there are two separate issues: the sale of land for proposed extension of the garden into the public grass verge has not gone ahead and the Council is seeking a resolution to the ownership of the airspace above the foreshore.

267.9 Calor Gas Awards – Eileen Hewitt referred Diana to the SACC webpage and it now appears that the criteria changed so that rural villages may apply and we therefore do not qualify.

268.4 Agree AOCB

The following was agreed for discussion: General Practice in Scotland, Edinburgh Tenant's Federation, Climate Challenge and the new junction replacement for the roundabout at Kings Rd.

268.5 Waste Transfer Site Public Inquiry

John had requested this as an agenda item because it is likely the Public Local Inquiry could be before September. If it does go ahead a fighting fund will be required and he indicated that PAS will put in £1000 to kick start the campaign. He hoped that the PCC would also make a donation and encourage others to do likewise. He was in no doubt that a public enquiry will be expensive e.g. an expert witness could cost £6-8K but added that it will also require someone to co-ordinate and lead the campaign. It is expected that the campaign will require in the region of £20K.

It was suggested that PCATS could make a donation from their remaining funds. Stephen as Chair of PCATS is not sure because there hasn't been a meeting as yet and there is still uncertainty over the ex-Scottish Power site. It was felt that the threat of a Superstore may not be so high because it has not been included in the Masterplan, but others felt it could still be a concern. He suggested that PCATS would need to consult to ensure there were no substantial objections to PCATS making a donation. It was suggested that the Reporter could carry something which would be sufficient consultation.

There was a discussion around the funding possibilities and the Treasurer reported that there are historical funds for Xmas lights (£950) and for Golden Days (£600) which represent more than half of the funds held. A suggestion that PCC donate £1500 was revised down to £1000 which the Community Councillors present unanimously agreed. A further donation of £500 may be considered at a later date. It was agreed that a cheque will be issued once an account for PONGS (Portobello Opposes New Garbage Site) has been set up. It was also agreed that the rest of the ring fenced money above be absorbed into general funds of PCCouncil, with the exception of £300 which is for POL website.

ACTION: Kathleen to issue a cheque for £1000 to PONGS once bank account has been set up. Kathleen to organise accounts as above.

268.6 Notice Boards and Keys

John has checked out each of the notice boards and can confirm that, with the exception of the one near the bank/Town Hall, they are in working order. The one at the bank has a different key and the door is different from the other two. It was agreed that they all should be the same for ease of access and noted that currently the one at the bank is older and is difficult to open because the door has dropped and it is a different design. It was agreed that the Council should be approached to upgrade the one at the bank so that they are all the same.

There was a discussion on what should be permitted on the notice boards and it was agreed that it should be monitored by the PCC because there is a potential that it could be abused. It was agreed that posters against the Waste Transfer Site should immediately be placed in each notice board, that Community Council Minutes should be displayed in the Town Hall Notice Board and that Nick Stroud should be approached to ask if he can provide an updated map of Portobello for each Board. It was agreed that John will hold the keys for the notice board by Joppa Pumping Station and that Caroline and Diana will hold the ones for the boards near Figgate Burn and the Bank respectively.

ACTION: Caroline to write to James Hunter to request him to rectify the key and door fitting of the notice board outside the Bank. Maureen also agreed to take this up. Caroline to write a notice for the Library. Caroline to ask Nick Stroud for an updated map. Diana to put Minutes in Town Hall notice board when mended.

268.7 Topics for future meetings

268.7a – It was reported that Stuart Mackay, Stakeholder Manager for Carillion, is happy to come to a future meeting to discuss flood prevention and suggested June as a suitable date. It was agreed to invite them to a future meeting.

ACTION: Diana to write to Carillion to request them to speak to a future meeting, possibly June.

268.7b – AGM It was agreed that only Reports from the Chair and Treasurer were required. It was noted that the Treasurer is on holiday in May and would not be present at the AGM but she will make her report available. It was noted that the advice from the Community Council Liaison Officer Eileen Hewitt is that the appointment of office-bearers can be postponed until the Community Council elections in October 2009 and this was agreed, but should be formally agreed at the AGM, as current office bearers have already indicated they are willing to continue until then. It was also agreed that there would be no guest speaker for the AGM.

ACTION: Caroline to write to Robert Gatliff to request a Chair's Report; Kathleen to provide a Treasurer's Report in her absence.

268.7c – Baileyfield Site Planning Application It was agreed that this will need to be discussed at May's Ordinary Meeting following the AGM on the same date.

268.8 Reports

268.8a Police – PC Sarah Potter reported that further to her report last month, there was a motorbike initiative which resulted in a number of motorbikes and scooters seized by the police and noted that some of those seized had been stolen. The initiative included areas in Northfield, Craigmillar and Restalrig. There was an increase in vandalism generally and cars were vandalised locally (Morton St.) but the culprit for that has been caught.

There was a meeting of local beat officers and the Chief Inspector to plan the work for the summer and she agreed to write a small piece for the Reporter. They hope to have the summer Prom initiative for lost kids again and will endeavour to continue this provided there are resources available. There were enquiries about setting up/supporting Neighbourhood Watch Groups. PC Potter explained that there is a liaison officer at Fettes but expected that a local officer would be able to help set up a Neighbourhood Watch Group, but stressed that it is up to the members to run it.

268.8b Treasurer - Kathleen Hart reported that the Treasurer's Account balance is £2622.20p and the Joppa Tennis Courts account is £9539.16p.

268.8c P/C Neighbourhood Partnership – The Health & Well Being group was attended by Diana. Diana also reported that the outcomes for the Neighbourhood Partnership and Sub Groups will be publicised by the East Neighbourhood Team and the contact for this was Mary Dunbar.

268.8d Edinburgh Association of Community Councils –It was reported that the AGM is in June and that changes to the constitution had been made to give one place to each Community Council giving a total of 41 votes. It was noted that the current Chair is stepping down but the treasurer and secretary have intimated that they are prepared to be nominated for a further term. The Saturday meetings are still open meetings that anyone can attend but there is a proposal to hold a Thursday meeting bi-monthly for delegates who will be nominated from each Community Council. Dawson is prepared to volunteer to be the PCC rep. but a form will have to be completed by the PCC Chair & Secretary. Dawson asked that this proposal to be endorsed by this group and it was unanimously agreed that Dawson will represent the PCC.

268.8e Party Online – There was no report.

268.8f Environmental Update – There was no report

268.8g Planning

i) Planning Applications

2 Joppa Road (CTDT) Tile Distribution – This is for a replacement sign. An objection was lodged on the basis of no Neighbourhood Notification.

Hamilton Lodge – There was letter of commendation written because the plans to divide it in to three were very sensitively done with minimal external changes.

The Royal Hotel – This was built in 1875 and added to in 1907. They want to dig out the basement which had previously been the Bake House. John has sent an objection on the basis that it affects the pedestrian area.

Land near 5 Marlborough Street – This has been brought forward before for a single storey building which was refused because it was out of character. The only change to this application is the change to the appearance – it is now a different facing. It is PCC policy to object to this type of development in any conservation area. It was agreed that a letter of objection be written.

ACTION: John to write.

ii) Planning Changes – Modernising Planning Diana circulated a new Council leaflet on the changes which introduce a new hierarchy of developments – National, Major and Local. There is a requirement for mandatory pre-application consultation for all major and national developments and a proposal of application notice is required a minimum of 12 weeks before the application is submitted.

Diana said there is now a Community Engagement Technician, Jo-Anne Laidlaw. It was agreed to invite her to talk to the CCouncil. It was also agreed for Diana to check with her regarding the consultation period for the Baileyfield Site Planning Application and whether it is covered by the Planning Changes.

Diana Cairns had attended a seminar on Community Engagement in planning, following the new planning legislation. It should be noted that the public's role in decision-making has NOT been enhanced by the legislation. Community engagement could be open to legal challenge if not done properly. Pre-application reports will be a material consideration and must fairly and properly reflect facts and views expressed.

ACTION: Diana to write re Baileyfield Site Planning Application consultation period required and to Jo-Anne to speak to CC.

267.8h Signs & Plaques – Celia reported that the Kings Road Horizon Board has been manufactured.

267.8i Portobello High School – It was reported that a design team has been appointed for the new school which will take 1400 pupils and consultation will start soon. A report was circulated showing some of the recent achievements of the school which has been particularly good especially with regard to sporting achievements. The report was welcomed but it was noted that some of the pupils are not behaving responsibly with regard to the litter left at lunchtimes and also that bikes are being left across the pavement which is potentially dangerous for pedestrians.

268.8j Joppa Tennis Courts – The AGM took place and it was agreed that the Courts are to be cleaned at a cost of £1500.

268.8k Portobello Traders – There was no report.

268.8l Community Centre – There is a meeting next week.

268.8m Community development planning – No report

268.8n Communicating with communities – It was noted that Robert is writing a piece for the June Portobello Reporter. It was agreed that the PCC election should be included with the September issue of the Reporter. Brenda/Margaret will do something for the September issue which will be based on what the Council sends to cover the election.

ACTION: Robert write piece for June and Brenda/Margaret for September P Reporter.

268.8o Councillors – Cllr Hawkins stated that he had not had time to prepare a written report but reported that he can confirm that a decision on the ownership of the Baptist Church clock will be made tomorrow. The lease for the community orchard has been progressed, initially for 1 year and planting has started already. All three councillors had attended a meeting at the community centre but it does not look like the proposals will be easily progressed. He has also prepared a motion for the transport committee regarding the speed bumps not being effective and has asked for ideas that complement a conservation area e.g. Marlborough Street car parking. There was a brief discussion on possibilities that could be considered e.g. parking on one side of the road or making some of the streets one way.

Cllr Child tabled a written report on her activities over the last month. It was noted that the community centre proposal originally suggested a new build but in this economic climate it was unlikely to happen. There is a new proposal to upgrade and move the computers and Maureen has asked Council staff to propose how the Centre can be refreshed. Maureen said it was essential that it is included in the capital programme.

Cllr Bridgman stated as always he is available at the end of the phone or at his surgeries. He explained that he has been involved in the safety campaign with the fire service where two fire officers have been out in the community carrying out home safety checks. He is also a member of the Kilns Working Group and EVOC have been assisting them to work on their constitution. He has requested a report on the work to the pedestrian crossing at Fishwives Causeway/Sir Harry Lauder Road which has resulted in the crossing being temporarily closed.

268.9 Any Other Competent Business

268.9a British Medical Association – A consultation is happening on changes to General Practice - paper will be placed in the Library.

268.9b Edinburgh Tenants Federation – A circular/newsletter from ETF will be placed in the Library.

268.9c Portobello Council of Churches– A flyer was read out, advertising a public meeting on 30th April on Climate Change which will be addressed by Shirley Anne Somerville MSP.

268.9d Kings Road Junction – There was a discussion on the new road layout. There have been a number of complaints that the Portobello Road junction is too narrow for cyclists and there is a problem with the give way/filter which is confusing for motorists. It was agreed that all three councillors would take this forward.

ACTION: Cllrs Bridgman, Child and Hawkins to take up these concerns.

268.10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting which will take place on Monday 25th May 2009 at 7.30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street. It was agreed that Margaret, Maria and Tom will provide refreshments.

Subsequent dates are: Monday 29th June and 31st August 2009 (no meeting in July)