



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **DRAFT Minutes of the 317<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.**

**Present:** Mark Cameron, Brian Cosford, Emma Dempsey, Bob Jefferson, Geoff Lynn, David Medcalf, Ben McLeish, Thea McMillan, Sean Watters, Stephen Dishon (Towerbank Parent Council), Gillian Eunson, Lawrence Marshall, Clare Slifer, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Terry Dobson (Gilberstoun Residents' Association).

**Apologies:** Max Blinkhorn, Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Maria Devoy, Cllr David Walker, Saul Kenrick (Woodcraft), Lee Kindness, Eva Schonfeld (PEDAL), Sgt John Young.

**In attendance:** Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Michael Bridgman, Nick Stroud, Archie Burns, Alison Robinson, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Stephen Hawkins and other members of the public.

### **317.1 Chair's Welcome**

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the Portobello Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership were consulting on priorities for the new Local Community Plan, and that COEC were consulting on proposed school holiday dates and their anti-social behaviour policy.

### **317.2 Police Report**

No report.

### **317.3 Environment Report**

Sean Watters outlined the Environment Report.

- The results of the Abercorn Crossing consultation exercise had shown considerable support and so the proposal was being taken forward.
- Work would continue on the finger posts on the Promenade in the new financial year when the budget is refreshed.
- Work was due to begin soon on the reconstruction of the rail bridges on Duddingston Road West and Peffermill Road which will involve diversions and road closures in both locations. Duddingston Road West road closure will begin on the 12th of July for 6 weeks. The closure will be on the bridge between the junction of Niddrie Mains Road and Duddingston Village.

A concern was raised over some of the new markings on the Prom. Most had been installed on the Prom itself and were easily seen, but some were set back on the adjacent streets. Sean Watters agreed to raise it with COEC.

### **✿ Action: Raise issue of Prom markings with COEC.**

### **317.4 Portobello High School update**

Portobello High School had hoped to send a deputation with an update on what was happening at the school but pressure of time had prevented it. However, they hoped to come to future meetings when feasible.

## **317.5 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes were agreed.

**317.5a** Edinburgh Festival event (316:4c): Awaiting further information from the artist.

### **✿ Action: Awaiting further information.**

**317.5b** COEC Planning Concordat (316:5): agenda item.

**317.5c** Richard Demarco (316.8): ideas on a possible event were being developed.

### **✿ Action: Proposal to be developed.**

**317.5d** Dogs and the Beach (316.9): agenda item.

**317.5e** Cycling on the Prom (316.10): Sean Watters had asked the Police whether they had any concerns since cycling had formally been allowed on the Prom, and Lee Kindness had attempted to contact COEC's Access Officer.

### **✿ Action: Awaiting a response.**

**317.5f** Amalgamation of Churches (316.11): Peter Bradley had contacted Stewart Weaver and more information had been circulated. An audit of how the facilities were used by local groups at present was ongoing.

**317.5g** Portobello Station (316.12): A draft letter had been circulated for comment.

**317.5h** Distance Markers on the Prom (316.13b): Bob Jefferson explained the proposal for distance markers on the Prom, made by Alison Robinson. Further consideration was required as to exactly how and where the markers would be placed, but the proposal was being put to the Environment Forum on the March 2<sup>nd</sup>. PCC agreed to support the proposal.

**327.5i** Referendum Event (316.14): The Scottish Community Alliance had developed a format for undecided voters to explore the issues surrounding the independence referendum. It was agreed to ask for more information with a view to the PCC hosting an event.

### **✿ Action: To seek more information from the Scottish Community Alliance**

## **317.6 Parking problems and Accessibility**

Concerns had been raised again about parking, in particular on Regent and Marlborough Streets, with pavements rendered impassable for some pedestrians. Cllr Bridgman also noted ongoing concerns of the emergency services about access. COEC had undertaken parking surveys and it was expected that changes may be proposed in due course, perhaps on similar lines to the previous consultation. Sean Watters agreed to contact COEC about the outcome of their traffic survey and it was agreed that the Consultation sub-committee would look at the issue.

### **✿ Action:**

## **317.7 Consultation Sub-committee update**

Emma Dempsey had agreed to Chair the sub-committee, with Mark Cameron as Vice-Chair. A brief outline of what the sub-committee had been doing was given: Max Blinkhorn was finalising the format of monthly notices to go in the existing noticeboards and elsewhere, the monthly stall in Scotmid was ongoing, it was felt the Party Reporter could be a very valuable means of communication, and people were keen to build up the capacity to consult with the community by a variety of means. The sub-committee invited suggestions as to

aspects of consultation it might look at and two suggestions were made: the possibility of consulting with a randomized group of people as a check against more self-selecting means of consultation, and looking at how potentially complex issues could be translated in an accessible way. COEC had offered the use of the library after hours on a Thursday, and the next meeting of the sub-committee would be held there, making it easier for the public to attend.

### **317.8 Dogs and the Beach**

A group had met to consider further the issue of dogs on the beach, and the possibility of whether a voluntary code might be feasible if there was a consensus. Difficulties with that approach were noted, but after discussion it was agreed to consult on 4 options, including keeping the status quo, to gauge public opinion.

#### **✿ Action: Consult on 4 options regarding the Beach.**

### **317.9 COEC Planning Concordat**

PCC agreed to sign up to the COEC Planning Concordat.

### **317.10 Brunstane Station**

Nick Stroud asked PCC to support adopting Brunstane Station, as a means of encouraging visitors, supporting local businesses and possibly raising the profile of Portobello in general. There was general agreement it was a positive suggestion and it was suggested the idea be looked at in more detail as to what would be involved and what could be done. Lawrence Marshall, Ben McLeish, Marjorie Thomas and Lawrence Marshall agreed to take the idea forward and report back.

#### **✿ Action: Look further into adopting Brunstane Station**

### **317.11 Reports**

**317.11a Treasurer's Report:** Current balance stood at £2,276.62.

**317.11b Neighbourhood Partnership:** The next meeting was due to be held 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**317.11c Planning:** The PCC had been approached regarding a variation to an existing Planning Consent at Brunstane Farm. It was agreed that the scale and nature of the application was such that the Community Council shouldn't comment, as Community Councils are directed to focus on issues of wider community interest.

It had been reported that the Scottish Power/Baileyfield site had been sold to Cruden Homes/Aldi so a fresh planning process for a combined housing and retail development could be expected in due course.

**317.11d Councillors:** Cllr Child repeated concerns about the identification and release of greenbelt land to meet Government targets for land supply for housing.

### **317.12 AOB**

a) Max Blinkhorn noted that Castlebrae Community High School had started on building a rowing skiff, as used by Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club, and that a grant had been secured by PSKC from the Neighbourhood Partnership to run rowing sessions with Castlebrae pupils as part of their suspended timetable.

b) Celia Butterworth noted that the missing photos regarding the Coadstone Pillars had been found and uploaded onto Portobello Online: <http://porty.org.uk/multimedia-2/gallery/coade-stones/>

c) Towerbank Primary School was celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and a series of events were planned. As part of that the School were looking for old photos related to the school that they could scan and create a historical display. The School or Parent Council could be contacted regarding this.

### **317.13 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 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (318)

Subsequent dates are: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (319)

30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 (320)

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

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