



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the 314th meeting held on 25th November 2013.

Present: Max Blinkhorn, Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Mark Cameron, Brian Cosford, Emma Dempsey, Terry Dobson (Gilberstoun Residents' Association), Maria Devoy, Bob Jefferson, Saul Kenrick (Woodcraft), Lee Kindness, Geoff Lynn, Lawrence Marshall (Portobello Older Peoples' Project), David Medcalf, Ben McLeish, Thea McMillan, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Sean Watters.

Apologies: Stephen Dishon (Towerbank Parent Council), Gillian Eunson, Eva Schonfeld (PEDAL), Clare Slifer.

In attendance: Cllr Michael Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Walker, Sgt John Young (Police) and members of the public.

314.1 Chair's Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave notice of some upcoming community events.

314.2 Police Report

Sergeant John Young gave a detailed Police Report (see appended). People were encouraged to respond to the Edinburgh Policing Plan consultation that would help set local priorities:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/edinburgh-survey>

A query was raised regarding the rules around taking drinks from the Espy and Dalriada onto the Prom and whether they had changed. Sgt Young acknowledged there had been some issues during the summer where rules had been applied incorrectly by police. He would speak to the Licensees and report back.

314.3 Environment Report

Sean Watters went through the Environment Report (see appended). He was still following up some items from previous minutes but had been updated on two issues. Remedial work to the grassy knoll in Straiton Park was expected to be carried out in the spring when conditions allowed for seeding. Sean Watters had spoken to Trevor Kelly of Waste Services about the Bridge Street bins but he had confirmed they had no outstanding complaints logged. Sean Watters said he'd look further into the issue but if there were no further complaints it was agreed to let the matter lie.

🌟 **Action: Sean Watters to follow up on outstanding items from previous meetings.**

314.4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed.

314.5 Matters arising from the Minutes

314.5a Waste and Recycling (313.9b): Hema Herkes from Waste Services had agreed to come to the January meeting. Sean Watters asked for any particular queries or questions to be fed to him in advance so he could pass them on.

✿ **Action: queries to Sean Watters regarding Waste & Recycling for the January meeting.**

314.5b Fire Control Service (313.9d): The draft letter had been circulated, submitted and an acknowledgement received. A response was expected in due course.

314.5c Treasurer (313.11a): Mark Cameron was liaising with Leon Thompson regarding handover of Treasurer duties and expected to complete that soon.

✿ **Action: Mark Cameron to complete handover from Leon Thompson.**

314.5d Neighbourhood Partnership (313.11b): Agenda Item.

314.5e Planning: Newcraighall north housing (313.11c). A letter of objection had been submitted, incorporating the results of a brief consultation exercise.

314.5f Signs & plaques (313.11d): Agenda Item.

314.5g AOB (313.12) A consultation sub-group had been set up, Sean Watters had contacted Jane Milne at COEC who was keen to come to another PCC meeting, and due to hosting issues Lee Kindness had set up a new PCC web-site page that was still in development.

314.6 Agree AOB

The following items were agreed for discussion: Stargazing, Brunstane housing proposal, an acknowledgement/celebration of Richard DeMarco, the election of group representatives at the previous meeting, and PCC's Data Protection policy.

314.7 Constitution and Standing Orders

The new standard Constitution and Standing Orders, recently revised by COEC, were adopted by PCC.

314.8 Consultation sub-group update

Mark Cameron gave an update. The sub-group had met, minutes had been posted on the web-site, and an outline consultation document had been produced by Lee Kindness. Issues discussed included: on-line and face-to-face consultation, how to reach hard-to-reach groups, more public noticeboards, an e-mail distribution list, and a regular flyer updating people on issues. Emma Dempsey had also spoken with Scotmid who were happy to let PCC set up a stall once a month in-store, and Gillian Eunson had been in discussion with the library to see if the PCC area in the library and the plasma screens could be used to more effect. Work to build up capacity to consult and communicate would continue and PCC welcomed suggestions as to how that could best be done. It was agreed to review things again at the January meeting.

314.9 Community Empowerment Bill consultation

Sean Watters spoke about the current Community Empowerment Bill consultation. Whilst it was a potentially very important piece of legislation, it was extremely wide in scope and many of the issues were not straightforward. As such he thought it would be difficult for PCC to give a response informed by local opinion, and instead it would be better to inform people and groups of the consultation and encourage responses directly. Various organisations were likely to comment on and publicise their own responses and these could be shared through the PCC Facebook page. Cllr Child advised that COEC's response would be made available and could also be publicised. After discussion this approach was agreed.

✿ **Action: Material related to the Community Empowerment Bill to be publicised.**

314.10 Edinburgh Festival event 2014

Max Blinkhorn gave a brief outline of a poetry and music performance piece being planned for next year's Edinburgh Festival on Portobello beach and Prom, with more detail likely to be available in the February. The issue of power supply to public events on the beach and Prom was discussed and it was agreed to raise the issue with Scott Thomson of COEC.

- ✿ **Action: To raise the issue of power supply to public events with COEC.**

314.11 Reports

314.11a Treasurer's Report: No report.

314.11b Neighbourhood Partnership: No report. It had been suggested that two representatives from PCC should be out forward to participate in the Neighbourhood Partnership: Sean Watters and Marjorie Thomas volunteered for this. Normal business for the next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting had been put to one side, although there would be an update from Children & Families on Portobello High School and Castlebrae High School. Instead the meeting would be more informal, and all members of both Craigmillar and Portobello Community Councils were invited to attend to meet each other and local officers. It was agreed to ask for an overview of how the Neighbourhood Partnership works at the meeting.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to contact Jim Hunter about an overview of the Neighbourhood Partnership and all who can to attend the December 4th Meeting.**

314.11c Planning: The renewed planning application for the new Portobello High School was going to committee on Wednesday December 4th and would be web-cast live. Geoff Lynn would be representing PCC at the hearing.

The new Structure Plan covering South East Scotland had recently been adopted but PCC had been invited to comment on draft supplementary guidance regarding land supply for housing. After discussion it was agreed to express concerns about identifying a significant amount of Greenbelt/greenfield land for development, as well as the difficulty in commenting on a consultation document that was very technical.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to draft a response to the SESPlan consultation and circulate.**

314.11d Signs & plaques: The question of whether a member of PCC should sit on the Signs and Plaques Committee had not yet been resolved and it was felt more discussion was required regarding the exact relationship between the committee and PCC, its role and remit. As no members of the committee were present it was agreed to carry the item over to the next meeting.

- ✿ **Action: To consider the Signs and Plaques Committee at the next meeting.**

314.11e Joppa Tennis Courts: No report.

314.11f Councillors: The importance of the COEC budget consultation was highlighted and people were encouraged to respond with their concerns or suggestions. The consultation would run till December 20th and it was agreed to publicise it. It was suggested that the consultation material should go in the Library and Sean Watters agreed to follow that up. It was also noted that the Licensing Committee had recently looked at Over Provision of alcohol but that such a designation would be open to challenge if applied to Portobello/Craigmillar. However the area had been ward as an Area of Serious Concern and this would be a factor when considering license applications.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to organise budget consultation information in the Library.**

314.12 AOB

a) Bob Jefferson spoke about a Stargazing initiative and the possible designation of Joppa Quarry as a Dark Sky Discovery Site. There were still some issues to resolve but it was suggested that either PCC or COEC could formally nominate the park.

b) Cllr Walker raised the issue of a new proposal for housing at Brunstane between Newcraighall and Newhailes. The Structure Plan that had been adopted had set a requirement to identify a significant land supply for housing and this was one of numerous proposals brought forward by developers for consideration by COEC. Various concerns were raised and it was agreed to make people aware of the issue now although the consideration of sites was at an early stage in the process.

✿ Action: New housing proposals to be publicised.

c) It was suggested that something be done to celebrate the considerable contribution of Richard Demarco to the cultural life of Edinburgh, perhaps with a public talk or exhibition. It was agreed to contact Richard Demarco for his views on the matter.

✿ Action: Sean Watters to contact Richard Demarco.

d) A query was raised about the process of electing group reps at the last meeting and why PAS had not been elected when they had been the 4th most popular group in an on-line survey. It was suggested that, if consultations were undertaken, PCC had to be open about the results and give clear explanations of how they were used to inform decisions. In this instance the impression given was that the outcome of the survey had been ignored. There was agreement that the process of electing groups could have been handled better, but it was pointed out that that process was conducted by COEC according to its rules and through its Returning Officers, not PCC itself. A suggestion had been made to COEC to conduct a consultation in parallel to the election process but this had not been taken up. Although individuals had been elected the new PCC was only formed upon the election of the group reps and the elected members had no mechanism to consult beforehand. Instead Ask Party had run an on-line survey, the results of which had been made public, and shared with elected PCC members prior to the last meeting. What weight was given to the results of the survey was a matter for the individuals involved in the election process, but it was pointed out that with the exception of three groups with more vote the remaining groups were quite closely bunched, and that some groups had encouraged their members to respond which raised a question as to how well the results reflected wider opinion. The view was expressed that PCC hoped to be able to work with any local groups, whether or not represented on PCC, and that there was no reason for PCC and PAS not to continue to work together on matters of mutual interest. It was agreed that PCC needed to be clear and transparent with future consultations and the consideration it gave them.

e) A query was raised about Data Protection policies and whether PCC was registered with the Information Commissioners Office. It was confirmed that there was no existing policy and that PCC was not registered with the ICO, but it was agreed to look into the issue further.

✿ Action: Sean Watters to look into Data Protection issues.

314.13 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, Edinburgh EH15 1EU.

The next meeting is on 27th January 2014 (315)

Subsequent dates are: 24th February 2014 (316)

31st March 2014 (317)

Portobello Community Council on the Web: <http://www.portobellocc.org/>

Portobello Community Council on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil

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