



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the 262nd meeting held on 29th September 2008 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Robert Gatliff (Chair), Caroline Hosking (Acting Joint Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer), Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Lawrence Marshall, Tom Smith, William Wilson, Archie Burns, Peter McColl (PEDAL), Brenda Molony (Party Reporter), David Scott (Port. Comm. Centre), Sheila Scott (Merchants & Hoteliers), Margaret Smith (Labour Party Port.), John Stewart (PAS), Sean Watters (PFANS)

Apologies: Nick Stroud, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns (PCATS), Bob Jefferson (Party Online), Margaret Munro (Port. History Society), David Turner (Port. Amnesty Group), Cllr Stephen Hawkins, Kenny MacAskill MSP, Margaret Williamson (Port. High School), Gavin Strang MP, Anne Ward.

In attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, James Hunter (CEC), Norman Ward (Portobello Police), Tom Webster, Alastair Hackland, Gordon Gray (Kilns Developments), T.M. McLay, John Lau, John Tulloch, Mr A. Jeffery, Mrs P. Jeffery, James Hunter (CEC East Environment Team), M. Clark, DJJ Smith, D. Killeen, M. Dunbar, Mr & Mrs Singh, Eileen Cook, Gordon McCulloch, L. Graham, Chris Boys, Gillian Anderson, Francis Wraith, Martin Bates & Sam Moran (Broadway Malyan), Phil Myerscough (BL Developments).

262.1 Chair's welcome

Robert Gatliff welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted the interest in the item on the Baileyfield Site.

262.2 Minutes of August meeting

Corrections received from Diana Cairns by email were agreed as follows:

Point 261.5e after "Following discussions with Cllr Hawkins" add "and reports of jet skiers operating very close to the shore and other water users in inflatables,"; **Point 261.7** delete "It was agreed that the Community Council's operating procedures would be a major topic for the September meeting".

With these corrections the minutes were accepted: proposed by Margaret Smith, seconded by Maria Devoy.

Point 261.7 Diana sought to correct the motion as this did not reflect the intention of the meeting to raise funds for the Community Council to pay for administrative support eg typing minutes, in addition to the role of Secretary, which is an unpaid role.

* **Action:** Robert has already submitted the Motion as worded in the Draft Minutes.

262.3 Matters arising from August meeting

261.1 Chair's Welcome Community Councillors agreed a letter of thanks be sent to Nick Stroud in appreciation of all his hard work as Secretary for many years.

* **Action:** Robert to write to Nick

261.4c Project funding by Neighbourhood Partnership (Minute 260.7c)

* **Action:** Peter McColl to draft a letter to the Neighbourhood Partnership requesting more money for local projects. Carried forward.

261.4g Actions carried over from previous meetings

* **Action:** Nick Stroud is working on a summary of matters arising from April, May and June meetings

which had been carried over for lack of time.

261.5e Watering the plants at Town Hall James Hunter advised he is looking for volunteers, rather than expecting the Community Council or local community to take this task on. He has written to the Manager at the Town Hall asking their staff to carry out watering, but would also welcome volunteers.

261.5e Jet ski Exclusion Zone Working Group James reported that Councillor Hawkins is to chair the Group which is open to Portobello Community Councillors who wish to take part. A meeting has been arranged for 22 October at 1.30pm to discuss the Jet Ski Exclusion Zone.

* **Action:** Comm. Cllrs to advise James Hunter if rep(s) from Portobello CC would like to attend. Peter McColl has previously attended.

261.5e: Old Notice board at the Town Hall

* **Action:** Tom Smith to contact James Hunter to decide what to do with old notice board at the Town Hall. Carried Forward.

261.5e: Planting at Bridge St Car Park: James Hunter reported that a small replacement shrub planting programme is being prepared for East which will include Bridge Street car park

261.5g: Robert has written to Alison Robinson congratulating her on her achievement in creating the new coade-stone top on the third pillar in the Community Garden.

261.7: Additional funding for Community Councils for administration: Robert has sent the motion to the ASCC requesting more financial support for Community Councils.

262.4 Topics for Future Meetings

The following topics were agreed for future meetings:

a) Skills Audit of Community Councillors to identify people to take on tasks that need to be covered. (suggestion from David Turner, and Diana Cairns).

* **Action:** Robert to discuss with David and Diana as to how to do this. It was suggested this could be in the October meeting if time available.

b) Kilns Developments – to give a presentation to the October meeting, on their proposals for the former Funpark Site.

* **Action:** Secretary to write to Kilns Developments

c) Towerbank School – issue re extension: suggested by Sean Watters.

d) Meadowbank Stadium, suggested by William Wilson. Robert said both sides would be invited, if it was agreed to have this topic, but as this is a huge topic, and we have already taken a position of unanimous support to the Save Meadowbank Campaign, it was agreed we need to know whether there is anything new to discuss, before inviting speakers on this topic.

* **Action:** Robert to write to both the Council (Stephanie Anne Harris) and Save Meadowbank Campaign, to clarify if anything has changed to merit another discussion of this topic at this stage.

262.5 Reports

262.5a Police: Norman Ward reported there have been no serious house break ins recently. The main problem in Portobello lately is malicious damage, mainly to cars, of which over 100 have been damaged. He pointed out this is not just by young people, but by adults too. Another issue they are tackling is young people drinking on the Promenade.

262.5b Treasurer: Kathleen reported that the Treasurer's account has £3458.26 and Joppa Tennis Courts £8451.30.

262.5c Edinburgh Association of Community Councils:

* **Action:** John Stewart, Caroline Hosking and Sheila Scott are to attend a meeting of CCs on Town Centres and local High Streets.

* **Action: ASCC Conference 2008:** Invitation received to attend AGM on Saturday 22nd November (10.30-3.30tbc) at the Scottish Parliament. Any members interested, to let the Secretary know. Closing date 18th November.

262.5d Environmental Update: In addition to items as above under Matters Arising, James reported:

- 3 seats ordered for placement at Joppa, nr / at bus lay by (colour to match seats on Prom)
- Resurfacing works at Adelphi Place programmed to take place shortly (approx first 60m from Portobello High Street)
- Briefing note introduced on future works at King's Road roundabout. The proposal to close the Roundabout has caused serious concern to traders who are worried about loss of trade already from the roundabout works. Sheila said Traders should be consulted before works are proposed, not after, and this feeling was supported by the Community Council. There were also grave concerns about safety provisions for pedestrians being lacking.

* **Action:** James will forward comments to Andrew Easson who is managing this project and request opportunity for Community Council to comment on the diversion proposal in advance of the next Portobello CC.

262.5e Planning:

John Stewart reported on two issues:

- a) HMO Applications – John agreed to monitor these for the Community Council. Agreed.
- b) 6 John Street. A public meeting has been arranged for 7.30pm Wednesday 22nd October in Portobello Town Hall (main hall). Portobello Community Council, PAS, John Street Action Group, the three local Councillors and all objectors have been invited to attend. The applicant has also agreed to attend.

262.5f Signs, Plaques and Coade-Stone: written report from Celia:

Interpretive Boards: King's Road Horizon Board was vandalised in June. Estimates being obtained for replacement board using system used for Bird Board at Joppa pumping station which is an improvement on original system.

* **Action:** Need estimate to complete Insurance claim, £100 excess which Sub-Cttee suggests should be shared between CC and PAS, as for previous claim in 2001.

Pottery Board, removed during work on the kilns, has been re-instated by the Council.

Building Plaques: Bronze plaque commemorating David Laing on Promenade, cleaned expensively spring 2007, and is almost illegible due to sand and sea air, no action possible. Other plaques OK.

Coade Pillars: Stainless steel caps on all three pillars will be painted in near future, after which we hope Council will renew some of the plants around the pillars. Manufacture and placement of capital on large pillar has used up what remained of the Heritage Lottery grant after building the three pillars. Awaiting one final invoice (for metal work) about £1000.

Next Sub-committee meeting Tuesday 7th October 2008.

262.5g Portobello High School: written report from Margaret Williamson:

Exam results on the whole were pleasing this year. S5 performed well and showed improvement on last year's results.

Recent successful open evening for P7 pupils and parents was staged. Evaluative comments were most encouraging.

Pupils continuing to work on ECO school ventures including 'litter'

262.5h Councillors: Cllr Stephen Hawkins is on holiday. Report from Cllr Maureen Child – circulated with these Minutes. The main current issues Maureen raised were: Kings Road Roundabout – as above; and proposed changes to Lothian Bus routes (seeAOB).

262.5i MSP: Kenny MacAskill sent a written report: You'll maybe have noticed that 'boozebusters' is no more. RS McColl have responded to my representations and changed the sign with immediate effect there (Portobello) and in Restalrig. Branding will also cease throughout Scotland within six months. A small step but an end to what I viewed as irresponsible promotion.

262.6 Any Other Business

262.6a Proposed closure of Portobello CAB

Robert reported that he and other Community Councillors had been very concerned about the proposed closure of Portobello CAB, and the other 3 local CABs. The suspension of this decision until full consultation with volunteers in the local CAB's has been carried out, was welcomed by the C Council.

* **Action:** Robert to write to express the support of Portobello Community Council for the Portobello CAB.

262.6b Lothian Buses – bus changes/service cuts

Robert read out some of the proposed Bus Service changes/cuts.

* **Action:** Robert to write to Lothian Buses to express the Community Council's concern about these proposed changes.

262.6c Joppa Rocks Leaflet

John said he wanted clarification as to how much the Community Council is giving towards the leaflets, as PAS is proposing to match this amount. It was agreed that the Community Council (and PAS) will each donate £100.

262.6d Secretary role

Caroline said she and Diana are willing to continue to cover the work between them, in Acting Joint Secretary capacity, until end 2008, and asked for this to be reviewed at the January 2009 meeting. This was agreed.

262.7 Presentation by Broadway Malyan/BL Developments

Martin Bates/Sam Moran from Broadway Malyan and Phil Myerscough from BL Developments, gave a further presentation on their early proposals for the Baileyfield Site (former Scottish Power site). This will be a residential-led mixed use scheme, aimed at 40% family, 40% First Time Buyers and 20% Workshops/Studios/Incubator Units. They hope to appeal to Community based facilities eg Health Centres, British Legion, as well as to existing users such as 'Out Of the Blue'.

They brought a model which showed considerably more accommodation than at the previous presentation, covering the Baileyfield Road side of the site, and showing a landscaped edge to Sir Harry Lauder Rd, where the Cottages currently stand. Phil Myerscough stressed this is still at an early design stage and people's comments will be taken into account. They hope to get Planning Consent in early 2009.

Questions/Issues: Many people had attended the meeting specifically for this item, and time was allowed for people to circulate and read the boards, look at the model, ask questions and make comments, which the Broadway Malyan and BL Developments will consider in their final Plan.

262.8 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 27th October 2008

Subsequent dates are: 24th November 2008
26th January 2009 (no meeting in December)
23rd February 2009
23rd March 2009