

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Agenda for the meeting of the Portobello Community Council
on Monday 20th February 1984 in the Lesser Town Hall,
Portobello at 7.30pm.

Gordon Cooper

Secretary

669-4048

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Presentation of petition for BMX cycle course.
3. Policing problems in the Portobello area: Chief Inspector Day *Inspector Horley*
4. Minutes of previous meeting
5. Matters arising from minutes
6. Correspondence *POUCs, Road, Tennis Courts, Mrs Smith*
7. Treasurer's Report *Mrs Sinclair*
8. Reports from sub-committees
9. Election of Chairman
10. AOCB *Seat in Mem. Mrs Bullen*
11. Place and date of next meeting.

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Dear Community Councillor.

I am taking this opportunity to inform each representative on the Council that I am standing down as Chairman. Other personal commitments require that I devote more time to these and consequently less to the demands of chairman. I will chair the meeting of 20th February 1984 at which there will be a vote on the selection of a new chairperson under item 9 of the agenda.

I have found it interesting and enjoyable as Chairman of the Community Council and I am sure that this will be the experience of the new incumbent.

George Rendall
Chairman

MINUTES OF THE 16th MEETING OF THE PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 1984 at 7.30pm

Chairman: Mr G.Rendall

Present: Mr R.M.Aitken, Mrs S.S.Brown, Dr N.Childs, Mr G.A.Cooper, Mr H.E.Fitzsimmons, Mr M.Grainger, Mr D.N.Herd, Mrs B.E.Heron, Mr J.D.Hosie, Mrs M.Jenkins-Thomas, Mrs H.Kirsop, Mrs C.Kilgour, Mr J.M.O'Brien, 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, Mrs M.Dickson,

Ex-Officio Members: Cllr I.J.Berry, Cllr Hon.I.R.Hoy, Cllr K.F.Ward, Cllr P.C.Martin

Inspector Harkes of the Lothians and Border Police was present for part of the time.

Apologies: Mrs M.C.Amos, Mr A.Bryce, Mr W.Davidson, Mr P.D.Elliot, Mrs H.Reid, Dr G.Strang M.P.

Petition: Mrs Paddy Ross presented a petition in support of a BMX Bike Track in Portobello. The petition was received and it was agreed that it be remitted to the Community Programme Sub-committee for a recommendation to be brought to the next Meeting.

Policing Problems

Inspector Harkes outlined the policing problems in the Portobello area. The level of the response on the streets was more or less the same as that 30 years ago and the problems of crime, vandalism and traffic had greatly increased. At present, there was an epidemic of 3 or 4 break-ins per day - often drug related.

In response to questions from the floor - Inspector Harkes agreed that the walls in Pipe St presented some problems; that Neighbourhood Watch Schemes could be useful and that the police would be closely involved in drawing up a traffic management scheme for implementation when the Leith Approach Rd was opened. It was made clear that the Chief Constable had issued special orders that the law against dog-fouling of the pavements should be enforced.

Attention was also drawn to the new Police Office within the Indoor Baths.

The Chairman thanked the Inspector for his talk and Inspector Harkes left the Meeting.

143 MINUTES OF 15th MEETING, 29th NOVEMBER 1983

The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from Mr Davidson querying the accuracy of the statement in Para.137 that 'Mr Davidson accepted' Mr Westwood's amendment. The recollection of the Meeting was that the amendment was accepted and the record stood.

The Minutes were then approved as a true record.

144 MATTERS ARISING

- (1) Para.137 Mr Davidson had asked that it be recorded "Mr Davidson expresses a personal opposition to all the cuts in education including rationalisation and disposal of properties belonging to the Education Dept."
An appendix circulated as Appendix A had been received from Councillor Ward. Nothing had yet been received from Mrs Davidson.
- (2) Para.138 (i) It was understood that Chief Inspector Day of Portobello would represent the Lothians and Borders Police.
- (3) Para.141(i) The Chairman reported that he had carried out a survey of the residents views about the walls in Figgate St. There were 113 people over the age of 18 in the area and 57 had been polled. 17.54% were in favour of the walls being removed; 22.81% wanted the walls left as they were and 59.69% wanted improved access for pedestrians. A clear majority were in favour of retaining the walls.

(3) Para.141(i)cont.A letter had been received from Mr Macintosh urging that the walls should be removed to allow access to the promenade. It was noted that present access for emergency vehicles was via Bridge St and the promenade.

Mr Westwood proposed 'The Council recommend that the walls be taken down to provide access for emergency vehicles' this was seconded by Mrs Westwood.

After discussion the proposal was put to the Vote and was LOST.

VOTE

145 CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary drew attention to the summary of correspondence circulated with the Minutes of the 15th Meeting. Additional correspondence and up-dating was reported as follows:-

- (i) A letter had been received from the Post Office Users Council stating that it had been agreed to reinstate a public payphone in Portobello Post Office. The Secretary had written expressing the thanks of the Council and this was approved.
- (ii) A letter from Miss Nora Smith, dated 17th February, resigning on grounds of ill-health was read. The Secretary was instructed to reply expressing the thanks and best wishes of the Council.
- (iii) Mrs Whitehead had written asking about the renewed lease for Joppa Tennis Courts. The Chairman reported that this did not expire until June 1984. Secretary to deal with the matter timeously.
- (iv) A circular letter from Mrs Sinclair was reported. Amongst other items was an intimation that Community Councils could be subject to Corporation Tax. Mr Herd was asked to take the matter in hand and report back to the next Meeting.
- (v) The Secretary reported that several members had written expressing anxiety over the timetable for local traffic management in the Portobello area when the Leith Approach Rd was completed. Dr Strang had copied a letter sent to the Director of Highways bearing on the same problem. Cllr Berry made it clear that plans had been drawn up and were available. It was agreed that the Secretary write emphasising the anxiety of the residents, both to the Region and District and asking for details.

146 VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

The Chairman proposed that the vacancies be advertised in the Portobello Reporter and by posters. Nomination papers to be available in the local library and the list would close 3 weeks after the advts appeared. A Public Meeting for elections would, if necessary, be held 2 weeks later in a central place, election would be by secret ballot. With the addition of advertising in the Edinburgh Evening News on the 3 relevant Fridays, the timetable was approved.

147 TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer there was nothing to report.

148 REPORTS FROM SUB COMMITTEES

- (i) Mr Sinclair reported that the Lighting Sub-committee wished to record their gratitude to Cllr Berry and Mr Westwood for their help and assistance over the lights on the Promenade and Christmas tree during the festive period.
- (ii) In Mr Bryce's absence through illness, Mr Shepherd had sent in a progress report on the proceedings of the Pool Sub-committee. The report was approved.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman explained that his commitment to an Open University Course and a recent promotion which would entail his removal from Edinburgh, made it necessary for him to resign both as Chairman and member. He expressed his thanks for the co-operation and friendship that he had received.

It was agreed that the election should be by secret ballot; each candidate should be proposed and seconded; Cllrs Berry and Martin should act as Scrutineers.

Mr Hosie was nominated by Mrs Scott and seconded by Mrs Jenkins-Thomas.

Mr Sinclair was nominated by Mrs Westwood and seconded by Mr Westwood.

Messrs Herd and Westwood declined nomination.

VOTE

After the first ballot the Scrutineers declared Mr Sinclair elected by 12 votes to 7.

Mr Herd proposed a Vote of Thanks to the retiring Chairman, this was seconded by Mr Cooper and all agreed.

Mr Hosie expressed his best wishes to the new Chairman.

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ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- (i) Mrs Heron put forward a petition asking that the Bowling Greens in Portobello should be open on Sundays by an adjustment of the Saturday opening hours so that the working week would not be increased. Cllr Martin agreed to take the petition for consideration.
- (ii) Mrs Heron raised the question of the Appeals for
 - a) A seat in memory of Miss Bullen and b) The wheelchair fund started by the Marine Bar. The Chairman explained that it had been decided that Community Funds could only be used for appeals from organisations that were unable to raise funds for themselves. He expressed himself in favour of individuals giving money to these worthy causes and Mrs Heron was asked to present proposals for fund-raising at the next meeting.
- (iii) The question of Sunday opening of the Portobello Baths in the summer season was raised. Cllr Martin described the take-up in the past as very poor but would like to discuss what limited hours were available. It was agreed that a notice be put up in the Baths and other publicity given in an attempt to ascertain demand. It was also reported that the baths would be closed for upgrading in April and part of May.
- (iv) Attention was drawn to the fact that the proper description of members of the Community Council was "Representatives" as set out in Para.1 of the Constitution. The use of the title "Councillor" was incorrect and could lead to confusion.

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NEXT MEETING

The date had already been fixed for March 20th. The Chairman pointed out that the Town Hall cost £22 per meeting and that block bookings, if available, would not save money. After discussion it was agreed to apply for the next Meeting to be held in Stevenson College Annexe - Ramsay Tech, Inchview Terrace.

Porto bello Community Council

Progress Report

- 1/ We have arranged to have an accountant prepare a financial plan for the project.
- 2/ We have engaged an architect, who has involved a quantity surveyor and a structural engineer in the project at our request, to do a feasibility study, from ideas put together by members of the sub committee.
- 3/ We have written to the district council estates department informing them that we have engaged an architect to carry out a feasibility study on our behalf. This is to let them know of our continued interest in the pool project.

All of these people are giving their time and professional expertise free to the sub committee. They will make their first report on their progress on tuesday 28th February which is our next meeting.

I hope this report complies with the reasons for forming this sub committee, and further reports will be made on our progress at regular intervals.

H. W. Shephard
Chairman Sub Committee.