

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Agenda for the 3rd. Meeting of the Portobello Community Council on Monday 13th., December, 1982 in Towerbank School Annexe at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Correspondence.
5. Items for general discussion:
 1. Joppa Tennis Courts.
 11. Cycle Path on the Promenade.
 111. Christmas Lights for 1983.
 - 1V. Empty Premises in the High Street.
6. A.O.C.B.
7. Place and date of next meeting.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the third Meeting of the Portobello Community Council, held in Towerbank School Annexe, on Monday 13th December 1982 at 7.30pm.

Chairman

Mr. George Rendall

Present

Mr. G. Rendall, Mr. J. D. Hosie, Mr. W. S. McDonald, Mr. G. A. Cooper, Mr. R. L. Sinclair, Ms. S. S. Brown, Cllr. P. C. Martin, Cllr. I. J. Berry, Mr. P. D. Elliot, Ms. C. Kilgour, Mr. W. Westwood, Ms. S. M. Westwood, Ms. B. E. Heron, Mr. H. E. Dawson, Ms. M. Whitehead, Ms. M. Jenkins-Thomas, Ms. R. A. Bullen, Ms. H. Ried, Ms. S. Lawrie, Ms. M. M. Shepherd, Ms. J. A. Hepburn, Ms. L. Davidson, Mr. R. M. Aitken, Mr. H. E. Fitzsimmons, Mr. M. Grainger.

Apologies

Mr. A. Calder, Mr. J. S. Morrison, Mr. T. Kyle, Ms. N. F. Smith, Ms. M. C. Amos, Mr. D. N. Herd, Ms. I. Thomson, Mr. W. Davidson, Cllrs. K. F. Ward, Cllr. Rt. Hon. I. R. Hoy, Cllr. J. S. CAVAYE.

25. Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of Portobello Community Council held on Tuesday 16th November 1982 were approved with the following changes:

Page 1. Councillor Paul C. Martin was present. An alteration to paragraph 16 was proposed by Mr. G. Cooper, that it should read 'Mrs. J. Scott was present' rather than 'Mrs. J. Scott was in attendance'.

These being the only amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record of the proceedings.

26. Matters Arising

A letter had been sent to Lothian Region Department of Highways regarding the problems relating to Figgate Street but a reply had not yet been received. A letter had been written and a reply received from the Lothian Region Drainage Department concerning the outfall pipe down Bellfield Street. The letter stated that the Department had no intention at present to construct a pier/walkway on the pipe. Cllr. I. J. Berry said that the Department may consider this matter again once the pipe has been laid. After a short discussion the Council agreed to take no action at present but the matter would be looked at again in the future. A letter had been sent to the District Council on the matter of notice boards in the area but no reply had been received. Contact had been made with the Post Office concerning the proposed rent of /a P.O...

26. Matters Arising Cont..

a P.O.Box but a problem had arisen. The Post Office required a permanent address and the addressee's mail would also be routed to the box. It was agreed to continue this matter and to seek a more satisfactory arrangement. The Secretary had written to British Rail asking for information on the transport of nuclear waste through the Portobello area. No reply had as yet been received. The Secretary had written to Edinburgh District Council and PADCA for information on Joppa Tennis Courts.

27. Correspondence

A letter from Gavin Strang MP concerning the future use of the Pool was read to the Council. Enclosed was a copy of a letter from Mr.W.Blyth, Director of Administration, noting the 17th February 1983 as the date when the Policy and Resources Committee of the District Council would consider the future of the Pool. Attention was drawn to the growing correspondence with other Community Councils in Edinburgh and the need for the Community Council to send representatives to the Edinburgh Community Council Forum's Committee on Elections. Names were invited from the Community Council and the Secretary was instructed to write to Edinburgh District Council for further information on next year's elections. The Community Council Also received on 30.11.82 the District Council grant of £780.87p.

28. Joppa Tennis Courts.

The Chairman read the letter from the District Council Recreation Department which pointed to the disagreement between local residents in Joppa and PADCA over the charges for the use of the Joppa Courts as the source of trouble this year. It was noted that no reply had been received from PADCA. The Chairman said that it was important that the courts were opened next year and that the Community Council should decide what action was in the best interests of the community. After a full discussion two aspects of the problem were considered: who should have the keys to the courts either PADCA, the Community Council or a Joppa Residents group, and how should the courts be run; by local voluntary labour or by a Community Program sponsored endeavour? Discussion quickly settled on Community Program involvement but it was suggested that the courts could be incorporated into a larger scheme with possible work on the Promenade and use of certain High Street premises for youth. It was proposed that a sub-committee be formed to consider in detail the extent of such asscheme, its proposed applications, and to time-table the execution of the scheme. The sub-committee would report its recommendations to the full Council for a decision. The proposal was agreed and the names of members wishing to sit on the committee were invited from the Council. The sub-committee is composed, at present, as follows: Mr.W.Westwood, Mr.H.Dawson, Ms.S.Westwood, Mr.F.D.Hosie, Ms.F.Raid, Mr.R.Sinclair, and Cllr.Paul Martin. It was agreed that the Community Council request /the

28. Joppa Tennis Courts Cont..

the keys for the courts from the District Council when the existing let expires.

29. Cycle Path On Promenade.

The Chairman introduced the proposal to use part of the Promenade as a cycle path. The majority were against the idea with some arguing that the Police should be stricter than they were at present with Promenade cyclists. Although some thought that all cyclists should be kept off the Promenade and the Police more persistent in attempts to keep the Promenade clear of cyclists the majority felt that this would be to the disadvantage of young children for whom it was safer to use the Promenade than many of the roads. It was decided therefore to take no action on this matter. A related matter was Police use of the Promenade in Patrol cars. It was agreed that the Secretary write to the Lothian and Borders Police requesting that they limit their use of the Promenade to strictly essential need.

30. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR 1983.

After a brief introduction by the Chairman, Mr. Westwood outlined the proposal in some detail. The intention would be to use the lights on the Promenade during the summer months and then to transfer them to the High Street during winter. Costs were estimated at £8000 with £4000 possibly coming from the Tourism Development Board and the possibility of assistance from Edinburgh District Council. Questions were asked as to the source of the remaining £4000 which would need to be found by the Community Council. Several members who were also local traders said that they felt traders and residents of Portobello would gladly give towards the enterprise. Mention was made that substantial donations could confidently be expected from some traders in Portobello. Installation would be in August or September and transference to the High Street in December. The Community Council agreed to set up a sub-committee to investigate finance, insurance and overall planning of the matter with the sub-committee reporting its recommendations to the full Council for a decision on any action that was to be taken. The members of the sub-committee are: Mr. H. Dawson, Mr. R. Sinclair, Ms. R. A. Bullen, Ms. S. Westwood, Mr. W. Westwood, Cllr. I. J. Berry, Ms. W. Shepherd, Mr. W. McDonald. It was brought to the attention of the Community Council that the District Council would not be providing Portobello with a Christmas tree this year. After complaints from a local resident the District Council had given lights and cable but the Community had to supply the tree. It was agreed that the Community Council buy a tree or trees to be positioned at the Town Hall. Mr. Donaldson and Mr. MacFarlane of Edinburgh District Council had been most helpful...

30. Cristmas Lights For 1983.Cont..

helpful and said EDC would supply the electricity free of charge. It was noted that insurance was necessary.

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31. Empty Premises In The High Street.

The Chairman said that the principle source of concern was the former carpet shop in the High Street. Mr.H.Dawson said that the shop had recently been sold but he had not been able to find out to whom and did not know if there was any intention to improve and use the shop. Mr.Dawson agreed to investigate the matter again. The wider issue of empty High Street premises for the youth of Portobello was raised and mention was made of the Lothian Region Community Education Department's interest in using the Community Program to benefit the youth of Portobello. After discussion it was agreed to include this aspect of community use of premises in the remit of the sub-committee previously set up (see section 28) dealing with the Community Program applications. The Secretary was instructed to write to Edinburgh District Council for information on grants that were available for improving shops in the area and legal obligations of owners to maintain buildings. Suggested that this matter be raised at Merchants and Hoteliers AGM. The Portobello Reporter Group had written to Scotmid concerning the possible community use of now vacant premises ^{in Portobello High Street} ~~at Scotmid~~. They had received a reasonably favourable interim response.

32. Place and date of next meeting.

The Chairman said some representatives found Towerbank School Annexe inadequate for Community Council purposes. At present it was satisfactory but if ever fifty or more attended there would be problems. A move to Portobello High School was suggested but a majority were opposed. Several alternatives were suggested and it was agreed to investigate them, namely PADCA, Bellfield St. Church, Marlborough St. Church and St.Marks Church. Meanwhile the next meeting would be in Towerbank School Annexe at 7.30pm on January 11th 1983.

33. AOCB

A deputation was heard on the provision of disco's for teenagers. A Mr.Stevenson, who spoke for the deputation, asked whether the Community Council might not run a pre-Christmas disco. Problems with availability of Premises were noted and the short time available in which to organise the disco. Mention was made that Misty's ran discos for teenagers, however this was not considered, by Mr.Stevenson, to meet the needs of all teenagers. It was agreed to investigate the availability of halls for discos and related activities for youth in the area and that the sub-Committee set up to consider Community Program applications should also consider this aspect of community activity in its deliberations. Discos /were...

33. AOCB Cont..

were previously run by Mr. Grierson in PADCA hall but it was understood that there was now no active youth group in PADCA. There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be on 11th January 1983 at 7.30pm in Towerbank School Annexe.

These are a correct
record of the proceedings:
Hendall
(Chairman)