

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Agenda for the 15th Meeting of the Portobello Community Council on Tuesday 29th November 1983 in Portobello High School at 7.30pm.

Gordon Cooper
Secretary
669-4048

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Local Cuts In Educational Provision.
5. Correspondence
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Reports from Sub-Committees
8. AOCB
9. Place and dates of next meeting

Proposed Dates:

7
January 10th Tuesday

February 13th Monday

March 13th Tuesday

April 9th Monday

May 15th Tuesday

June 11th Monday

MINUTES OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 29th NOVEMBER 1983 at 7.30pm

CHAIRMAN: Mr G.Rendall

PRESENT: Mr R.M.Aitken, Mr G.A.Cooper, Mr W.Davidson, Mr P.D.Elliot, Mr H.E.Fitzsimmons, Mrs J.Hepburn, Mr D.N.Herd, Mrs B.E.Heron, Mrs M.Jenkins-Thomas, Mrs H.Kersop, Mrs C.Kilgour, Mr W.S.McDonald, Mr C.O'Brien, Mrs H.Reid, Mrs J.Scott, Mrs M.M.Shepherd, Mr R.L.Sinclair, Mrs I.Thomson, Mrs M.Waugh, Mrs S.M.Westwood, Mr W.Westwood, Mrs M.Whitehead,

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS Cllr K.F.Ward

APOLOGIES: Cllr I.J.Berry, Mr Bryce, Dr Child, Cllr Hon. I.R.Hoy, Mr D.Hosie, Dr G.Strang, M.P.

135 MINUTES OF 14th MEETING, 24th OCTOBER 1983

The Secretary drew attention to the misnumbering of the paragraphs of the Minutes. The last paragraph of the 12th Meeting should have been numbered 115 and all subsequent numbers should have 1 added.

The Minutes of the 14th Meeting were approved after the following amendments:

- (1) Section 127, Add new sentence "The elections, etc, would be conducted in accordance with Paras 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Rules for the first elections of Community Council representatives."
- (2) Section 130, (iv): should read "A report and accounts from the J.T.C. Management Group were distributed."

136 MATTERS ARISING

- (1) Para 126 (v) The Chairman had written to the Education Department
- (2) Para 128 (ii) The Secretary had written to the Post Office Users Council
- (3) Para 128 (iv) Donation of £10 had been sent to CAB.
- (4) Para 133 (iv) A list had been circulated with the Minutes
- (5) Para 134 The lesser Town Hall had been unavailable and a list of suggested dates attached to the Agenda.
- (6) Para 127 Mr Westwood queried the decision taken over the method of election. He had understood that the method outlined in Para. 120 of the 2nd AGM would be adopted. The Chairman ruled that as the matter had been fully debated at the 14th Meeting and a vote taken, the decision should stand. Mr Westwood could raise the matter again after an interval of time.

137 LOCAL CUTS IN EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ward as speaking for the Education Committee and Mr White of SOS and Mrs Davidson, Chairman Towerbank PTA speaking against the cuts.

Councillor Ward explained the restrictions in Lothian Region Budget and since Education represented 70% of that Budget the cuts that this had imposed aggravated by the fact that these cuts for a whole year had been in 6 m.

Mr White spoke of the effect of cuts in the educational provision and the politico/social problems that this could give rise to in the future.

Mrs Davidson explained her view that the educational process was about developing the whole personality and potential of the child and that an average saving of 58pence per week was not worth the effort.

The Chairman thanked the various delegations for their talks and there followed a lively discussion.

➤ Mr Davidson proposed that a statement be sent to the Education Committee reiterating the statement made at the last Meeting 'that the Council view with alarm the recent and any future cuts in educational provision directly affecting the children within the Portobello area' Mr Westwood proposed an amendment to the effect that 'future savings should be made by disposing of redundant buildings'. Mr Davidson accepted this and the Resolution was agreed.

137 (continued)

> The Secretary was also instructed to ask for an assurance that the views of the Community Council had been noted.

It was agreed that Cllr Ward and Mr White/Mrs Davidson be asked to provide a brief summary which would form an Appendix to the Minutes. Secretary to write and thank those who had participated.

138 CORRESPONDENCE

> (i) A letter had been received from the Chief Constable, Lothian and Borders Police suggesting that the Community Council invite a local police representative to attend meetings, either on a regular basis or for consultation as required. It was agreed that an open invitation be issued.

Received?
> (ii) A letter from Edinburgh District Council gave notice of modifications to the Portobello and East Edinburgh local plan. It was agreed that most of the proposals were acceptable but the Secretary was instructed to ask for clarification of para 4 i. future use of Pool, 4 ii. LRC parking standards, and to query the use of the vacant land at Maryfield.

(iii) Mr Cooper had been accepted to Portobello High School Council and had been invited to represent PHS on Holyrood School Council.

(iv) Letters had been received from Miss Wardrope and Mr Strand, unsuccessful candidates at the last election, asking that their names be considered for the vacancies for Elected Councillors. Secretary to write quoting the relevant Minute and expressing the hope that they would stand again.

139 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported a balance in the General Account of £940 with £750 of this placed on Deposit Receipt. The Illuminations Account totalled £2091.66. An account had now been received from Messrs Northern Lights and a grant from the Tourist Board received. It was agreed that the account be paid in full.

140 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(i) The Lighting Sub-committee had deferred meeting until the Account had been paid. There were considerable technical problems in Christmas lighting of Portobello including confusion with traffic lights. After discussion it was agreed that the lights along the Promenade be switched on, on December 25th and 26th and December 31st and January 1st. It was reported that Messrs Northern Lights had offered to put lights on a Christmas tree in the area, the costs of lights being met from another source. The tree itself would cost about £25. The proposal was approved.

(ii) The Community Programme Sub-committee reported that approval had been received for the projects at Marlborough St and Mount Lodge. It was hoped further assistance might be received from the SDD and MSC.

(iii) The Poster Sub-committee had now received the posters.

(iv) Joppa Tennis Courts Sub-committee NTR

141 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Mc. McIntosh
Fun City.
> (i) In response to a query about the walls in Figgate Street, the Chairman agreed to carry out a survey of the residents views and report at the February Meeting.

(ii) It was reported that a new Green Man crossing would be installed at the top of Bath Street, a new road surface was being laid in Joppa Rd, -Seaview Terrace and Eastfield to give improved road safety. Similar work would be done in Milton Rd from Park Avenue to Eastfield.

142 PLACE AND DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

> The Chairman confirmed that he would attempt a block booking of the Town Hall. After discussion the following dates were fixed: January 15th, February 20th, March 20th, April 16th, May 22nd and June 18th.

Appendix A

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL - 29.11.83

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4:-

LOCAL CUTS IN EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

In response to the Council's invitation for a speaker from the Education Committee, Councillor Kenneth Ward attended and stated the following:

"Rather than dwell on the local issue of Towerbank Primary School staffing which had been aired and subsequently responded to by the Education Department, I would like the Council to be aware of the wider issues giving rise to economies throughout the Lothian Region's Educational provisions. In the opinion of the present administration on taking office in May, 1982, there was an overprovision of many services in Lothian Region, including education, as a result of which the ever increasing rate burden was intolerable to ratepayers generally.

It was no surprise therefore, that Educational Services, accounting for approximately 50% of the Region's Budget, came under very close scrutiny and was found to be well above government guidelines, particularly in Primary and Secondary School staffing.

In addition to the apparent overprovision of staffing at that point in time, it was gradually being compounded by falling school rolls, thus giving rise to a policy of selective severance or offer of early retiral to specific employees, emphasising that if the necessary economies were achieved there would be no need to implement a compulsory redundancy policy, which to date has in fact been avoided.

The reduction in primary school staffing has in my opinion and I would think within the administration, reached its zenith and although the arguments prevail regarding the effects of reduced specialist teachers, composite classes and slightly increased staffing/pupil ratios, I remain convinced that no irreparable harm has been done to the educational standards of our children.

In spite of the hysteria of many minority groups, it has to be emphasised that future primary school staffing provisions will now level out and perhaps even increase, but in any event the administration will continue to maintain obligatory education provisions against a background of economic restraint."


COUNCILLOR KEN WARD.