



Minutes of the 327th Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 30th March 2015.

Present: Brian Cosford, Emma Dempsey, Maria Devoy, Ben McLeish, David Medcalf, Stephen Dishon (Towerbank Parent Council), Gillian Eunson, Lee Kindness, Geoff Lynn, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Lee Kindness, Sean Watters.

Apologies: Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Mark Cameron, Max Blinkhorn, Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Thea MacMillan, Clare Slifer, Bob Jefferson, Justin Kenrick (PEDAL), Sgt John Young (Police), Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr David Walker.

In Attendance: Sheila Gilmour MP, Cllr Michael Bridgman and members of the public.

327.1 Chair's Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted the hustings arranged for 7:30pm Wednesday 22 April at the Town Hall. He also noted that POD were looking for assistance with organising the annual Village Show: for more information contact info@the-pod.org.

327.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed.

327.2a Volleyball courts (326.6): consultation results had been forwarded to Mel Coutts.

327.2b Brighton Place setts (326.7): Peter Bradley to attend meeting with Roads Department, clarification on Sean Gilchrist's figures required, CEC to advise on traffic management, project phasing and trader consultation.

ACTION: awaiting information from COEC.

327.2c Portobello Station (326.9): confirm that Lawrence and Max can attend a meeting with SESTran.

ACTION: to be confirmed.

327.3 Police Report

Sgt Young had sent his apologies, but Sgt Kevin Smith outlined the Police Report. He noted a current crackdown on parking on zig-zags, with an automatic £100 fine. He also noted a reduction in reported crime. Ben McLeish queried whether this was a real reduction in crime or a reduction in reporting. Sgt Smith pointed out that they could only go on the statistics they had, but noted that some initiatives could have a displacement effect, moving crime to other areas. Stephen Hawkins asked about cycling on the Prom and whether the Police would be doing anything to monitor and enforce safe cycling. Sgt Smith noted that they had undertaken exercises on the Prom in the past and may do so again in the busier summer months. Cllr Bridgman also noted that safe cycling on the Prom was being looked at by the Neighbourhood Partnership's Community Safety sub-group.

327.4 Environmental Report

No report.



327.5 Porty Youth Theatre

Lara Bross and Shauna MacAninch from the Porty Youth Theatre outlined proposals for two week-long summer projects, involving 30 high school pupils and 30 10-12 year olds. They were looking to apply for funding through the You Decide! Community Grants Fund process but required a sponsor as they didn't have a constitution or bank account in place at the current time, and asked if the PCC would sponsor their applications. Whilst everyone was supportive of the projects, a concern was raised that applying for and receiving a grant on behalf of another organisation might be outwith the remit of the PCC and the operation of its bank account. Given the imminent deadline, it was agreed that the PCC would sponsor the applications whilst raising this concern with COEC and seeking clarification.

ACTION: PCC to sponsor PYT applications but seek clarification from COEC re. concerns

327.6 Towerbank Catchment Review

Lee Kindness outlined the results so far of the survey on the proposed catchment changes. Over 180 responses had been received, with a strong geographical correlation to views expressed. Overall there appeared to be an acceptance that something had to be done and that a catchment review was required, with only a small proportion of responses suggesting an alternative course of action. Objections to the two options presented also differed in emphasis, with one attracting more concerns about travel distance, and the other more concerns about safe routes to school. The strongest point to emerge across the responses was the desire for a sibling guarantee of some kind, to prevent children being split between different schools. After discussion a number of actions were agreed.

ACTION: Report results of the consultation to COEC, to emphasise the strength of feeling in favour of a sibling guarantee, to request detailed figures on the number of siblings and likely impact, to request listing of addresses/postcodes potentially affected by the catchment review in addition to the maps provided.

327.7 Scottish Community Development Centre

Emma Dempsey outlined a proposal to work with the SCDC on developing and improving the work of the PCC. It was proposed to start with a facilitated discussion in private to identify areas for improvement and how to build on areas of strength. After discussion it was agreed to arrange a private training meeting in advance of the next scheduled PCC meeting.

ACTIONS: Training meeting to be arranged and notified.

327.8 Consultation Sub-committee

No report.

327.9 Other reports

- a. Treasurer – the account balance stands at £1,881.77.
- b. Neighbourhood Partnership – further planning meetings for the You Decide! Event were being scheduled.
- c. Planning – the proposals for the Cockenzie Energy Park had been withdrawn. Some minor amendments had been made to the Phoenix House application. The Transport department had objected to the parking proposals in the Towerbank Annexe application. The Debenhams/Fort Kinnaird application had been refused on appeal.
- d. Councillors – No reports.



327.10 Any Other Business

1. EACC

Geoff Pearson outlined the situation with the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils, and emphasised that the organisation could be an important voice for community councils if it could be strengthened and had greater participation. He encouraged PCC to be involved and to engage in a discussion on the future of the organisation at the AGM on the 21st or 28th of May (TBC). Geoff Lynn agreed to attend.

2. Cycling

A concern had been raised with the PCC regarding safe cycling on the Prom. As this had been discussed many times previously, it was felt it might not be productive to do so again unless there was a particular proposal or suggestion to consider.

327.11 Date of the Next Meeting

The 328th meeting of the Portobello Community Council to be held on Monday 27th April at 7:30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU.

Subsequent Dates are: Monday 25th May (329)
Monday 29th June (330)

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Contact Portobello Community Council at portycc.@porty.org.uk

327th PCC meeting closed.