



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the 312th meeting held on 30th September 2013 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Archie Burns, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Ben McLeish, Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Nick Stroud, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council), Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association).

Apologies: Tom Ballantine, Sandra Blake, Caroline Hosking, Leon Thompson, Kenny MacAskill MSP.

In attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, Sheila Gilmour MP, Gillian Dunn, April McIntosh, Stephen Hawkins, Lee Kindness, Malcolm Bett, Alison Connelly, David Medcalfe, Dan Reynolds, Mark Cameron and other members of the public.

312.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced an additional item not on the agenda: a pupil update on activities at Portobello High School.

312.2 Maggie's Cancer Care

Mark Cooper of the Edinburgh Maggie's Centre gave a presentation on the work of the charity. The Edinburgh Maggie's was the oldest of 15 centres, with 15 more planned, which offered one-to-one help and assistance entirely free. The centre cost £2,400 a day to run and 100% of fundraising went directly to running the centre. The possibility was discussed of Portobello as a community sponsoring a particular day, possibly in June, with fundraising spread through the year. PCC would not have to take the lead on the project. If there were sufficient people interested from the community a group could be set up to take things forward. It was agreed to publicise the idea further.

- ◆ **Action: to publicise the idea of a Portobello Maggie's Day on the PCC web-site and Facebook page, inviting interest.**

312.3 Police Report

See appended. Concerns were raised about the number of bike thefts occurring and the lack of a police presence on the beat. Inspector Hardie acknowledged concerns about an increase in break-ins and thefts, particularly of soft targets, but it was difficult for the Police to stop crime in the first place. He also pointed out that Portobello had two dedicated police officers who patrolled when possible. Cllr Bridgman explained that there was an increasing emphasis on community policing and shift patterns were being looked at to increase the police presence within budgetary constraints. A member of the public raised concerns about problems associated with public drinking near Figgate Burn. The police urged the public to feed information to them about nuisance and disturbance so that they could keep on top of the problem.

312.4 Portobello High School Report

The head pupils at Portobello High School gave an update on what had been happening at the school. Items mentioned included:

- The school roll was now 1331 and the new S1s had settled in well.
- A new system of 30 minutes per week Key Adult Time had been introduced to provide continuity of support to pupils throughout their high school experience.
- The Prefect system in S6 had been changed.
- A blood donation session, a Strictly Ballroom event and University visits for S6 had been arranged.
- The Prom date had been set for June 6th and there was a Halloween Dance on October 31st.
- The S6s had developed a charity fundraising plan, in aid of Asthma Scotland, in memory of Kelsey Hogg.
- There were continuing campaigns to tackle issues of bullying and littering.

Nick Stroud thanked the pupils very much for their presentation and asked if it would be possible to make updates a more regular occurrence, perhaps on a rota basis given the time pressures on pupils, as it was important to maintain links with the Community Council and the High School.

312.5 Environment update

Sean Watters reported on the issues raised at the last meeting.

- A patching squad had begun work on Portobello Prom the previous week to rectify the ponding problem. The squad were due to finish this week early the following week at the latest.
- The markings on the prom would not be put down till all work had finished on the prom. This work was estimated to be completed within a month.
- There was no update regards the mosaic at Bridge Street/the Prom. These had been inspected and the defects noted, but finding out who had responsibility for maintaining them was ongoing.
- The sign pole on the prom at the bottom of John Street had been removed.
- Trevor Kelly could be contacted with regards to the bins on Bridge Street, as there was no more the environment team could do: Tel: 0131 529 2707 Email: trevor.kelly@edinburgh.gov.uk
- The finger posts had been initiated and would be continued when resources allow. It was intended to have this work completed by the end of the year.
- With regards to the window boxes at the Town Hall, the season had not finished quite yet and the cost of the maintenance would be reviewed then. When the assessment was completed an update would be provided.

It was agreed to follow up the bin issue with Waste Services. Concerns were also raised that whilst improvements and actions were being undertaken they didn't always appear to be fully thought through. The new grassy knoll in Straiton Park was in poor repair and it was suggested this be raised with Scott Thompson. There were also concerns about the control of dogs on the Prom and how cycling was now operating there. Celia Butterworth noted that some of the bollards at the bottom of Bellfield Street were chipped and required repair.

✿ **Action: Sean Watters to raise the issues highlighted above.**

312.6 Minutes of Previous Meetings

With minor changes, the minutes of June meeting were approved: proposed by Maria Devoy, seconded by Ben McLeish.

312.7 Matters arising

312.7a Alcohol Consultation (311.5a): Sean Watters explained that he had not progressed the proposed Alcohol Consultation in light of the impending election. He suggested it was best left to the newly elected PCC to decide their priorities and whether they wished to undertake such a consultation.

- ✿ **Action: To be raised at the next meeting.**

312.7b Waste and Recycling (311.5b): Waste presentation to be arranged for October.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to rearrange the presentation on waste and recycling for October.**

312.7c Timebank (311.5c): the Timebank project wasn't quite ready to give a presentation to PCC but may want to do so in due course.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to arrange a presentation on Timebank for September.**

312.7d Local Plan (311.5d): The letter to Derek MacKay MSP had received an acknowledgement, but no reply as yet.

312.7e AOB (311.5e): Cllr Child had followed up the confusion over the address.

312.7f Christmas lights (311.5f): COEC had responded regarding Christmas lights. The 2013-14 budget was set and there was no money for improvements. Possible improvements could cost several thousand pounds and there could be issues of ongoing maintenance too. It was agreed to put the issue aside and perhaps discuss again at a later date.

312.7g Planning (311.5g): The High School planning application was discussed again as there had been a procedural problem with the previous decision to support the application. After discussion it was agreed to confirm support for the application and submit a letter of support along the lines of that already circulated. The Newcraighall and LIDL letters had been sent.

- ✿ **Action: John Stewart to submit the letter of support for the High School application.**

312.8 Agree AOB

The Community Council elections and the state of Brighton Place were suggested.

312.9 Reports

312.9a Treasurer: The balance currently stood at £1,741.87.

312.9b Neighbourhood Partnership: No report. The next meetings were December 4th, February 26th and May 28th, at the East Centre/Craigmillar Library.

312.9c Planning: no report.

312.9d Signs & plaques: no report.

312.9e Community Centre: David Scott reported that the next meeting was Tuesday 8th October at the Community Centre. He also reminded everyone that the skittle season at the Sheep's Heid was now on every Saturday and invited anyone interested to come along.

312.9f Joppa Tennis Courts: no report.

312.9g Councillors: Cllr Bridgman congratulated POD in the success of the Village Show and thanked everyone who had supported the successful campaign to bring the National Sports Centre to Edinburgh. He also encouraged people to visit the newly refurbished Whitehouse in Craigmillar that was an excellent facility. He raised concerns about the planned reduction of fire control centres across Scotland from 8 to 3 and suggested PCC respond to the consultation in support of retaining one of the control centres in Edinburgh. After discussion it was agreed to respond to the consultation expressing concerns that the number of control centres were being reduced, but supporting the retention of one in Edinburgh if it occurred.

✿ **Action: Nick Stroud to draft a letter, Sean Watters to circulate for comment.**

Cllr Walker noted that the Debenhams application at Fort Kinnaird was going to committee on October 23rd. Sheila Gilmour MP expressed concerns about the identification of greenbelt and greenfield land for future housing supply. Cllr Child circulated her report.

312.10 AOB

25 nominations had been received for 14 elected places, and 8 group nominations for 7 places, so elections would be held. COEC were arranging on-line voting as well as polling in the library on October 24th. It was suggested that the PCC website, Facebook page, notice boards and library area be used to publicise the elections and that, since COEC would be publicising and arranging an on-line voting for the individual members, they could be asked to run a public consultation at the same time on which groups people would like to be represented on the Community Council, albeit that the public couldn't vote directly. These suggestions were agreed with.

✿ **Action: John Stewart to suggest COEC consult the public on group representatives, PCC to publicise the elections in general.**

Cllr Child raised the issue of the Brighton Place setts again, as there were increasing concerns about the state of the roadway. Whilst proposed repairs had been put back, it was clearly a significant issue that required further consideration.

✿ **Action: Brighton Place setts to be discussed at a future meeting.**

Finally John Stewart thanked everyone who had served as a Community Councillor since the last election. He thanked Dawson Currie, Brenda Molony and Celia Butterworth in particular for their contribution over many years. He also thanked Celia for agreeing to continue on the Signs & Plaques committee as a representative of PAS.

312.11 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 28th October 2013 (313)

Subsequent dates are: 25th November 2013 (314)

27th January 2014 (315)

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